

# The City of Edinburgh Council

10:05am, Thursday, 2 May 2019

## Outcomes of the Statutory Consultation Proposing to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School Report – Further Information

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To note the contents of this report.
- 1.2 To approve the recommendations set out in the “Outcomes of the Statutory Consultation Proposing to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School” report continued by Council at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (Appendix 1); these being:
  - 1.2.1 that the catchment boundaries of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School be realigned as per those set out in the consultation paper;
  - 1.2.2 that a sibling guarantee, as defined in Appendix 3 of the Outcomes paper, be applied to future P1 and S1 registrations from the areas affected under these proposals;
  - 1.2.3 to note the intention to monitor demand for places at Currie Primary School and install temporary classrooms at the appropriate time should this be required.
- 1.3 Note the intention to review the requirement for a referencing system in future schools’ consultations.

**Alistair Gaw**

Executive Director of Communities and Families

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# Report

## **Outcomes of the Statutory Consultation Proposing to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School Report – Further Information**

### **2. Executive Summary**

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- 2.1 At its meeting on 14th March 2019 the City of Edinburgh Council continued the “Outcomes of the Statutory Consultation Proposing to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School” report to allow further consideration of an administrative error in the report. Following further consideration, this report recommends the same Outcomes of the Statutory Consultation are reconsidered by Council.
- 2.2 However, this report also provides further information about the administrative error that occurred during the production of the Outcomes report which had raised concerns about its integrity. This report finds that the error was non-material and that the statistics and conclusions of the Outcomes report remain valid.
- 2.3 Accordingly, the only change made to the original Outcomes report is the inclusion of an additional row in the referencing table so that both the original and replacement reference numbers are shown.

### **3. Background**

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- 3.1 At its meeting on 14th March 2019 The City of Edinburgh Council considered the “Outcomes of the Statutory Consultation Proposing to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School” report (Appendix 1). This report recommended that the catchment boundaries of the aforementioned schools be realigned as per the proposals set out in the statutory consultation paper which had been the subject of a public consultation from 23 October 2018 to 3 December 2018

carried out under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

- 3.2 The City of Edinburgh Council decided to continue the report to its meeting in May 2019 to allow further information to be provided about an administrative error that become apparent after the publication of the report. This report provides further details of that error, the actions taken to address it and the impact on the integrity of the information contained within the Outcomes report continued by Council at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

## **4. Main report**

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- 4.1 The “Outcomes of the Statutory Consultation to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School” report (Appendix 1) was published on the Council’s consultation Hub three weeks prior to the Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March at which it was to be considered. This early publication is a statutory requirement as per the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 4.2 Approximately a week after the publication of the Outcomes report on 21 February 2019 the School Estate Planning Team was notified by consultees of differences between the codes received when they made their submission to the consultation and the codes in the report showing where they could find responses to their concerns. Nine people contacted the School Estate Planning Team to highlight this issue. The Parent Council of Currie Primary School raised concerns about the impact of the error on the transparency and integrity of the consultation process.

### **Reference Numbers**

- 4.3 During the consultation period, when an individual made an online submission via the Council’s consultation hub they received confirmation that their submission had been received and were automatically issued with a reference number.
- 4.4 The Outcomes report includes a table in the Appendices showing all the reference numbers issued. The intent of this table is so that consultees can see how their response has been categorised in terms of the key issues it raised. The table also includes a simple response number that allows the individual to identify the responses within the report pertinent to their submission.
- 4.5 Accordingly, the reference numbers should allow people to see how their submission to the consultation has been categorised in terms of the key issues raised and where in the report they can find a response to these issues.

### **The Error**

- 4.6 The Council’s consultation hub produces its reports in Excel format. All of the data collected from an individual’s submission to a consultation appears in an Excel

table. This means that a lengthy text response to a question will appear in a single spreadsheet cell. The South West catchment review received 420 online responses which the system collates in a single spreadsheet. As some cells contain a significant quantity of text data, the Excel spreadsheet in its raw form is difficult to read. Accordingly, an exercise to make the output report more manageable for those tasked with reading and manually categorising the responses was undertaken.

- 4.7 During the formatting of the responses sheet the administrator undertaking this exercise has erroneously amended the column containing the submission reference codes. How this occurred is unclear but as the reference numbers have become sequential it suggests that the administrator may have inadvertently 'dragged' a reference down much of the length of the column. This changed the reference number in 359 of the 420 entries.
- 4.8 Having reformatted the submissions sheet the administrator provided it to the Officers undertaking the analysis and writing the report.

### **The Impact**

- 4.9 The original database shows that 420 responses were received via the Council's online consultation hub. The formatted submissions sheet shows 420 responses. Comparing the original database to the formatted sheet shows no changes in the text, other than in the reference column. Accordingly, we can be confident that all of the submissions read by Officers undertaking the analysis and writing the report contained all the text originally submitted by respondents and that none of the submissions were missing.
- 4.10 This means that all of the views submitted and the points raised during the consultation are reflected in the "Outcomes of the Statutory Consultation to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School" report. It also means that all of the statistics relating to the number of responses and their support for or against the proposals remain valid.
- 4.11 Accordingly, the impact of the error is not material to the recommendations of the report or the commentary or data which Councillors would consider in order to make their decisions in relation to the report's recommendations.

### **Actions Taken**

- 4.12 When the error became apparent officers swiftly investigated the causes of this error and, having sought advice from the Council's legal team, issued all respondents with a reference number to match those in the published report. Officers were unable to contact 29 respondents to provide them with a reference number as they had not provided contact details with their submission. Following the distribution of the replacement references no new queries regarding referencing error were received.

- 4.13 To provide greater assurance that all representations have been accounted for, a document containing a redacted copy of all representations and showing both the original and the erroneously created reference numbers has been produced. This is available to elected members in the members lounge. Representatives from Currie Primary School's Parent Council will also be invited to view this document.
- 4.14 The Outcomes report included as an Appendix to this report has been updated so that the table containing the individual references now contains both the original reference issued and its replacement. The Outcome report considered by Committee in March included only the replacement reference number. The addition of this new row showing the original reference is the only change made to the March report included in Appendix 1.

### **Statutory Requirements**

- 4.15 The required content of an Outcomes report following a consultation is defined in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This sets out the authority must provide the number of written representations received, a summary of the written and oral representations made and the authority's response to those representations. It does not require that the authority respond to individual representations other than that provided by Education Scotland, nor does it require that the authority reference representations.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 The error in the processing of the Excel file containing the reference numbers has highlighted levels of complexity within this process that will be investigated.
- 5.2 A comparison with the consultation reports produced by other local authorities shows that City of Edinburgh Council provides a level of detail within its reports that far exceeds that which is necessary. The complexity and the work required to produce a system of referencing individual responses introduces a significant workload and greater potential for error which may outweigh the value such a system offers. Accordingly, Officers will consider the requirement for such a system in future consultation processes.
- 5.3 If such a system is to be maintained in future consultation processes, then the following areas require consideration:
- Production of system reports in formats other than Excel from the consultation hub system;
  - A process of quality checking between original system report and the final report;
  - Automation of the referencing and analysis process.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Reference should be made to the continued “Outcomes of the Statutory Consultation Proposing to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School” report included in Appendix 1.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 Reference should be made to the continued “Outcomes of the Statutory Consultation Proposing to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School” report included in Appendix 1.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 “Outcomes of the Statutory Consultation Proposing to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School”, The City of Edinburgh Council, 14 March 2019.

## **9. Appendices**

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- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Outcomes of the Statutory Consultation Proposing to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School Report

# The City of Edinburgh Council

10:00, Thursday, 14 March 2019

## Outcomes of the Statutory Consultation Proposing to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School.

Item number	8.2
Executive/routine	
Wards	02 Pentland Hills
Council Commitments	

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Approve that the catchment boundaries of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School be realigned as per those set out in the consultation paper;
- 1.2 Approve that a sibling guarantee, as defined in this paper (appendix 3), be applied to future P1 and S1 registrations from the areas affected under these proposals;
- 1.3 Note the intention to monitor demand for places at Currie Primary School and install temporary classrooms at the appropriate time should this be required.

**Alistair Gaw**

Executive Director of Communities and Families

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## **Outcomes of the Statutory Consultation Proposing to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School.**

### **2. Executive Summary**

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- 2.1 On 9 October 2018 the Education, Children and Families Committee approved that a statutory consultation be undertaken proposing the realignment of the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School. A statutory consultation was undertaken between 23 October 2018 and 3 December 2018. The purpose of this report is to advise on the outcome of the consultation and make recommendations regarding how the proposals should be progressed.
- 2.2 The report recommends that the consultation proposals should be progressed but that a sibling guarantee should be provided for residents of the affected areas. This may require the installation of temporary classrooms at Currie Primary School in future years.

### **3. Background**

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- 3.1 Following a significant informal consultation process in the South West of the city, on 9 October 2018 the Education, Children and Families Committee approved that a statutory consultation be undertaken proposing the realignment of the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School.
- 3.2 The focus of the informal consultation process was an extensive programme of engagement with school communities to gather opinions about future change to the school estate in this large area of the city. Change was being considered because the West and South West of the city will see significant growth in future years.
- 3.3 The proposals set out in the statutory consultation paper approved by Committee on 9 October reflected the feedback received during the wider consultation process and sought to address accommodation pressures at Currie Primary School in particular and the need to align demand for places with available and sustainable capacity.

## 4. Main report

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- 4.1 The statutory consultation period ran from 23 October 2018 to 3 December 2018. The full [statutory consultation paper](#) is available online. A copy of the full statutory consultation paper is also available in the Elected Members lounge for reference.
- 4.2 Two public meetings were held during the consultation period: one at Balerno High School on 14 November 2018 and one at Currie High School on 19 November 2018. Each public meeting was independently chaired. Council officials answered questions following a short presentation. Minutes of each meeting are included in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 Representations on the proposal were invited by letter, email or through a specifically designed online response questionnaire. 428 representations were received. The number of completed online questionnaires was 420, with six comments received by email and two by post. The tables in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 list all the representations received and a summary of the issues that were raised. The full submissions are available in the Elected Members lounge for reference.
- 4.4 The majority of the online submissions were from parents or local residents. Some members of school staff, and the Parent Council's at Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School and Balerno High School also completed the online questionnaire. A response was also received from Balerno Community Council.
- 4.5 A consultation exercise with pupils was carried out by Quality Improvement Officers at all the affected schools. A summary of the methodology used to consult with pupils and the comments received is contained in Appendix 5 of this paper. All comments that were submitted by pupils are available in the Elected Members lounge for reference.
- 4.6 The responses received showed that 50.2% of people supported the proposal while 48.3% did not support it. The remaining responses either did not state a preference or ticked both the "yes" and "no" boxes.

### **Further Analysis of Responses Received**

- 4.7 While overall the responses received suggested a reasonably even split between those 'for' and 'against' the proposals, clear patterns emerged in the geographic split of the responses received.
- 4.8 Table 1 (below) splits the responses received according to the area of primary school catchment they originate from. This allows us to consider the responses of people living in the areas of catchment more directly affected by the proposals.

**Table 1: Number of Responses by Area from which Response Originated**

Address of Responder	Yes	No	No Response	Both Yes & No	Total
Cherry Trees (proposed Dean Park PS)	33	75		1	109
Currie PS Catchment (excluding Cherry Trees and Kinleith Mill)	11	65			76
Kinleith Mill (proposed Nether Currie PS)	8	7	2		17
Dean Park (existing catchment area)	136	12	1		149
Nether Currie (existing catchment area)	9	19			28
Juniper Green		7		1	8
Other Catchment Areas	8	13			21
No Postcode Or Outwith Council Area	10	9	1		20
<b>Total</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>428</b>

- 4.9 Table 1 illustrates that only 17 responses were received from the Kinleith Mill area (to be realigned from Currie Primary School to Nether Currie Primary School under these proposals) with eight (43.8%) supporting the proposal and seven (43.8%) against. In the remaining parts of the existing Nether Currie Primary School catchment area 28 responses were received with nine (32%) expressing support for the proposals and 19 (68%) rejecting the proposals. The comments received from the Nether Currie area suggest that there was greater support for the proposals to realign the Kinleith Mill area from Currie Primary School to Nether Currie Primary School but that the overall proposal had to be rejected because they did not agree with the part of the proposal affecting the Cherry Trees area of Currie Primary School's catchment.
- 4.10 Table 1 also illustrates that within the main area affected by the proposals – the Cherry Trees - the Council received 106 responses from parents and residents with 33 (31%) supporting the proposal and 72 (68%) against.
- 4.11 From within the areas of the Currie catchment not directly affected by the proposals 76 responses were received with 11 (14.5%) supporting the proposals and 65 (85.5%) against.
- 4.12 Overall the analysis shows that support for the proposals as they currently stand is largely driven by Dean Park and Balerno parents and residents.

### **Key Themes and Issues and Council Responses**

- 4.13 This section draws out the main themes and issues that were raised during the consultation period and summarises the Council's response. Further detail is provided in Appendix 3.

### *Sibling Guarantee*

- 4.14 A significant concern among parents responding to the consultation and those attending the public meetings was that no sibling guarantee was offered as part of the proposals. This guarantee would ensure that parents from the areas directly affected (principally Cherry Trees and Kinleith Mill areas) would have the choice of their child attending Currie Primary School or Currie Secondary School if they had a sibling already attending that school regardless of where catchment boundaries were drawn.
- 4.15 In response to this request the Council has reviewed P1 and S1 registrations received in January 2019 for the schools concerned and has considered the impact a sibling guarantee might have on the projected pupil numbers in the proposals in future years. The Council's conclusion is that, while it would be possible to offer a sibling guarantee at secondary level, it would not be possible to offer a sibling guarantee at primary level without the need to provide additional classroom space at Currie Primary School. To provide this additional accommodation on a permanent basis would undermine a significant part of the rationale for undertaking this consultation in the first place.
- 4.16 However, the Council recognises that in the absence of a sibling guarantee, the distances between Currie Primary School and Dean Park Primary School would present an unreasonable logistical issue for the small number of parents who may find that they have children in both schools. Accordingly, this paper recommends that in taking forward these proposals the Council offer a guarantee that the siblings of pupils from affected areas attending Currie Primary School and Currie High School at the time the catchment changes are implemented be guaranteed a place at Currie Primary School or Currie High School if they want it. In addition, provision would be made for temporary accommodation at Currie Primary School as it is required to ensure sufficient capacity is available to accommodate any impact on the school roll arising from this guarantee. Further details of how a sibling guarantee would be applied are contained in Appendix 3.

### *Travel Routes and Distances*

- 4.17 Issues about active travel, safer routes, traffic and congestion were raised. It is acknowledged the proposals would require that primary pupils from the affected areas travel greater distances to their catchment school than is currently the case. This issue would be compounded for families with siblings attending different primary schools.
- 4.18 As part of these proposals Dean Park Primary School and Nether Currie Primary School's Travel Plans would be updated to reflect their extended catchment areas. These plans would aim to encourage sustainable means of transport to and from school.

## Education Scotland

- 4.19 As required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, all the responses received during the public consultation were made available to Education Scotland for their consideration. Education Scotland visited all the schools directly affected by the statutory consultation and discussed the educational aspects with staff, parents and pupils before producing their final report. A report from Education Scotland providing their response to the proposal was submitted in February 2019. This report is attached in Appendix 5.
- 4.20 The conclusion of Education Scotland is that the proposal has clear long term educational benefits. The report states that *“The council’s proposals are of educational benefit in the long term. The proposed changes will complement any future regeneration and economic growth by better aligning mainstream schools to potential housing developments and existing growth in the school aged population. More efficient use of the school estate will result from the proposals.”* The responses received by Education Scotland from stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors appear to reflect the overall response to the consultation.
- 4.21 Education Scotland did comment that in taking the proposal forward, the Council *“will need to indicate how it plans to address the issue of siblings being educated in different schools, the possible risks to children walking to and from school along a busy road, the congestion concerns raised by stakeholders in both the Currie and Balerno communities, and the accuracy of figures used to predict the increased number of pupils requiring education generated from the new estates.”*

### *Response to Education Scotland*

- 4.22 The Act requires that the Council’s Outcome of Consultation report include ‘a statement of the authority’s response to Education Scotland’s report’. The Council’s response to the four key issues is provided in the following table.

<b>Issue Raised</b>	The Council will need to indicate how it plans to address the issue of siblings being educated in different schools.
<b>Council Response</b>	The Council recognises that in the absence of a sibling guarantee, the distances between Currie Primary School and Dean Park Primary School would present an unreasonable logistical issue for the small number of parents who may find that they have children in both schools. Accordingly, this paper recommends that in taking forward these proposals the Council offer a guarantee that the siblings of pupils from affected areas attending Currie Primary School at the time the catchment changes are implemented be guaranteed a place at Currie Primary School if they want it. Further details of how a sibling guarantee would be applied are contained in Appendix 3.

<b>Issue Raised</b>	The Council will need to indicate how it plans to address the possible risks to children walking to and from school along a busy road and the congestion concerns raised by stakeholders in both the Currie and Balerno communities
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>Where it is possible to do so, geographic features such as parks or main roads will be used to form catchment boundaries. However, while undesirable, a catchment change may sometimes result in pupils being located further from their catchment school or, as is common in city schools, with a route to school which requires that more roads or busier routes are crossed than was previously the case.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges that the route between the Cherry Trees area of Currie Primary School's catchment area and Dean Park Primary School is not comparable with the route to Currie Primary School requiring that pupils cross Lanark Road.</p> <p>However, while it has been reducing in recent years, there is already a clear pattern of pupils attending Dean Park Primary School from the Cherry Trees area. In 2013 38% of pupils in this area attended Dean Park Primary School (50% attended Currie Primary School). This has fallen to 21% in 2018 (76% attend Currie Primary School) but there are clearly pupils already making this journey.</p> <p>As part of these proposals we will work with the Council's Road Safety team to update school travel plans for Dean Park Primary School and Nether Currie Primary School's to reflect their extended catchment areas. These plans would aim to encourage sustainable means of transport to and from school.</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The Council will need to address concerns over the accuracy of figures used to predict the increased number of pupils requiring education generated from the new estates.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>The Council's pupil generation figures for new developments are reviewed periodically. A recent review of the figures used has demonstrated a reasonable degree of accuracy although there are local variations that may apply. The pupil generation figures consider pupil generation over the life of a development rather than the point at which it opens which means that there will be occasions when the actual pupil generation is higher and other times when it will be lower than the pupil generation figures.</p> <p>In the Currie and Balerno areas the most recent example is the Kinleith Mill development. The anticipated pupil generation from the Kinleith Mill development was 18 primary and 13 secondary pupils. The development is now complete and the number of pupils currently registered at a City of Edinburgh Council school is five primary and two secondary pupils. Other examples in the area include the development at Riccarton Mains Road which was forecast to generate five primary</p>

and three secondary pupils and at present has two Primary and two Secondary pupils and the development at Lanark Road West (the former Primary School site) that was expected to generate eight Primary and five Secondary pupils with actual pupil generation currently being five Primary and no secondary pupils.

Accordingly, while pupil generation figures cannot predict with a high degrees of accuracy the number of pupils a development will generate, the Council believes that the figures used are currently valid in projecting future demand for school places.

## Conclusions

- 4.23 Having considered the responses received to the consultation, it is the recommendation of this report that, as concluded by Education Scotland, the proposals in the consultation paper would be of long term benefit. Accordingly, it is recommended that the proposals in the consultation paper now be implemented.
- 4.24 However, the consultation process has also highlighted the difficulties the distance between Currie and Dean Park Primary School's would cause the parents of children split between these two schools. For this reason it is accepted that an arrangement for the siblings of pupils attending Currie Primary School and Currie High School at the time the catchment changes are implemented should be put in place to ensure that siblings are not split between two schools.
- 4.25 The impact of accepting the provision of a "sibling guarantee" as part of these recommendations may be that temporary classrooms are required at Currie Primary School for a period of not more than 6 years. The need for these classrooms would be monitored to ensure their delivery at the appropriate time.

## 5. Next Steps

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- 5.1 If the recommendations set out in this paper are approved by Council, the catchment boundary changes proposed would be implemented before November 2019 to capture the P1 and S1 registration process for August 2020.
- 5.2 A working group will also be established at Dean Park Primary School to consider how the school building is extended to accommodate the additional 5 classroom spaces necessary under these proposals. It is anticipated that some, or all, of these spaces (subject to decisions about the design solution), would be delivered for August 2020.
- 5.3 The provision of the sibling guarantee would be administered through the regular P1 intakes process with the intakes in 2020 and in subsequent years monitored to determine if additional temporary accommodation is likely to be required.
- 5.4 The availability of spaces within the existing capacity at Currie High School and Balerno High School means that no direct action will be required in the secondary sector.

## **6. Financial impact**

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### **Capital**

- 6.1 Should the recommendations in this report be progressed the cost of a five classroom building at Dean Park Primary School is estimated to be £1.42m. In addition, the provision of a temporary classroom building to allow a sibling guarantee to be offered would cost an estimated £0.25m assuming a surplus unit from elsewhere in the school estate could be relocated to Currie Primary School. Accordingly, the capital cost to the Council of proceeding with the recommendations is estimated to be £1.67m.
- 6.2 If the recommendations were not progressed and the status quo is retained, the plans for a second phase of permanent expansion at Currie Primary School would be required to be delivered.
- 6.3 The estimated cost of delivering the permanent solution would be £0.94m. A two-classroom building would also be required at Dean Park Primary School at an estimated cost of £0.85m. Accordingly, the status quo position would be an estimated capital cost of £1.79m.

### **Revenue**

- 6.4 The additional teaching staff revenue costs associated with the recommendations in this paper would be met through current demography funding. While the proposal would result in expansion of existing facilities there would be no additional revenue costs associated with additional management, teaching or non-teaching positions which would be required regardless of the proposals.
- 6.5 The maintenance burden for the additional accommodation required as a result of these proposals is likely to be low in the short to medium term but would increase over time. In the longer term it is estimated that the running costs (including rates) associated with provision of the necessary additional accommodation associated with the recommendations would be lower than the option of retaining the status quo position (an estimated £21,000 per year under the recommendations and £25,000 per year should the status quo remain and Currie Primary School be extended).
- 6.6 However, this difference could vary according to the accommodation solution ultimately delivered at Dean Park Primary School and in the short-term, the difference is likely to be negligible due to the potential costs associated with the provision of temporary classrooms.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 The statutory consultation to which this paper refers has been undertaken according to the requirements set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

- 7.2 Should the Council reject the recommendations in this paper the status quo will remain and permanent new accommodation will be built at both Dean Park Primary School and Currie Primary School.
- 7.3 Should the Council wish to implement a significant variant of the proposals that have been the subject of this consultation process a new consultation process would be required.
- 7.4 Whilst the recommendations would see the creation of new buildings, the purpose is to create fit for purpose accommodation to meet demand. Any new buildings or adaptations to existing buildings would be designed to minimise the impact on carbon emissions and energy consumption.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 Education, Children and Families Committee, 9 October 2018, ["West and South West Schools Review – Approval to Progress Statutory Consultation"](#)

## **9. Appendices**

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1. Minutes of Public Meetings
2. Summary of Representations
3. Issues Raised and Council response
4. Summary of Pupil Responses
5. Education Scotland Report

# Record of Meeting

## Accommodation Options for the South Edinburgh Primary Schools

**Public Consultation Meeting held at 18:30, Wednesday,  
14 November 2018, Balerno High School, Edinburgh**

**Present:** Approximately 35 members of the public

**In Attendance:** Tom Wood (Independent Chair), Councillor Ian Perry (Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee), Robbie Crockatt (School Estate Planning Manager), Lorna Sweeney (Schools and Lifelong Learning Senior Manager Quality, Improvement and Curriculum), Elaine Watson (School Estate Planning Officer), Crawford McGhie (Senior Manager – Estates and Operational Support), and Blair Ritchie (Committee Services).

### 1. Introduction

Tom Wood introduced the proceedings. He indicated that this was a proposal to re-draw the catchment boundaries for this area. He was the independent chair for the meeting, would ensure that those in attendance would hear what was said tonight and would ensure that they got answers to questions. This would form part of the report which would help Councillors to make a decision. It was necessary to have a proper minute, therefore, people must speak clearly and there should be one question at a time. He introduced Councillor Perry, the Convener for Education, Children and Families, Lorna Sweeney, Robbie Crockatt and Elaine Watson. The Head Teacher of Balerno High School and Dean Park Primary School were also present.

The Schools (Consultation Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to conduct a public consultation ahead of a report on the proposals going to the City of Edinburgh Council for consideration in March 2018. The public consultation would provide people with the opportunity to express their views and feed directly into the consultation process.

Officers that represented the Council gave a presentation, as described below.

### 2. Presentation/ Proposal

Elaine Watson (School Estate Planning Officer) delivered a presentation that provided the rationale for and the implications of realigning the catchment areas of Currie

Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School.

### **Requirement for Change**

In November 2016 the Council approved the Edinburgh Local Development Plan (LDP). It identified sites at Riccarton Mains Road, Curriehill Road, Newmills Road and Ravelrig Road as suitable for housing development. The supporting Education Infrastructure Appraisal and Action Programme provided a cumulative assessment of the additional education infrastructure required to accommodate pupils from new housing developments. It found that three additional classrooms at Currie Primary School and two additional classrooms at Dean Park Primary School were required to support pupil generation from known housing developments in the area.

The Council's Planning department carried out an annual assessment of the supply of housing land in the city and publishes the Housing Land Audit and Delivery Programme (HLADP) every autumn. It detailed completions from the previous April to March and estimated expected housing completions from sites with planning permission or identified in the LDP over the coming years. The most recent HLDAP suggested that between now and 2021 a further 47 catchment primary pupils would be generated by housing developments in the existing Currie Primary School catchment area. A further 36 pupils would be generated by housing developments in the existing Dean Park catchment area. There were no housing developments in Nether Currie Primary School's catchment area.

### **Proposal**

The proposed catchment changes would see sections of Currie Primary School's catchment area realigned with Nether Currie Primary School. As both of these primary schools would feed to Currie High School there would be no resulting change to secondary school catchment area boundaries. The proposed catchment changes would also see a section of Currie Primary School's catchment area realigned with Dean Park Primary School. This would necessitate a realignment of the Currie High School and Balerno High School catchment boundaries.

Under the proposals, there would be a geographic link to Ratho Primary School with the rest of the Balerno High School catchment area by realigning the rural areas around Dalmahoy with Balerno High School. This would mean that primary pupils in the Dalmahoy area would be realigned from Currie Primary School to Dean Park Primary School.

If approved, the proposed catchment area changes would take effect from November 2019 to capture the P1 and S1 registration process for August 2020. The proposed catchment changes would apply to new P1 and S1 pupils and any new registrations from people moving into the area. There would be no mandatory transfer of pupils already attending another school.

## Next Steps

Once the public consultation phase finished, details of the representations received would be issued to Education Scotland for their consideration of the educational effects of the proposals. Education Scotland would issue a report on their findings which would be included in the final Council report on the consultation.

Following the conclusion of the consultation period and after consideration of the representations received and the views of Education Scotland on the educational benefits of the proposal, a report on the outcomes of the consultation would be presented to Council for consideration. The report would be made publically available and notification would be given to those individuals or groups that had made representations during the consultation period. The report would include a summary of written representations received during the consultation period and representations made at the public meeting along with the Council response to representations made and also to any issues raised by Education Scotland.

It was anticipated that the consultation report, setting out recommendations, would be presented to a meeting of the Council in March 2019. The report would be published three weeks in advance of the Council meeting.

Tom Wood thanked Elaine Watson for her presentation and indicated that the decision would be made by the Full Council on basis of these consultations. It was important that those in attendance made their contributions.

## 3. Questions and Comments

**Question 1** – You admitted that you did not consult with some residents, such as Blackadder Drive and other areas, where there are 20 school children of pre-school age who are affected there by the proposals. There had been residents there since May this year, therefore, why was this?

**Answer 2** (Elaine Watson) – She would look at into this.

**Question 2** – You mentioned that you didn't normally contact with residents in certain area, regarding the proposals, but on this occasion you did. Why was this?

**Answer 2** - (Elaine Watson) - The Authority did not ordinarily send the letters to properties affected, but relied on them finding out through other means such as community councils. Additionally, an advert had been put in the Currie/Balerno News. As residents of the local area, parents had to take some ownership.

**Question 3** - Why then had you sent letters to certain individual households?

**Answer 3** - (Robbie Crockatt) – This course of action was taken on this occasion because the proposals affected particular addresses in a small area. So the Authority

wanted to seek the views of as broad a section of the population of the area as possible.

**Question 4** – In your list of possible scenarios, children would not have to move schools. What about their siblings - could guarantees be given for them? Surely the Authority would not want families to have to choose where they had to live.

**Answer 4** – (Robert Crockatt) – As far as sibling guarantees were concerned, the Authority intended to put measures in place. We would initially look at the P1 registration process and would use the data from that exercise to determine the possible impact of allowing sibling guarantees in future years. It was necessary to ensure that the numbers made sense.

**Comment** – Sibling guarantees were really important to the Parent Council at Dean Park Primary School.

**Question 5** – A parent indicated that she was in the same situation regarding siblings. She lived in the Newmills Area and wanted to know that as secondary school boundaries were changing, was the process determined by feeder schools from primary to secondary school or actual address?

**Answer 5** - (Robbie Crockatt) – It was determined by address. Under the proposals, Newmills would fall within the Dean Park Primary School catchment area and the Balerno High School catchment area. Within these proposals, children within the area would feed into these schools from August 2020.

**Question 6** – How accurate had roll projections been, considering such factors as the proposed new housing in the area?

**Answer 6** - (Robbie Crockatt) – That was a complex question. The roll projections in the short-term had been fairly accurate, for example, the projected drop in numbers at Dean Park had taken place. However, the further into the future projections went the less reliable they became. The Council believe the methodology and data used was the best available, but projections for small areas was always difficult.

**Question 7** – Was the catchment change as detailed in your report or was there potential for more change within your plan?

**Answer 7** - (Robbie Crockatt) – It is likely that if the proposal was to change significantly, the Authority would probably have to carry out another consultation.

**Question 8** – In the area of Newmills that we stayed at present, it was 15 minutes' walk to our child's current primary school. However, Dean Park Primary School was uphill and would be 35 minutes' walk. The Council had indicated that people would be healthier walking to school. In our area this did not really occur and that was not likely

to change when children saw other children travelling by car. How did that fit in with your proposals?

**Answer 8** - (Robbie Crockatt) – There was already a high number of pupils from that area who were walking to school. We would work with road safety officers to ensure that it was easier, safer route.

**Question 9** – Would distance and safety still be an issue?

**Answer 9** - (Robbie Crockatt) – Yes it would.

**Question 10** – Was the proposed new build entirely at Currie Primary School, where the there was good use of the playing fields were had been used for football and other sports? If you were to build on Dean Park Primary School would it not be on the school playing fields?

**Answer 10** - (Robbie Crockatt) – The way we would extend Dean Park would be a matter for discussion with the school community and we would not want to pre-empt the discussion. There was a requirement to retain greenspace and the Authority would not want to build on playing fields if it could be avoided.

**Question 11** – If there was more children attending school, would there not be less green space?

**Answer 11** - (Robbie Crockatt) - In any building process where a school was being extended, there would be a loss of space. We tried to avoid this as much as possible, but the outcome depended on the outcome of the discussions.

**Question 12** – Regarding Nether Currie and Kinleith Mill, how accurate was the data about the 37 pupils in the proposed Nether Currie Extension Area, as we thought that the Kinleith Mill figures were wrong. When was that data actually collected?

**Answer 12** - (Robbie Crockatt) – The data was collected this afternoon on pupils who were currently from the Kinleith Mill Area attending a school in Edinburgh. This comprised of five primary and three secondary school children.

**Question 13** - Regarding the pre-primary school children, there would be a potential “bulge” in the next few years in Kinleith Mills. What would happen to Nether Currie Primary School if there was overcapacity?

**Answer 13** - (Robbie Crockatt) – Nether Currie had some out of catchment pupils attending, but that as a result of catchment changes, these would be replaced by catchment pupils. If we thought there was a potential problem, then this would be considered as part of the rising rolls process.

**Question 14** - If there was a bulge and a pupil was going to Nether Currie Primary School, and the Head Teacher suggested that this was a single stream school, should this bulge then occur?

**Answer 14** - (Robbie Crockatt) – This was correct. The pupil would go to Nether Currie. The Authority was not anticipating any overspill.

**Question 15** – What were the plans for Head Teacher recruitment at Nether Currie?

**Answer 15** – (Lorna Sweeney) – The plans for next year were made regardless of catchment changes. There were no specific plans in place yet, however, there was nothing exceptional.

(Jackie Reid – City of Edinburgh Council Quality Improvement Manager) - The Long Leet for the Head Teacher finished on 13 November and the Short Leet would be on 28 November 2019.

**Question 16** – What was the staff turnover ratio at Nether Currie Primary School during the three years the present Head Teacher was there?

**Answer 16** - (Lorna Sweeney) – We did not have that specific information, but could give you a technical note on issues arising.

**Question 17** – Why there were so many non-catchment pupils at Nether Currie at present?

**Answer 17** - (Robbie Crockatt) – It was a popular school for non-catchment pupils and there were spaces available.

**Question 18** – Were there any officers we could speak to about staff turnover and why it was so high where there were non-catchment pupils?

**Answer 18** - (Lorna Sweeney) – If there were concerns regarding issues such as this, there were processes in place. It was quite unusual to have these questions at this type of meeting, however were happy to look into these issues and speak to you later and provide that information.

**Comment/Question 19** – The original proposals that were put in place prior to the review for catchment change between these two schools (Currie and Nether Currie), had a different pattern of catchment changes. The original proposal was for a much straighter line on the boundary. This relieved pressure on Currie and gave more numbers to the catchment for Nether Currie, which was undersubscribed. Could you advise why the boundary change at the East End of Currie Primary School was now reduced and the West End with Cherry Trees was increased?

**Answer 19** - (Robbie Crockatt) – He did not have that information with him at present, but was happy to discuss it later.

**Question 20** – Would the proposals help to reduce traffic in Balerno, with the reduction in the number of out of catchment pupils, travelling by car?

**Answer 20** - (Robert Crockatt) – The Authority was only considering routes to schools and the distances involved, they had not considered traffic in any detail. We were trying to ensure that pupils would attend their catchment school, which should help reduce traffic. But as the catchment for Balerno High School covered a large rural area, people would always travel by car.

**Question 21** - There hadn't been anything in the proposals which was positive in terms of reducing traffic.

**Answer 21** - (Robbie Crockatt) – The Authority had not considered this from a traffic perspective.

**Question 22** – Had the potential change to catchment boundaries taken into consideration placing requests for August? There would particular pressures on Currie Primary School. If parents were permitted out of catchment requests, this would have an impact on any sibling guarantees. How could sibling guarantee operate if the places had been given away?

**Answer 22** - (Robbie Crockatt) – There would be no change to the existing arrangements regarding applications to the schools concerned. Through the P1 and S1 intake process, the Authority would monitor events and would look closely at the issues raised about sibling guarantees.

**Question 23** – This question would be answered in March 2018, which was when the report would be submitted to the Full Council. However, accepting out of catchment placing requests this year might be creating an issue at Currie Primary School – if the siblings of pupils already at Currie Primary School might find there was no space for them in 2020.

**Answer 23** - (Robert Crockatt) - It was not possible to change transfer arrangements or the process in place, without carrying out a statutory consultation. The process in place controlled the number of catchment pupils. There would be a number of non-catchment pupils coming forward for the coming year and we would form classes on that basis. If there were non-catchment places available, then we have a statutory obligation to fill them.

The Authority tried to form classes that reflected the likely situation in 2020, however, it was not always possible to control what happened with the intake process. If we

formed an organisation that created space and we tried to defend that space, the Placing in Schools Appeal Committee would probably overturn that decision.

**Comment/Question 24** – Dean Park Primary Parents Council strongly supported the changes to the boundary. It was beneficial to bring the Newmills and Cherry Tree areas into the village school in Balerno. However, there were concerns that the projected number of pupils seemed to be low and did not take into account changes to the new housing development and demographics in Balerno. Dean Park now had 16 classes, whereas there used to be 18 classes.

Pupils within the catchment could sometimes not get into classes because both Dean Park and Currie Primary Schools were full. There were concerns that the numbers were not accurate and this would have future implications. It was necessary to “future proof” this and avoid past mistakes, where many local primary schools had been closed. It was important that our concerns about the projected numbers were represented when the report was submitted to Full Council.

**Answer 24** - (Robbie Crockatt) – We did not think that the projected numbers were low. It was difficult to model what took place in a community and we would continue to monitor the situation. The Authority had put forward proposals for Newmills and Cherry Trees pupils who would be going to Dean Park and it was thought that Deanpark has the capacity for this. The additional accommodation would provide some flexibility. The available accommodation at Dean Park was appropriate for a three stream school, which itself allowed organisational efficiencies.

**Question 25** – Could a breakdown be provided of the number of children going to Dean Park from the Newmills /Cherry Tree Areas? These were generally at the top end of the school.

**Answer 25** - (Robbie Crockatt) – He did not have the details, but he could provide a breakdown of the population in the area and the schools they attended.

**Question 26** – A good number of parents from different areas chose to send their children to Dean Park in the past few years, which meant that a significant number of children had to attend other primary schools because Dean Park had been full. It was not fair on the people living in that area.

**Answer 26** - (Robbie Crockatt) – The proposal had come forward, because there had been a relationship between Dean Park and Cherry Tree Area. However, a lesser number of primary pupils were attending Dean Park from that area than in previous years.

**Question 27** – Some pupils from primary 4 downwards had not been able to get places at Dean Park Primary School because it was full. Additionally, it was not safe crossing the road to school at 8.30 in the morning

**Answer 27** - (Robbie Crockatt) –If the proposals were approved in March, this would give a parent planning their child's schooling certainty about their options in plenty of time for the registration process. Therefore, if the proposals were to go ahead, the parents would soon have an idea about where they would be taking their child. Regardless of the outcome it was unlikely that this relationship between Cheery Tree and Dean Park would diminish.

**Question 28** - Balerno Community Council supported the proposals, however, they were concerned that the proposals for boundary change were behind the time frame. The new builds at Ravelrig would be complete by 2021/22 and the developer would put in the Main Issue Report for the next Local Development Plan, the proposal for 1000 new houses. There was concern that the Authority would not be progressing the two new classes for the Ravelrig development at present, however, were there contingency plans to ensure that when these developments were completed, there would be actual capacity?

**Answer 28** - (Robbie Crockatt) – To ensure that there was capacity at school, if the proposed changes were to be made, there would be one more year of P1 intake. We would want to make sure that the classrooms were in place before that point. As soon as the decision was made in March, would look at how we would deliver classrooms and would want this to take place in time for August 2020.

(Councillor Perry) - The planning question was a difficult issue. Regarding the change in demographics, it might be necessary to have further conversations with officers. In respect of the discussions about West Edinburgh and changing demographics, the Authority are trying to future proof this. A bigger issue was possible granting of planning application for 1000 houses, which would put all these figures into a different category and signal to developers that it was acceptable to build on the greenbelt, which the Authority was trying to protect. If the greenbelt was breached then there might be a need for at least one more primary school. However, it was irrational for the Authority to plan on the basis of a planning application that might be granted sometime in the future.

**Question 29** – Was there capacity for the 2019 intake at Dean Park Primary School for any out of catchment placements? Was primary 1 completely full of catchment places, ie was there capacity for pupils in an out of catchment situation where one child would be going to school in 2019 and another in 2021. They were registered for Currie Primary School, but should they be thinking of making out of catchment requests for Dean Park?

**Answer 29** - (Robbie Crockatt) – It was difficult to confirm this, as the registration process was just underway, and decisions on staffing allocation would depend on the the number of catchment pupils registered at the school. A decision would be made in

January 2019, which was when the Authority would know the number of spaces that would become available for non-catchment pupils.

**Question 30** - Regarding the accuracy of roll projections for Balerno High School, how many of the non-catchment pupils would be absorbed by the change in the boundaries and what capacity would remain for out of catchment? What was the capacity in Balerno High School for out of catchment? What were the plans for the refurbishment of Balerno High School?

**Answer 30** - (Robbie Crockatt) – The roll projections were based on assumptions about the level of intake of the number of S1 catchment pupils coming forward. Balerno High School was a popular school and attracted a large number of non-catchment pupils. The rolls would not rise so dramatically as a result of the new housing because a large number of non-catchment pupils from West Lothian, would be replaced by catchment pupils. He did not have the figures on modelling, but was happy to discuss this.

**Question 31** – A parent, located on the boundary asked how would the roll projection work for out of catchment pupils?

**Answer 31** - (Robbie Crockatt) – For parents who were currently out of catchment, the way the school projection would work would be that the influx of pupils from catchment would mean that the number of out of catchment places would reduce.

(Crawford McGhie) – With respect to refurbishment, there was a recent report to committee on the Wave 4 programme of which Balerno High School was part. A detailed business case was being prepared which shows that replacement rather than refurbishment would be the preferred option. That would be the plan for Balerno High School, but there was currently no funding for that replacement. They were awaiting an announcement from the Scottish Government on the funding programme. In the meantime, the Committee decided that a masterplan for the site would be taken forward, that would include the possible extension of the building before funding became available for replacement.

**Question 32** – According to the report, at Nether Currie Primary 55% of pupils were from Catchment, Dean Park 88%, Balerno High School 52% and Currie High School 78%. There were no figures given for Currie Primary School. Question 1 - what proportion of Currie Primary School pupils were from catchment? Question 2 - in Currie Primary School 45% of pupils were from out of catchment, were they from the Currie Primary area or from other parts of the city?

**Comment/Question 33** - Understanding which areas the out of catchment pupils came from helped to inform some of the catchment proposals. In paragraph 5.8 of the report, pupils from Balerno High School catchment area represented 52% of the school roll, but in paragraph 5.10 of the report, 29% of high school role was of non-catchment

pupils. How did this add up? Where were Nether Currie non-catchment primary pupils coming from, what proportion of Currie Primary was non-catchment and what would happen to West Lothian residents who were not currently at Kirknewton Primary School area and who currently made up 34% of the Balerno High School rolls? That was a large number of the pupils and as a parent council in Balerno we were in favour of the catchment change. It was known that this would have a huge impact on West Lothian households who were currently choosing to send children to Balerno High School and would also have a major impact on their siblings.

**Answers 32 and 33** - (Robbie Crockatt) – He did not have the figures about non-catchment pupils for Currie Primary School. Regarding, the second question, a large number of the non-catchment who were in Currie Primary School were from Nether Currie and vice versa. Both schools would draw pupils from a whole range of catchment areas. He did not have the statistics but a full breakdown of percentages and the movement within catchment areas was available on the School Review Website, which had details of all the pupils who attended from for each school. Regarding the maps and percentages he would have to get back to the parent.

**Question 34** – If the proposal went ahead, they did not think that Dean Park would have 100% catchments pupils. Parents had a choice, therefore, pupils who lived in Cherry Tree/Newmills area and applied to Currie Primary School would just become an “out of catchment statistic” in that school. Was there capacity to support that and how much freedom of choice was there? Pupils in that affected area had not been able to get out of catchment places at Dean Park in the last few years. Was the Authority not just moving problem?

**Answer 34** - (Robbie Crockatt) – By building in the additional capacity in the school, they were creating additional space. The Authority would organise schools, based on staffing the catchment population and when places became available, non-catchment applicants would take them up. As pressure built upon a school like Currie Primary, the percentage of non-catchment pupils would reduce. There would be movement once there was capacity. There would always be an element in schools of non-catchment pupils in attendance.

**Question 35** – There had always been a lack of out of catchment places for that area of Balerno for Dean Park Primary School, as there were capacity issues. How many parents had tried to get places and been turned down on appeals? That would suggest that more parents would want their children to go to Dean Park.

**Answer 35** - (Robbie Crockatt) – You were correct. Perhaps parents applied and were unsuccessful, however, this would apply in the other direction too. You should tell the residents from the affected area that this is an opportunity for people to have their say and we will see what response was received from the community.

**Question 36** - A parent who obtained an out of catchment place through the appeal process, was concerned that they might have to go through the same process for their second child. Depending on catchment boundary changes, this might put them in a strange situation of having their second child going to a different school from their elder sibling for a year. How then would sibling guarantee come in to play?

**Answer 36** - (Robbie Crockatt) – This depended upon personal circumstances. If the parent went to appeal and the catchment boundary had changed, the Appeal Committee would hopefully look upon that favourably, however, each Committee had their own view of individual circumstances.

**Comment** - As a parent council we have had several instances of parents who had been in a similar situation for siblings for the intake for next year. They would be in that farcical situation.

**Question 37** – You said that in building in capacity, you could accommodate some future change and that there might be some additional building in future. Regarding catchment choice, in the various scenarios that have been described, it was proposed that on the financial basis there would be additional classrooms entirely at Dean Park rather than be split between Dean Park and Currie Primary School. Were you going to make the decision on whether you were going to build at Dean Park or on both schools, based on mainly financial or other considerations?

**Answer 37** - (Robbie Crockatt) - Financial implications had always to be considered, but in this scenario, the financial implications of building additional classrooms at Dean Park had not been costed in as much detail as Currie. It was necessary to address the issues at Currie, such as geographical factors and catchment demand. It was also intended to align the school catchment boundaries with Community Council boundaries. Regarding the possible loss of sports fields, any extension of Currie would be on sports facilities. The Authority did not know what the solution would be for Dean Park. We would want to protect sports facilities and green space as much as possible.

**Comment** - There was space to extend Dean Park that did not reduce the pitch, whereas at Currie, any extension would involve the use of green space. There were ways to expand Dean Park that did not require the use of green space.

**Question 38** – Planning permission for both extensions had already been granted and two pitches had already been established. It was understood that this would not be changed by the further extensions. Had funding been taken into consideration. You said that one of the benefits of the proposals was to align the Community Council boundary with the catchment boundary. Could this be clarified?

**Answer 38** - (Robbie Crockatt) – When considering a catchment change, we consider any existing geographical and administrative boundaries where it is possible to do so.

The opportunity presented itself to align a school catchment boundary with the Community Council boundary.

**Question 39** – You had said that one of the reasons for the catchment changes was overcapacity at Currie Primary School. You had been asked if this could be balanced with the original proposals for the slightly different boundary between Nether Currie and Currie Primary School. Since these discussions, there had been planning permission granted for eight additional classrooms to be built. So that largely covered the extension of Currie from the numbers which were available. Therefore, was it not the case that the building that has taken place had relieved some of the pressure at Currie?

**Answer 39** - (Robbie Crockatt) – Yes, it was the case that the building had already relieved some of the pressure from Currie.

**Comment** – A parent indicated that they wanted to talk to an officer about the Nether Currie catchment change after the meeting.

**Question 40** - You said it was advantageous to move the Cherry Tree and Newmills section into Dean Park because it had the capacity. Could you clarify why then it was necessary to build more classrooms?

**Answer 40** - (Robbie Crockatt) – Yes, we needed to extend Dean Park Primary School anyway. The reason for moving the Cherry Tree pupils to Dean Park was that there was the capacity to build at Dean Park. When the Cherry Tree pupils moved to Dean Park, the number of classrooms would increase.

**Question 41** – Apparently it was best in terms of efficiency to have three stream schools and you referred to having three stream schools at Dean Park, but not at Currie Primary School - why was this?

**Answer 41** - (Robbie Crockatt) – Dean Park presented itself better in terms of three streams and would benefit more from this, because of its large classrooms, whereas the site at Currie had less space.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The Convener indicated that as everyone had no more questions, he would like to say that this had been a valuable exercise. This was statutory consultation and the Authority did listen to what the participants had said and would make changes, if necessary. However, if the proposal were to change too much, there would have to be another consultation, but the officials present would take on board what had been said. He then thanked all those present for their participation.

Tom Wood concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and for participating. He confirmed that their comments would form part of the report to the Full Council.

# Record of Meeting

## **Proposal to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie Hugh School and Balerno High School**

**Public Consultation Meeting held at 19:00, Monday 19 November 2018, Currie High School, Edinburgh**

**Present:** Approximately 40 members of the public

**In Attendance:** Tom Wood (Independent Chair), Councillor Ian Perry (Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee), Lorna Sweeny (Schools and Lifelong Learning Senior Manager), Robbie Crockatt (School Estate Planning Manager), Elaine Watson (School Estate Planning Officer) and Veronica MacMillan (Committee Services).

### **1. Introduction**

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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. Mr Wood thanked everyone for coming along and explained his role as well as introducing the key officers in attendance. It was explained that the consultation would continue until Monday 3 December 2018 and parents had the opportunity to feed in comments until then.

The Schools (Consultation Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to conduct a public consultation ahead of a report on the proposals going to the City of Edinburgh Council for consideration in March 2018. The public consultation would provide people with the opportunity to express their views and feed directly into the consultation process.

Officers that represented the Council gave a presentation, as described below.

### **2. Presentation/Proposal**

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Elaine Watson (Schools Estate Planning Officer) delivered a presentation that provided the rationale for and the implications of realigning the catchment areas of Currie

Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School.

### **Requirement for Change**

In November 2016 the Council approved the Edinburgh Local Development Plan (LDP). It identified sites at Riccarton Mains Road, Curriehill Road, Newmills Road and Ravelrig Road as suitable for housing development. The supporting Education Infrastructure Appraisal and Action Programme provided a cumulative assessment of the additional education infrastructure required to accommodate pupils from new housing developments. It found that three additional classrooms at Currie Primary School and two additional classrooms at Dean Park Primary School were required to support pupil generation from known housing developments in the area.

The Council's Planning department carried out an annual assessment of the supply of housing land in the city and publishes the Housing Land Audit and Delivery Programme (HLADP) every autumn. It detailed completions from the previous April to March and estimated expected housing completions from sites with planning permission or identified in the LDP over the coming years. The most recent HLDAP suggested that between now and 2021 a further 47 catchment primary pupils would be generated by housing developments in the existing Currie Primary School catchment area. A further 36 pupils would be generated by housing developments in the existing Dean Park catchment area. There were no housing developments in Nether Currie Primary School's catchment area.

### **Proposal**

The proposed catchment changes would see sections of Currie Primary School's catchment area realigned with Nether Currie Primary School. As both of these primary schools would feed to Currie High School there would be no resulting change to secondary school catchment area boundaries. The proposed catchment changes would also see a section of Currie Primary School's catchment area realigned with Dean Park Primary School. This would necessitate a realignment of the Currie High School and Balerno High School catchment boundaries.

Under the proposals, there would be a geographic link to Ratho Primary School with the rest of the Balerno High School catchment area by realigning the rural areas around Dalmahoy with Balerno High School. This would mean that primary pupils in the Dalmahoy area would be realigned from Currie Primary School to Dean Park Primary School.

If approved, the proposed catchment area changes would take effect from November 2019 to capture the P1 and S1 registration process for August 2020. The proposed catchment changes would apply to new P1 and S1 pupils and any new registrations

from people moving into the area. There would be no mandatory transfer of pupils already attending another school.

### **Next Steps**

Once the public consultation phase finished, details of the representations received would be issued to Education Scotland for their consideration of the educational effects of the proposals. Education Scotland would issue a report on their findings which would be included in the final Council report on the consultation.

Following the conclusion of the consultation period and after consideration of the representations received and the views of Education Scotland on the educational benefits of the proposal, a report on the outcomes of the consultation would be presented to Council for consideration. The report would be made publically available and notification would be given to those individuals or groups that had made representations during the consultation period. The report would include a summary of written representations received during the consultation period and representations made at the public meeting along with the Council response to representations made and also to any issues raised by Education Scotland.

It was anticipated that the consultation report, setting out recommendations, would be presented to a meeting of the Council in March 2019. The report would be published three weeks in advance of the Council meeting.

### **3. Questions/Comments**

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**Question 1** – What will the projections take into consideration when calculating numbers of pupils projected to attend schools in the area in the future?

**Answer 1 – (RC/Cllr Perry)** – A number of different things will be taken into consideration such as the demography of the area, the number of housing developments in the area, and the numbers of pupils registering in P1 and S1.

**Question 2** - People have bought their houses within the catchment area to ensure there is a transition for their children from primary school to secondary school. There are so many housing developments being built, will younger siblings be guaranteed a place in the primary and secondary schools in the catchment area in the future? Will safe routes to schools be looked at?

**Answer (RC)** – The Council will look at P1 and S1 intakes so we can look at the most up-to-date data and identify who has siblings in each school and in nursery school. The distance to the new school site is further and we acknowledge that. People from Cherrytrees are already making that journey and if these plans were to go ahead and result in more traffic in the area, the Council would work with the schools to identify if

any further facilities were required to make the journey for children walking to school safer.

**Follow-up Comment** – On occasions cars have not stopped for the green man and the road is a death trap and is only going to get worse with the increase in house building and traffic.

**Follow-up Answer (RC)** – We will look at sibling guarantees for both primary and secondary schools. The points you've put across are very well made and will be recorded.

**Follow-up Question** – What if the catchment area changes and I am no longer in the catchment area?

**Follow-up Answer (RC)** – If you were no longer in the catchment area for your preferred school and if your child had siblings in the school, priority would go to children that have siblings in the school. Non-catchment placements would then be allocated on the basis of distance.

**Question 3** – I am also concerned about sibling guarantee but in primary school and not secondary school. I am concerned that my children won't be able to go to the same school because of a decision that will be made by the Council to change the catchment area. There should be a sibling guarantee in place so that children are not placed in this situation. There is no information on what to do if I find myself in this situation.

**Answer (RC)** – Parents should register with their child's catchment school, and I can't really add anything to what I've already said. The reason we look at the P1 and S1 intake is so we can look at the most up-to-date data and identify who has siblings in each school and in nursery school. This will make sure that the catchment changes the Council is proposing will not cause issues for parents at some point down the line. The Council will assess the data and make a recommendation based on this.

**Follow-up Comment** – I would just like to echo what has already been said. I'm from the Cherrytrees area so this is going to affect two of my children. I already have one at Currie High, and the school advised that when the other two children are going to Currie High, they will be able to support them as they already know the family. If the catchment area changes and the children have to go to another school, we will not have the relationship that's been built up with Currie High School and the children would be forced to move to a brand new school in an area they are not familiar with. My children walk to Currie Primary School at the moment but if they had to go another school I would have to drive them because I would be worried about them having to cross the busy road and I have witnessed a school pupil being knocked down. Where are the children of the families moving into new houses in the area going to go to school? The area will be a death trap.

**Tom Wood** – Could you please describe the process for deciding the safe routes to school if you make this change?

**Follow-up Answer (RC)** – We would engage with the school's road safety team, they would have a look at particular areas of concern. The amount of traffic and the numbers of pupils making that trip, and would make recommendations on what arrangements could be put in place or what actions the school and the Council should be taking to address concerns.

**Question 5** – The analysis that you do to generate all the numbers of those that are going to be affected, can you do the same that will tell us how these siblings are going to be affected in all these areas?

**Answer (RC)** – Yes, that's the next step. The Council wants to make sure that we have the most up-to-date data and so we use the figures from P1 and S1 registrations for this year to establish what impact offering sibling guarantee would have on the years that we would make the catchment change. We need to make sure that offering sibling guarantee does not put accommodation pressures on schools.

**Question 6** – I have child at nursery and a child at Currie Primary School and would be affected by the catchment changes if they go ahead. The plans for the extension at Currie Primary, which were already approved, what is happening with those? Is the building of the second set of classrooms dependent on the outcome of the review of catchment areas before they build?

**Answer (RC)** – Yes, the building of the classrooms is dependent on this consultation. We have planning permission for the building of the classrooms and the design is there. If the consultation proposals were not to go ahead, we would monitor at what point we would need to deliver the expansion at Currie Primary School.

**Follow-up Question** – What about the community aspect? I moved to and live in Currie, I don't shop in Balerno and I am now being asked to send my children to school in Balerno and they are not familiar with Balerno. The walk to Currie Primary School is 15 minutes, the walk to Dean Park Primary School is 34 minutes. I don't understand the logic of the catchment change. Have the Council walked the routes to each school?

**Follow-up Answer (RC)** – The reasons we are carrying out the consultation is because of the pressures parents identified on Currie Primary School. Changing the catchment boundaries allows us to deal with those pressures. We have to deliver additional classroom space at Currie Primary School and the plans are there to do this.

**Follow-up Question** – But why pick out people that have lived in the area for 10 or 15 years from the catchment area?

**Follow-up Answer (RC)** – The catchment areas do change in the established area but also people from that area are essentially going to Dean Park Primary School and Balerno High School. When we look at catchment changes we look at areas that it would make sense to realign, numbers is a priority in terms of looking at how people in particular areas have moved historically and schools they have attended.

**Follow-up Comment** – But not in my area, in Curriehill Castle Drive, the figures from area are way higher in terms of attending Currie High than Dean Park.

**Follow-up Answer (RC)** – Yes, there are way more people in that area attending Currie than Dean Park.

**Comment 7** – I wanted to ask about the same thing, sibling guarantee. If you have two children going to separate schools, it is a 45 minute walk from one school to the other, so it is impossible to do. Some people don't have cars so it would be difficult and parents may need to look at sharing cars. I want to make sure this is taken into consideration because this could result in children being late for school every day.

**Question 8** – We moved to Cherrytrees 2 years ago mainly so we could walk to Currie Primary School and not have to drive. If the boundaries changed this would not be ideal for us and would be the same as other parents, we wouldn't be able to do two school runs if one child was going to Dean Park Primary and the other going to Currie Primary School. Traffic would increase as a consequence of parents having to drive to two schools. Is there an option to extend Nether Currie Primary School? How would you consider out-of-catchment places for children if there is no sibling guarantee? Will there be a guarantee for pupils living in the area that would be going to Currie Primary School in 2 or 3 years from now?

**Answer (RC)** – The out-of-catchment process is as, previously described, that you make an application to your out-of-catchment school. The way it is prioritised is by having a sibling already at the school and then on the basis of distance from the school. Those would be the priorities in terms of a non-catchment placement. If Currie was completely full then there would be no places available. This is why we want to assess the impact of sibling guarantee on the roll at Currie Primary School.

Nether Currie Primary School is on quite a small, tight site and the opportunities to extend it in any significant manner don't exist. We are looking at putting a nursery into Nether Primary School at the moment but that has proved tricky in itself. If we were to add more classrooms it would be tricky and we would have to look at putting some of Currie Primary School's catchment into Nether Primary School and it just wouldn't work.

**Question 9** – Looking at 2 data sets, one is a data set for if we do nothing, and the other is a data set for if we do everything. I think we need to see a data set where we see just the east end catchment change then we can have a look to see how it affects the numbers and then if we see the data set for the west end catchment change and how it affects numbers it would give clarity on how we proceed. We need to understand the impact the Nether Currie catchment change would have.

I have a question on sibling guarantee related to what parents should do, if they should make out of catchment requests to Nether Currie now in the expectation that this catchment change will go ahead. We need to know what we should be saying to that.

**Answer (RC)** – These are proposals and which we are consulting on, but at the moment there are no changes to the catchment area, so at the moment you should continue to apply to your catchment school.

In terms of splitting the two sides of the proposal in terms of data, that something that we can provide and I'm happy to send you that information.

**Question 10** – I also think we should take a more in-depth look at the data. I am a parent in the Newmills/Cherrytrees area, so I am also concerned about my children crossing Lanark Road. You are also going to have classrooms added to different schools and I was wondering how that would impact on the children's day, such as at lunchtimes, how the school canteen will accommodate the extra children, as I think there will be a 20% increase, what is happening with that?

**Answer (RC)** – Both schools can expand. The way that Currie Primary School is laid out means there is extra pressure on the classroom areas. Both schools have large gym halls and dining spaces and we will work with the schools to make sure those spaces are managed appropriately. Dean Park Primary School has the advantage of having bigger classrooms, and are about 25% larger than the classrooms at Currie Primary School and has large open activity areas. We believe that Dean Park Primary School has the capacity to expand to 21 classes, but both schools are able to do so.

**Follow-up Question** – How many children can fit into the dining area at Currie Primary School? Can all the children in the school fit into that dining area?

**Follow-up Answer (RC)** – No, I don't think they will be able to. There are currently 3 sittings for lunches at Currie Primary School and this would be increased to 4 sittings if the school was extended.

**Follow-up Question/Comment** – My children currently don't have school lunches because of the length of time it takes for them to queue up and eat their food. It would mean that they would miss out on playtime.

**Question 11** – Is this an all or nothing situation in terms of the proposal, or could some of the proposal be passed and some of it not passed by the Council? There are issues that have been raised about catchment and out-of-catchment places being available that are of great concern.

**Answer (RC)** – As it stands, if we were effectively to cut the consultation in half, we would have to go out and re-consult on that basis. I don't think we can remove a significant section of the proposal in the consultation without re-consulting. The proposal in front of you at the moment is either accepted or it is rejected, and the issue is to deal with the pressures on Currie Primary School that have been highlighted and that the school faces. If the proposal was rejected we would most likely deliver the additional accommodation in Currie Primary School and if there were still pressures further down the line, looking at changing the catchment area for Nether Currie Primary School would be part of that process.

**Follow-up Comment** – It just seems crazy that the space is there at Nether Currie and that catchment change could be made which might relieve the pressure on Currie Primary.

**Question/Comment 12** – I just want to reiterate my feelings on the sibling guarantee. To me, it seems absurd that you would split up families and it seems ridiculous to put parents through this every time there's a catchment change and unsettling that we cannot have that guarantee of a place.

**Follow-up Comment** – Very much following on from the previous comment, I am the parent of children that will not be affected by these proposals but I feel very strongly about them. You must have noticed the level of anxiety around the room in relation sibling guarantee. If you had sent out this proposal with a guarantee for all siblings you would have won a lot more support and lots of other things might have been much less contentious. I understand the need to use P1 and S1 data, but what about the children who are only 1 or 2 years of age, the expectation is that they will go to their catchment school. The guarantee has to go further and families should be look at as an entirety and do the decent thing and provide sibling guarantees to families.

**Question 13** – Has every option been looked at, with capacity and facilities being a major issue, have you thought about building a new school, an additional primary school?

**Answer (RC)** – A new school is something that would come with a price tag attached to it and that is the reality of where we are. It would be the same situation we are in now in terms of having to look at catchments for that new primary school. It's not something that we feel the need to consider at the moment. By looking at catchment changes here we can increase the capacity of the existing schools.

**Follow-up Comment** – It seems the approach taken is always reactive and never proactive. There are additional developments being built in the area so it looks like it would have be done eventually anyway, so why don't we do it now?

**Follow-up Answer (Cllr Perry)** – If there is a big enough development coming into the area then we could look at a new primary school. Developers have contributed to the expansion of the schools.

**Tom Wood** - I think it's important to talk briefly about how you get the funding for a new school.

**RC** – As part of the Local Development Plan (LDP), if a significant development comes forward as part of the conditions for planning to granted, contributions are required for a new school to be built. For smaller developments, developers have to make a contribution under a Section 75 agreement and that would go towards building potential new classrooms in an existing school to deal with the extra pupils that development would generate. For a major development, the developer would provide land to build a new school on.

**Follow-up Question** – How much of a contribution would be made to the school by the developer?

**Follow-up Answer (RC)** – It's difficult to quantify, but as a general rule of thumb developers are happy to pay for a primary school as it help them to sell houses. It is more complex discussion with developers around building a secondary school. A primary schools costs anywhere between £12 – 15 million to build, and £30 - 40 million for a secondary school. Councils can bid into a Scottish Government Capital Fund for to provide additional monies for Councils to build new schools. If we borrow money we have to pay interest, and that sum comes off the Council's revenue budget and that budget funds Council services.

**Question/Comment 14** – I am hearing from what has already been said that there is capacity within Currie Primary School, and increasing capacity is important, but it is also important that children make a smooth transition from primary school into secondary school. It's not just about numbers, we have to think about what is best for our children and this should be taken into consideration.

**Answer (Cllr Perry)** – The number of children at school age is increasing, so we have to increase the classroom size at some stage. We know that the capacity of the schools has to increase, and we are looking at the best way to do that. We want to provide the best education, which is the first and foremost thing we are focusing on. It's all about what we are providing for the young people in this area.

**Question/Comment 15** – Question 6 of the questionnaire is a 'yes' or 'no' answer but it is important to realise that people may be happy with part of the proposal but not all of it, and it's difficult to convey this if you have to answer 'yes' or 'no'. This should be taken into consideration when looking at the number of 'yes' and 'no' answers.

**Answer** – We will read all the comments, and if someone says they do or don't support the proposals we will note their reasons.

**Tom Wood** – The purpose of this meeting is to gather information data and reports are frequently changed because of the information gathered. This will influence the report that goes to Full Council for approval.

**Question 16** – Based on feedback I've had from speaking to people in the Cherrytrees/Newmills area, there is roughly 60-70% of people that have an affiliation with and want to remain in Currie Primary School and maybe 30-40% that want to go to Dean Park Primary School. With that in mind, has any consideration been given to having a shared catchment, a catchment choice? There is an arrangement in place already in Edinburgh where people can choose to go to one of two catchment schools.

My second question is have you considered just including the new development of houses at Newmills in the catchment area for Dean Park Primary School and the existing Newmills development and Cherrytrees in the catchment area for Currie Primary School? This could be in tandem with the changes in catchment area for Nether Currie Primary School.

**Answer (RC)** – Yes, we could consider allocating children from the new development at Newmills into Dean Park Primary School but this wouldn't address the issues at Currie Primary School. We still need to deliver additional classrooms at Currie.

Shared catchments are something that we are looking to remove in Edinburgh as much as possible. An area would have dual feeder status, meaning it can feed into one of two schools. It can create issues in primary schools in terms of transition and children having to form relationships with two schools. We would also lose the ability to forecast what was going to happen in the future and is something we are trying to avoid doing.

**Question 17** – I am a grandparent and I am from the ageing part of the population. A proportion of this part of population may move into care homes leaving family homes empty. I live on my own in a 3 bedroomed house and when I move my house would be available for a family with at least 2 children. Has this been taken into account in the catchment?

**Answer (RC/Cllr Perry)** – The projection that we produced looks backwards first before they look forwards. We look at trends that have taken place in the past and lots of young people have moved into the area

A lot of the comments have been made in terms of future-proofing and so the figures have been adjusted in relation to that. It's not an exact science and no one knows what is going to happen in five years' time, so it is important to future-proof things now.

**Question/Comment 18** – I am Chair of Currie Community Council and have substantial correspondence from people asking various questions, including concerns about sibling guarantee, and what the guarantee actually means. People are also very concerned about lunchtime sittings at Currie Primary School as there are already 3 sittings and there have been complaints that it's not working now so would be worse if it was increased to 4 sittings. There have been lots of concerns raised about road safety at Lanark Road, but Lanark Road does not lend itself well to the installation of crossings. The proposal would lead to increase in traffic and Lanark Road would be even more dangerous as a result. Children would have to walk further under the proposal to get to school which would be more of a risk in terms of having to cross Lanark Road amongst increased traffic.

**Question/Comment 19** – Why don't we just put children from the new development at Newmills to Dean Park Primary School? The remainder of the children from Newmills and Cherry trees could the go to Currie Primary School. There is planning permission for Phase 2 of the development and additional capacity at Nether Currie Park and Dean Park Primary School so I don't understand why lots of children may have to cross Lanark Road when this could be avoided.

**Question/Comment 20** – I am probably in the minority tonight, I live on Lanark Road but still in the catchment for Cherrytrees and Newmills. I have a Balerno address but my children are in catchment for Currie High School. There are a number of families in the Balerno area that would like the catchment proposal to go ahead, contrary to the opinions of lots of people here tonight. I have one child in Balerno High School and

another that we are having to apply for an out-of-catchment place at Balerno High School. It is a safe route to go to school, there are two pedestrian crossings on Lanark Road.

**Question 21** – I am also live in Balerno and am for the proposals but I am concerned about the Dean Park Primary School and that the play areas would be used as classrooms.

**Answer (RC)** – No, they would not.

**Question 22** – Outcome of the review – what is the process? What needs to happen for it to be a ‘no’ and what needs to happen for it to be a ‘yes’?

**Answer (RC)** – We will be pulling together all the responses from the consultation that have been submitted and represent those views in an outcome report to include all the minutes of the meetings and all the responses received, and the Council’s response to those responses. Education Scotland will also comment on the proposals and will provide a report that we have to respond to as part of the process. Whether or not we would make a recommendation on which way to go would be something we would have to discuss internally, but ultimately the decision about whether to implement the proposal will be made by Full Council in March 2019. If the changes were approved by Full Council then those changes would become active for the registration period of that year.

**Tom Wood** – It is important to recognise that this is not the end of the process you still have time submit comments.

**Question 23** – Do we have a Section 75 agreement for 2 classrooms? If we wanted to put in 5 classrooms at Dean Park how much would it cost?

**Answer (RC)** – It’s been separated out as 2 classrooms for Dean Park Primary School and 3 classrooms for Currie Primary School. If we don’t go with the proposals we would have to build at both schools and the costs would be similar.

**Comment (LS)** – I would like to reassure people that the quality of the education will be the same in both secondary schools.

**Question 24** – The consultation is due to close on the 3 December 2018, and it is clear that if you could go away, look at the figures and sibling guarantees the majority of the people in the room would be happy with this proposal. Is there any way to extend the consultation deadline to be able to do this?

**Answer (RC/Cllr Perry)** – The registration figures will be completed in January so we would take the decision then. We don’t have the ability to extend the consultation to take that in as this is set. We will review the figures and make a decision on whether a sibling guarantee can be offered or not. If we have more information on figures before January 2019 we will let you know.

**Question 25** – Are you going to widen the analysis of registration figures to include P2. P3 etc?

**Answer (RC)** – Yes, it will include all the year groups.

**Question 26** – Lanark Road – Currievale development, does that come into the proposal? Can you work with the infrastructure people in the Council to relieve the traffic pressures on Lanark Road?

**Answer 25 - (Cllr Perry)** – No, it's is not included in the LDP. Traffic impact assessments will be carried out as part of any proposed development.

**Question 27** – What happens if you don't build extra classrooms? What about sibling guarantees in terms of future-proofing? It seems quite constraining and there doesn't seem to be any way of making the sibling guarantee possible.

**Answer (RC)** - The catchment change would reduce the numbers of children coming into the schools, although the numbers would increase before they were reduced.

**Comment 28** - You were talking about schools registration figures for January 2019, my child will not be registering for another two years and I hope that the Council can produce viable options for parents going forward.

**RC** - We have heard a lots of views today and I would encourage everyone to use the website to record their views. The technical issues with the website have been resolved.

#### **4. Conclusion**

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Mr Wood brought questions to a close and thanked everyone for all their contributions which were extremely valuable. Mr Wood reminded everyone that they had until the 3 December 2018 to make any further contributions.

Response number.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Original Reference	ANON-EQBX-3852-2	ANON-EQBX-3859-9	ANON-EQBX-3851-1	ANON-EQBX-385R-2	ANON-EQBX-385G-Q	ANON-EQBX-3855-5	ANON-EQBX-385Q-1	ANON-EQBX-385N-X	ANON-EQBX-3853-3	ANON-EQBX-385U-5	ANON-EQBX-385W-7	ANON-EQBX-385H-R	ANON-EQBX-385J-T	ANON-EQBX-385M-W	ANON-EQBX-3856-6	ANON-EQBX-3855-3	ANON-EQBX-385C-K	ANON-EQBX-385F-P	ANON-EQBX-3858-8	ANON-EQBX-38X2-5	ANON-EQBX-38X9-C	ANON-EQBX-38XR-5	ANON-EQBX-38XT-7
New Reference	ANON-EQBX-3852-2	ANON-EQBX-3852-3	ANON-EQBX-3852-4	ANON-EQBX-3852-5	ANON-EQBX-3852-6	ANON-EQBX-3852-7	ANON-EQBX-3852-8	ANON-EQBX-3852-9	ANON-EQBX-3852-10	ANON-EQBX-3852-11	ANON-EQBX-3852-12	ANON-EQBX-3852-13	ANON-EQBX-3852-14	ANON-EQBX-3852-15	ANON-EQBX-3852-16	ANON-EQBX-3852-17	ANON-EQBX-3852-18	ANON-EQBX-3852-19	ANON-EQBX-3852-20	ANON-EQBX-3852-21	ANON-EQBX-3852-22	ANON-EQBX-3852-23	ANON-EQBX-3852-24
Do you support it?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
TRANSPORT - NEGATIVE IMPACT				x							x									x	x		
TRANSPORT - GENERAL / NEUTRAL			x																				
SIBLING GUARANTEE											x										x		
COMMUNITY - ALIGN WITH BALERNO		x	x						x				x		x	x	x						
COMMUNITY - ALIGN WITH CURRIE				x								x											
PROPOSAL SPLITS FAMILIES AND PEERS, NEGATIVE TRANSITION				X								X								x	x	x	
HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS, PUPIL GENERATION, PROJECTIONS		x						x													x		
POSITIVE IMPACT ON DEAN PARK AND BALERNO														x			x						
SUPPORT NETHER CURRIE CHANGE ONLY																							
NETHER CURRIE HAS CAPACITY	x				x													x					
EASE PRESSURE AT CURRIE			x		x									x				x					
ACCOMMODATION SOLUTION AT CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL																			x				
INVESTMENT IN THE SCHOOL ESTATE REQUIRED														x									
SUPPORT REALIGNMENT OF NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS																				x	x		
CONSULTATION																							
OTHER																X							
OTHER - EDUCATION																							
OTHER - ESTATE																			X	X			

## Appendix 2: Summary of Representations

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Response number.	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297
Original Reference	ANON-EQBX-38RB-F	ANON-EQBX-38R8-5	ANON-EQBX-38RD-H	ANON-EQBX-38U2-2	ANON-EQBX-38U1-1	ANON-EQBX-38UR-2	ANON-EQBX-38UT-4	ANON-EQBX-38UK-U	ANON-EQBX-38U5-5	ANON-EQBX-38UQ-1	ANON-EQBX-38UZ-A	ANON-EQBX-38UP-Z	ANON-EQBX-38UN-X	ANON-EQBX-38U3-3	ANON-EQBX-38UU-5	ANON-EQBX-38UW-7	ANON-EQBX-38UH-R	ANON-EQBX-38U7-7	ANON-EQBX-38UM-W	ANON-EQBX-38U4-4	ANON-EQBX-38UY-9	ANON-EQBX-38US-3	ANON-EQBX-38UA-H
New Reference	ANON-EQBX-3852-276	ANON-EQBX-3852-277	ANON-EQBX-3852-278	ANON-EQBX-3852-279	ANON-EQBX-3852-280	ANON-EQBX-3852-281	ANON-EQBX-3852-282	ANON-EQBX-3852-283	ANON-EQBX-3852-284	ANON-EQBX-3852-285	ANON-EQBX-3852-286	ANON-EQBX-3852-287	ANON-EQBX-3852-288	ANON-EQBX-3852-289	ANON-EQBX-3852-290	ANON-EQBX-3852-291	ANON-EQBX-3852-292	ANON-EQBX-3852-293	ANON-EQBX-3852-294	ANON-EQBX-3852-295	ANON-EQBX-3852-296	ANON-EQBX-3852-297	ANON-EQBX-3852-298
Do you support it?	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
TRANSPORT - NEGATIVE IMPACT		x	x		x			x		x			x	x	x	x		x			x		
TRANSPORT - GENERAL / NEUTRAL						x																	
SIBLING GUARANTEE				x						x			x	x	x					x	x		
COMMUNITY - ALIGN WITH BALERNO						x					x									x		x	
COMMUNITY - ALIGN WITH CURRIE				x			x						x				x	x					
PROPOSAL SPLITS FAMILIES AND PEERS, NEGATIVE TRANSITION								x	x	x			x	X	x	x					x		
HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS, PUPIL GENERATION, PROJECTIONS										x							x						
POSITIVE IMPACT ON DEAN PARK AND BALERNO											x												
SUPPORT NETHER CURRIE CHANGE ONLY														x		x							
NETHER CURRIE HAS CAPACITY														x			x						
EASE PRESSURE AT CURRIE												x											
ACCOMMODATION SOLUTION AT CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL														x		x							
INVESTMENT IN THE SCHOOL ESTATE REQUIRED																							
SUPPORT REALIGNMENT OF NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS										x						x							
CONSULTATION																							
OTHER														x									
OTHER - EDUCATION																							
OTHER - ESTATE															x								

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Response number.	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412
Original Reference	ANON-EQBX-384D-K	ANON-EQBX-38E2-J	ANON-EQBX-38E9-S	ANON-EQBX-38E1-H	ANON-EQBX-38ER-J	ANON-EQBX-38EV-P	ANON-EQBX-38EX-R	ANON-EQBX-38EG-7	ANON-EQBX-38ET-M	ANON-EQBX-38EK-B	ANON-EQBX-38E5-N	ANON-EQBX-38UC-K	ANON-EQBX-38EY-S	ANON-EQBX-38EZ-T	ANON-EQBX-38EQ-H	ANON-EQBX-38EP-G	ANON-EQBX-38EN-E	ANON-EQBX-38E3-K	ANON-EQBX-38EU-N	ANON-EQBX-38EW-Q	ANON-EQBX-38EH-8	ANON-EQBX-38E7-Q	ANON-EQBX-38E4-M
New Reference	ANON-EQBX-384D-K	ANON-EQBX-38E2-J	ANON-EQBX-38E9-S	ANON-EQBX-38E1-H	ANON-EQBX-38ER-J	ANON-EQBX-38EV-P	ANON-EQBX-38EX-R	ANON-EQBX-38EG-7	ANON-EQBX-38ET-M	ANON-EQBX-38EK-B	ANON-EQBX-38E5-N	ANON-EQBX-38UC-K	ANON-EQBX-38EY-S	ANON-EQBX-38EZ-T	ANON-EQBX-38EQ-H	ANON-EQBX-38EP-G	ANON-EQBX-38EN-E	ANON-EQBX-38E3-K	ANON-EQBX-38EU-N	ANON-EQBX-38EW-Q	ANON-EQBX-38EH-8	ANON-EQBX-38E7-Q	ANON-EQBX-38E4-M
Do you support it?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
TRANSPORT - NEGATIVE IMPACT			x	x		x		x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
TRANSPORT - GENERAL / NEUTRAL												x											
SIBLING GUARANTEE		x	x					x	x	x			x	x	x	x				x	x		
COMMUNITY - ALIGN WITH BALERNO																				x			
COMMUNITY - ALIGN WITH CURRIE										x				x		x							
PROPOSAL SPLITS FAMILIES AND PEERS, NEGATIVE TRANSITION			x	x		x		x		x	x		x	x	x						x		x
HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS, PUPIL GENERATION, PROJECTIONS																				x			
POSITIVE IMPACT ON DEAN PARK AND BALERNO																				x			
SUPPORT NETHER CURRIE CHANGE ONLY		x	x					x					x			x							x
NETHER CURRIE HAS CAPACITY																							
EASE PRESSURE AT CURRIE																							
ACCOMMODATION SOLUTION AT CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL																x							
INVESTMENT IN THE SCHOOL ESTATE REQUIRED																				x			
SUPPORT REALIGNMENT OF NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS			x																				
CONSULTATION		x																			x		
OTHER		x					x							x									
OTHER - EDUCATION																							
OTHER - ESTATE																x			x	x			x

[illegible]

	<b>TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN CONCERNS</b>	Support?	Respondent
Issue Raised	The proposal will cause issues with road, traffic and car parking on Bridge Road and the surrounding streets.	Yes	56
Issue Raised	It is too far for small children to walk to Dean Park from the Newmills / Cherry Trees area so the proposal would add more traffic onto the road network and in an already congested Dean Park housing estate. A minibus to drop-off / pick-up older primary aged children should be considered.	Yes	25
Council Response	<p>The Council will work with the Active Travel Team to update Dean Park Primary School's Travel Plan to reflect their extended catchment areas. These plans will aim to encourage sustainable means of transport to and from school.</p> <p>The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 considers walking distance to be, in the case of a child who has not attained the age of eight, two miles, and in the case of any other child, three miles.</p> <p>The furthest property in the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area is 1.7 miles from Dean Park Primary School and is, for the purposes of the Education (Scotland) Act, within walking distance for children.</p> <p>The Council does not intend to transport children from this area to Dean Park Primary School.</p>		
Issue Raised	<p>There are already pedestrian crossings in place to allow safe walking to school for children from the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area.</p> <p>The area is within walking distance to Balerno High School.</p> <p>Travel from the Dean Park and Balerno extension area to Dean Park Primary School and Balerno High School will be 'against the flow' of traffic on Lanark Road and will not increase congestion</p>	Yes	3, 30, 86, 324, 332, 337, 352, 419,
Council Response	It is acknowledged that pupils are already making this journey indicating that some parents/ carers consider it to be safe.		
Issue Raised	The proposal will reduce the amount of traffic on Lanark Road West because it will reduce the number of out-of-catchment places available and therefore the number of families driving to out-of-catchment schools.	Yes	95, 337, 401
Issue	Extra pedestrian crossings over Lanark Road near Ravelrig Heights and Newmills are required.	Yes	153, 218, 241, 312

Raised	A safer form of crossing at Newmills Road and a crossing guard at Bridge Road would support safer routes to school for all pupils coming from the north side of Balerno.		
Council Response	<p>There is no pre conceived figure which would guarantee the implementation of a School Crossing Patrol site. As per the Roads GB guidelines, School Crossing Patrol sites are established based on the outcome of a pedestrian (P) and vehicle (V) count being conducted at the desired location. Once the count is conducted the figures obtained are put through the established calculation (PV2) – other Factors which attract a weighting figure are also brought into the calculation. If the overall total exceeds the National criteria figure which is currently set at 4,000,000 then a School Crossing Patrol site could be justified at the location.</p> <p>Only once the desired preferable crossing point is established and in use, then a School Crossing Patrol assessment would be conducted and the results of the assessment passed on accordingly.</p> <p>Only children of primary school age are calculated in the pedestrian count as School Crossing Patrol sites are only established based on the requirement of primary school children. However, once established any School Crossing Patrol Guide appointed to the site has the authority to stop vehicles and escort any pedestrian across the road.</p> <p>As part of the new housing development at Newmills a new on demand pedestrian crossing has been provided. Once completed, the new housing site will also offer alternative routes through the new residential area and linear park to this crossing to avoid walking, cycling or scooting along Lanark Road West.</p>		
Issue Raised	The proposal will reduced the travel time to school (Nether Currie)	Yes	49, 71, 75
Council Response	It is acknowledged that for some properties the proposed realignment to Nether Currie Primary School will result in a shorter distance to school.		
Issue Raised	Lanark Road cannot take anymore traffic. The infrastructure cannot support traditional working hours with wraparound care. Please address the infrastructure to ease congestion.	Yes	137, 173
Council Response	<a href="#">The South West Locality Improvement Plan</a> identifies high level actions to develop an integrated and sustainable transport system that will increase the journeys made by walking,		

Appendix 3: Summary of Issues Raised and Council Response

	<p>cycling and public transport to reduce congestion.</p> <p>Dean Park Primary School and Nether Currie Primary School's Travel Plans will be updated to reflect their extended catchment areas. These plans will aim to encourage sustainable means of transport to and from school.</p>		
Issue Raised	<p><b>SAFETY:</b> Children would have to cross Lanark Road West and other busy roads to get to school. This is not considered a safe route. Limited street lighting.</p>	No	<p>4, 11, 20, 21, 24, 33, 38, 42, 52, 62, 74, 76, 79, 80, 93, 107, 112, 149, 180, 181, 182, 184, 185, 186, 187, 189, 191, 194, 196, 198, 202, 203, 204, 206, 225, 226, 228, 229, 230, 238, 239, 243, 245, 246, 247, 251, 252, 253, 255, 257, 261, 263, 264, 265, 267, 269, 270, 274, 276, 277, 279, 287, 288, 289, 290, 292, 295, 299, 300, 305, 308, 311, 313, 314, 320, 322, 323, 326, 327, 329, 330, 335, 336, 357, 359, 358, 360, 361, 362, 363, 367, 371, 375, 382, 386, 388, 389, 392, 395, 397, 403, 404, 405, 406, 408, 418, 423, 424</p>
Issue Raised	<p><b>DISTANCE:</b> Dean Park Primary School and Balerno High School are further away and the proposal will increase the distance and time required to get to school. The route to Dean Park Primary School from the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area is also on an incline.</p>	No	<p>4, 20, 21, 24, 38, 42, 52, 62, 74, 80, 93, 109, 180, 181, 182, 186, 187, 190, 191, 194, 202, 206, 225, 226, 228, 230, 239, 243, 245, 246, 252, 253, 255, 257, 263, 264, 265, 267, 270, 274, 276, 279, 282, 287, 289, 290, 292, 295, 298, 300, 309, 311, 320, 322, 326, 330, 335, 336,</p>

Appendix 3: Summary of Issues Raised and Council Response

			338, 339, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 366, 371, 373, 375, 377, 382, 388, 389, 392, 393, 395, 397, 405, 406, 408, 418, 423, 424, 425
Issue Raised	<p><b>ACTIVE TRAVEL:</b> The route and the distance will discourage active travel and people from that area are more likely to drive their children to school. This is contrary to the Council's policy on safer routes to school and health promotion.</p> <p>Existing catchment area (the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area currently aligned to Currie Primary and Secondary Schools) promotes active travel because it is safe, flat and relatively short.</p>	No	11, 33, 52, 80, 107, 109, 180, 182, 184, 185, 186, 197, 204, 206, 211, 245, 251, 262, 263, 264, 265, 269, 270, 271, 276, 277, 282, 287, 289, 298, 290, 299, 301, 308, 309, 311, 314, 320, 326, 327, 336, 338, 339, 359, 360, 366, 371, 373, 382, 388, 392, 393, 395, 397, 405, 410, 413, 418, 423, 424
Council Response	<p>The Council does not have a 'safer routes policy'. The 'Safer Routes to School' was a project that began under the former Scottish Executive, providing funding for improvements in street layout around schools to make them safer. Factors that are taken into account in assessing safety include the nature of the route, width of carriageway, presence of footpaths, lighting, crossing facilities, public transport, wooded areas, subways and extent of crimes committed at school times. Child safety outside school hours is a parent/guardian responsibility.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges the proposals will require primary pupils from the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area to travel greater distances to their proposed catchment school than is currently the case. This issue would be compounded for families with siblings attending different primary schools.</p> <p>The area is going through a period of change and the development of the Newmills housing site will create new routes through the new housing estate and linear park that will link to the new pedestrian crossing on Lanark Road West from the existing Cherry Trees / Newmills area.</p> <p>There are several approaches which the school and parents/carers can consider to support pupils who have an increased distance to travel to school. The School's Parent Council will play</p>		

Appendix 3: Summary of Issues Raised and Council Response

	<p>a key role in supporting initiatives such as; Walking Buses (supervision could be rotational with either school staff or parents/carers). Parents &amp; carers could also support a “Park and Stride” approach where they transport a group of children, drive part of the way, then walk the rest. Providing parent/carers are satisfied with their child’s level of competency (usually having completed “Bikeability” successfully) pupils could cycle or take a scooter to school. This fosters resilience, strategies for Keeping Myself Safe and independent life skills.</p> <p>As part of these proposals Dean Park Primary School’s Travel Plan will be updated to reflect its extended catchment areas and it will aim to encourage sustainable means of transport to and from school.</p>		
Issue Raised	The proposal will add more congestion and pollution along Lanark Road West	No	79, 80, 107, 182, 204, 205, 206, 211, 243, 246, 252, 263, 277, 287, 289, 290, 301, 308, 309, 311, 320, 330, 366, 386, 392, 408, 410, 418, 425
Issue Raised	The lack of a sibling guarantee will add congestion	Yes	137, 139
Council Response	<p><a href="#">The South West Locality Improvement Plan</a> identifies high level actions to develop an integrated and sustainable transport system that will increase the journeys made by walking, cycling and public transport to reduce congestion.</p> <p>As part of these proposals the Council will work with the school, the school’s Parent Council and the Council’s Road Safety team to update school travel plans for Dean Park Primary School and Nether Currie Primary School’s to reflect their extended catchment areas aiming to encourage sustainable means of transport to and from school.</p>		
Issue Raised	Has the impact on traffic around Dean Park Primary School been assessed? There is already traffic problems at drop off and pick up times.	No	405
Council Response	No. It is acknowledged that there are existing problems around the school gates at pick up and drop off times because of parents/carers driving.		

Appendix 3: Summary of Issues Raised and Council Response

	The Council will work with the Road Safety team and the school's Parent Council to update school travel plans for Dean Park Primary School to reflect its extended catchment area aiming to encourage sustainable means of transport to and from school.		
Issue Raised	There is no safe walking route from the Blinkbonny area to Nether Currie Primary School. The direct routes are unsuitable for walking with small children.	No	284
Council Response	The Council will work with the school, the school's Parent Council and the Council's Road Safety team to update school travel plans for Nether Currie Primary School to reflect its extended catchment area and aim to encourage sustainable means of transport to and from school.		

	<b>SIBLING GUARANTEE</b>	Support?	Respondent
Issue Raised	Sibling guarantee required to avoid splitting families and creating logistical issues. Some respondents indicated they could support the proposal if a sibling guarantee was provided.	No	11, 21, 65, 69, 70, 80, 93, 229, 243, 246, 251, 252, 256, 257, 258, 261, 262, 264, 274, 278, 284, 287, 288, 289, 295, 299, 301, 309, 320, 323, 330, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 366, 376, 381, 385, 392, 397, 398, 399, 402, 403, 404, 405, 410, 423, 425
Issue Raised	Sibling guarantee is required. Support the proposal but empathize with the logistical challenges that are created if siblings attend different schools.	Yes	29, 44, 59, 76, 78, 91, 95, 96, 97, 99, 100, 105, 137, 139, 156, 157, 176, 188, 209, 214, 218, 227, 241, 242, 259, 294, 318, 341, 344, 347, 352, 354, 369, 370, 409, 416, 417, 419, 427
Issue Raised	Sibling guarantee is required.	No comment	34, 106
Council Response	Based on a five year average, there are 12 P1 pupils from the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area, of whom 85% attend Currie Primary School and 15% attend Dean Park Primary School.		

	<p>The Council recognises that in the absence of a sibling guarantee, the distances between Currie Primary School and Dean Park Primary School may present a logistical issue for parents/carers who could find that they have children in both schools.</p> <p>A sibling guarantee, where an older sibling is already attending Currie Primary School or Currie High School, will be offered to siblings making an out of catchment placing request.</p> <p>Any catchment change approved by the Council on 14 March 2019 will take effect from 14 August 2019 (start of term). Registrations for August 2020 will start in November 2019 and the new catchment areas will affect P1 and S1 registrations for August 2020. The details of the sibling guarantee are as follows:</p> <p><b>Currie Primary School</b></p> <p>In future, younger siblings of pupils at Currie Primary School (not including Currie Primary School nursery class) who attended the school at the time of the decision to realign the catchment areas and were, at that time, a resident in either the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area or the Nether Currie Extension Area will be guaranteed a place at Currie Primary School. This policy will only apply if when the younger sibling entered P1 they were a resident in one of the affected areas and their elder sibling was still at Currie Primary School. This policy will only apply to younger siblings whose elder sibling was in P1 or above from August 2019. This guarantee will apply to P1 registrations up to, and including, 2025/26 academic session.</p> <p>Temporary accommodation may be required at Currie Primary School for this period. The need for additional classrooms would be monitored annually to ensure their delivery at the appropriate time.</p> <p><b>Currie High School</b></p> <p>Any pupil already attending Currie Primary School and residing in the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area at the time the catchment changes come into effect and who has a younger sibling who gains a place at Currie Primary School as a result of the sibling guarantee will be eligible for a guaranteed place at Currie High School so long as they still reside in the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area at the time of registering for S1.</p>		
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### Appendix 3: Summary of Issues Raised and Council Response

	In future, younger siblings of pupils at Currie Primary School (not including Currie Primary School nursery class) and Currie High School who attended either school at the time of the decision to realign the catchment areas and were, at that time, a resident in the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area will be guaranteed a place at Currie High School if their elder sibling has chosen to attend that school so long as they still reside in the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area at the time of registering for S1 . This policy will only apply to younger siblings whose elder sibling was in P1 or above at Currie Primary School or S1 and above at Currie High School from August 2019. This guarantee will apply to S1 registrations up to, and including, 2031/32 academic session.		
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	<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Support?	Respondent
Issue Raised	<p>The proposal unites the Balerno Community geographically and will enhance local relationships. The current catchment area is divisive, splitting the community of Balerno into two. The catchment area should reflect historic parish and village boundaries and the proposed change is logical.</p> <p>Respondents live in Balerno, are part of the Balerno community and should be able to attend Balerno schools.</p> <p>Balerno High School is closer than Currie High School from Newmills / Cherry Trees</p> <p>The proposed catchment areas will show a long term commitment by the Council to invest in Dean Park and Balerno schools.</p> <p>Will remove the stress and administrative process of applying for out-of-catchment places and appeal process.</p> <p>It is unfair that properties that are close to Balerno High School are not in its catchment area yet pupils from miles away (Kirknewton, Ratho) are in the catchment area.</p> <p>Respondent moved to Balerno to ensure children could attend Balerno schools and was disappointed to find that they were not in the Dean Park / Balerno catchment area.</p> <p>Respondents feel part of the Balerno community and the proposal strengthens the community</p>	Yes	2, 3, 9, 13, 15, 16, 17, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 41, 43, 47, 53, 56, 60, 63, 64, 66, 67, 72, 78, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 97, 102, 103, 105, 111, 113, 114, 115, 117, 118, 119, 121, 122, 125, 131, 132, 134, 136, 140, 150, 151, 152, 153, 155, 157, 159, 160, 161, 164, 170, 171, 173, 174, 175, 178, 179, 199, 208, 209, 218, 222, 227, 235, 241, 242, 259, 280, 285, 294, 296, 307, 312, 315, 316, 318, 324, 332, 334, 337, 340, 341, 344, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 352, 354, 364, 369, 374, 401, 409, 416, 417, 419, 422, 426, 427
Issue	Cherry Tree / Curriehill / Newmills area is part of the Currie Community, people who live in the	No	4, 12, 61, 80, 158, 182, 183, 185,

Appendix 3: Summary of Issues Raised and Council Response

Raised	affected area do not want the proposed change, want to attend a local school. Dean Park is the third farthest away school.		186, 187, 213, 223, 244, 257, 279, 282, 287, 292, 293, 323, 326, 338, 339, 342, 360, 371, 399, 403, 405, 423, 424, 425
Council Response	<p>It is accepted that in the Dean Park and Balerno extension area, and in the wider Currie and Balerno communities, there are mixed views about which area families feel aligned to. Catchment areas are used to ensure there is a consistent and equitable approach to allocating school places across the school estate. Where it is possible to do so, geographic features such as parks or main roads and historic boundaries will be used to form catchment boundaries. There are no regulations that direct education authorities on how to draw catchment areas, therefore their primary function is to enable the Education Authority to strategically manage school places across the city in the most efficient way possible having regard to its assets and resources.</p> <p>The statutory consultation aims to ensure that there is sufficient accommodation available in the long term for pupils in the area. In this case, projections indicate further accommodation pressure at Currie Primary School that will exceed the planned extension to 22 classes. The realignment of the Dean Park and Balerno extension area will mitigate that pressure, and benefits from historic connections to parish / community council boundaries and a proportion of parents/carers from the area who choose to go to Dean Park Primary School and Balerno High School.</p>		
Issue Raised	No requirement for catchment boundaries to be aligned with community council boundaries	No	288, 371
Council Response	This is accepted and was acknowledged in the public meetings. However, from a school estate planning perspective, where possible the authority will seek to use existing ward, community council or other administrative boundaries when planning catchment areas. Aligning school catchment areas with community council boundaries also has the potential to facilitate community planning and strengthen the community's sense of belonging, which is recognised by Education Scotland.		

	<b>SPLITS FAMILIES AND PEERS</b>		
Issue Raised	<b>FAMILIES</b> The proposal will rip families apart. Unacceptable and unmanageable to split children up. Stressful Siblings will not be able to attend the same school. Current and future pupil respondents say they will find this upsetting. Parents should not have to split their children between two schools. Disgraceful to split families up. Logistically it is not possible to drop off / pick up children at two different schools at the same time. Will create problems at work for parents/carers who have an inflexible work pattern and/or work full time.	No	21, 22, 24, 34, 38, 45, 65, 81, 191, 192, 206, 211, 215, 226, 239, 245, 247, 248, 251, 253, 255, 256, 257, 258, 261, 262, 264, 265, 267, 271, 274, 282, 284, 287, 289, 290, 295, 299, 301, 305, 313, 323, 329, 330, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 371, 377, 381, 382, 383, 384, 389, 392, 393, 397, 402, 410, 412, 424, 425
Council Response	It is acknowledged that in the absence of a sibling guarantee families will be split and that would create logistical challenges for parents/carers.  Accordingly it is the Council's intention to offer a sibling guarantee as detailed above, see page 66/67.		
Issue Raised	<b>PEERS</b> Children are worried they will not be able to transition to high school with the friends they have made in primary school Children should not be forced to go to a different school from their friends at a critical stage (S1). Children should be allowed to continue their current school journey Splitting friendship groups will have an adverse impact on a child's mental health Younger children at nursery have developed friendships that would be split.	No	4, 12, 20, 24, 38, 45, 61, 62, 69, 74, 79, 81, 181, 184, 187, 191, 192, 200, 210, 213, 215, 226, 228, 232, 238, 247, 248, 251, 257, 261, 262, 265, 267, 274, 282, 283, 287, 288, 289, 313, 323, 335, 366, 371, 203, 336, 366, 381, 382, 383, 384, 386, 388, 389, 392, 393, 395, 399, 400, 403, 404, 424, 425
Council Response	The affected schools would work together to mitigate the impact for any affected pupil with early planning and support offered to the affected pupils. An effective transition programme will ensure equity in preparing all learners for their transition to secondary school. It is well-established practice that this programme would be planned collaboratively between Secondary/Primary sectors within Clusters.		

	<p>Based on a five year average, there are 11 S1 pupils from the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area, of whom 40% choose to attend Balerno High School and 60% choose to attend Currie High School. The S1 intake limit for Currie High School is 180 pupils based on its notional capacity. Based on a five year average, the S1 intake at Currie High School is 124, of which 81% are catchment pupils and 19% are non-catchment pupils. The capacity currently available in Currie High School can accommodate pupils from the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area without creating accommodation pressure at the school.</p> <p>Accordingly, pupils from the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area wishing to attend Currie High School and who cannot benefit from the sibling guarantee offered by the Council are encouraged to make an out of catchment placing request.</p>		
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	<b>HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS</b>		
Issue Raised	<p>Stop permitting new housing developments in Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno</p> <p>Ban building on the green belt</p> <p>New housing causes pressure on existing schools and other infrastructure (GP practices, roads)</p> <p>Planning permission should not be granted if there isn't enough places available</p> <p>Catchment change should not be used to mitigate the impact of new housing development.</p>	No	<p>145, 190</p> <p>35, 145, 284</p> <p>135, 377</p> <p>377, 387</p>
Issue Raised	The area has reached capacity in terms of infrastructure; schools, GP, roads	No	35 ,145, 291
Issue Raised	The area cannot support more housing development	Yes	154
Issue Raised	I support expansion of Dean Park and Balerno to accommodate rising rolls but also to 'future proof' the Lanark Road conurbation	Yes	91, 97, 157, 214, 427
Council Response	<p>Recent housing developments in Currie and Balerno have been 'plan led' insofar as it has related to applications on land allocated for housing in the Council's Local Development Plan 2016 (LDP) or on brownfield sites that have been granted planning permission for housing developments.</p> <p>The LDP is supported by a <a href="#">Transport Appraisal</a>, an <a href="#">Education Appraisal</a> and a <a href="#">Primary Care Appraisal</a>. New housing development is not expected to address deficiencies in existing infrastructure, only mitigate the harm</p>		

	<p>or impact, including cumulative, caused by the development proposed.</p> <p>The Council assessed the impact of the growth set out in the LDP through an <a href="#">Education Appraisal</a> (August 2018), taking account of school roll projections. To do this, an assumption has been made on the amount of new housing development expected to come forward. This takes account of new housing sites allocated in the LDP (Riccarton Mains Road, Curriehill Road, Newmills, Ravelrig Road) and other land within the urban area (for example, former Curriehill Primary School, Lanark Road West). Where additional infrastructure is required to accommodate the cumulative impact of additional pupils, education infrastructure 'actions' have been sought.</p> <p>The impact of housing developments can be mitigated by building additional infrastructure or catchment change, whatever is considered the most appropriate by the Education Authority.</p> <p>Currie Primary School's roll has risen due to a rising P1 intake from the existing urban area and it is projected to continue to rise because of pupil generation from housing developments in its catchment area.</p> <p>The rising roll can be addressed by building additional classrooms or by realigning its catchment area. The first phase of the extension at Currie Primary School accommodated the rising roll from the existing urban area. Phase two will be required to mitigate the impact of the housing developments in its catchment area. Before proceeding to build phase two it is reasonable to consult the community on an option to realign the catchment areas. This is because the adjacent school's catchment population is low (Nether Currie's catchment population represents, on average, 55% of its school roll) and the local school community has been supportive of this change, and in the other adjacent catchment area there is local support from the receiving school's community to extend Dean Park and Balerno's catchment areas.</p>		
Issue Raised	The catchment change will protect Balerno from further new housing development.	Yes	380, 80
Council Response	The statutory consultation paper does not claim the proposed realignment would prevent new housing development in the extended catchment area.		
Issue Raised	There is so much house building going on in Balerno, the catchment extension would increase capacity and protect and increase both school's future rolls.	Yes	409

Council Response	The proposed Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area includes new housing development known as 'Newmills' which is estimated to generate 34 primary school pupils and 21 secondary school pupils and will increase each school's catchment population accordingly. Each year, on average, 12 P1 pupils and 11 S1 pupils come from the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area.		
	<b>PUPIL GENERATION ASSUMPTIONS</b>		
Issue Raised	Dean Park PS will not be able to cope with extra pupils from new housing developments and the existing residential area.	No	309
Issue Raised	The pupil generation assumption for new housing developments is very low and underestimate the impact	Yes	8, 25, 37, 301, 344
Issue Raised	New housing under construction attracts families that send their children to fee paying secondary schools.	Yes	56
Council Response	<p>The Council's pupil generation figures for new developments are reviewed periodically. A recent review of the figures used has demonstrated a reasonable degree of accuracy although there are local variations that may apply. The pupil generation figures consider pupil generation over the life of a development rather than the point at which it opens which means that there will be occasions when the actual pupil generation is higher and other times when it will be lower than the pupil generation figures.</p> <p>In the Currie and Balerno areas the most recent example is the Kinleith Mill development. The anticipated pupil generation from the Kinleith Mill development was 18 primary and 13 secondary pupils. The development is now complete and the number of pupils currently registered at a City of Edinburgh Council school is five primary and two secondary pupils. Other examples in the area include the development at Riccarton Mains Road which was forecast to generate five primary and three secondary pupils and at present has two primary and two secondary pupils and the development at Lanark Road West (the former Primary School site) that was expected to generate eight primary and five secondary pupils with actual pupil generation currently being five primary and no secondary pupils.</p> <p>Accordingly, while pupil generation figures cannot predict with a high degrees of accuracy the number of pupils a development will generate, the Council believes that the figures used are currently valid in projecting future demand for school places.</p>		

	PROJECTIONS - GENERAL																																															
Issue Raised	Demographic change in the area may see more families coming into the area than predicted Current council predictions appear naive and underestimate the true future pupil role.	Yes	178, 318, 426, 427																																													
Issue Raised	I believe Dean Park Primary School’s roll will exceed that forecasted with all the houses being built and the number of pupils that come from the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area. I don’t think the projections are accurate.	No	309  181																																													
Council Response	<p>The Council is committed to updating and publishing school roll projections every year in December, <a href="#">The Growing City, School Roll Projections and Future Accommodation Requirements</a> report to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 9 December 2018 provided the latest update. The projections are used to identify schools which require future accommodation to be provided and are a key input into the Local Development Plan’s annual update of the Education Infrastructure Appraisal.</p> <p>The projection methodology is published on the Council’s <a href="#">website</a> and takes account the latest birth data available from the NHS, housing delivery estimates from the Housing Land Audit and recent trends in each school.</p> <p>Annual projections have been published since December 2016. A comparison between the actual school rolls for Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School and Nether Currie Primary School against the projections published in 2016 and 2017 is shown below:</p> <table><tr><th></th><th>2017 Roll</th><th>2016 Projection</th><th>Diff</th><th>2018 Roll</th><th>2016 Projection</th><th>Diff</th><th>2017 Projection</th><th>Diff</th></tr><tr><td>Currie</td><td>439</td><td>445</td><td>-6</td><td>484</td><td>465</td><td>+19</td><td>470</td><td>+14</td></tr><tr><td>Dean Park</td><td>467</td><td>462</td><td>+5</td><td>463</td><td>446</td><td>+17</td><td>455</td><td>+8</td></tr><tr><td>Nether Currie</td><td>156</td><td>157</td><td>-1</td><td>156</td><td>155</td><td>+1</td><td>153</td><td>+3</td></tr><tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td><b>1062</b></td><td><b>1064</b></td><td><b>-2</b></td><td><b>1103</b></td><td><b>1066</b></td><td><b>+37</b></td><td><b>1078</b></td><td><b>+25</b></td></tr></table> <p>This shows a high degree of accuracy between the projected roll and the actual roll where the difference between the projected roll and the actual roll is within a 3-4% margin.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Council considers the projection methodology is a suitable tool to project future demand for places across the city and that they are an appropriate starting point when assessing the options to address future accommodation requirements across the city.</p>		2017 Roll	2016 Projection	Diff	2018 Roll	2016 Projection	Diff	2017 Projection	Diff	Currie	439	445	-6	484	465	+19	470	+14	Dean Park	467	462	+5	463	446	+17	455	+8	Nether Currie	156	157	-1	156	155	+1	153	+3	<b>Total</b>	<b>1062</b>	<b>1064</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>1103</b>	<b>1066</b>	<b>+37</b>	<b>1078</b>	<b>+25</b>		
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Issue Raised	Retain the catchment areas as they are and there is no requirement to extend Dean Park Primary School or Nether Currie Primary School according to school roll forecasts. Only Currie Primary School would need to be extended and it already has planning permission for an extension.	No	33, 299																																																								
Council Response	<p>On Tuesday, 11 December 2018, the latest projections taking into account 2018/19 school census data were reported to the Education, Children and Families Committee ‘<a href="#">The Growing City, School Roll Projections and Future Accommodation Requirements</a>’. The projected roll for the affected primary schools is as follows:</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>Capacity</td><td>Classes</td><td>2018</td><td>2019</td><td>2020</td><td>2021</td><td>2022</td><td>2023</td><td>2024</td><td>2025</td><td>2026</td><td>2027</td><td>2028</td></tr><tr><td>CPS</td><td>546</td><td>19</td><td>484</td><td>526</td><td>570</td><td>604</td><td>620</td><td>654</td><td>674</td><td>680</td><td>688</td><td>686</td><td>698</td></tr><tr><td>DPPS</td><td>476</td><td>17</td><td>463</td><td>476</td><td>473</td><td>464</td><td>465</td><td>443</td><td>432</td><td>435</td><td>414</td><td>413</td><td>424</td></tr><tr><td>NCPS</td><td>210</td><td>7</td><td>156</td><td>163</td><td>168</td><td>164</td><td>170</td><td>171</td><td>171</td><td>173</td><td>173</td><td>173</td><td>173</td></tr></table> <p>The above projections show under the do nothing scenario Currie Primary School’s roll will rise beyond a 22 class from 2023. Currie Primary School has planning permission to increase its working capacity to a 22 class school. However, under the do nothing scenario further accommodation or a catchment realignment will be required for August 2023. It is not desirable to extend Currie Primary School beyond a three stream school therefore the catchment realignment is being considered.</p>		Capacity	Classes	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	CPS	546	19	484	526	570	604	620	654	674	680	688	686	698	DPPS	476	17	463	476	473	464	465	443	432	435	414	413	424	NCPS	210	7	156	163	168	164	170	171	171	173	173	173	173		
	Capacity	Classes	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028																																														
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NCPS	210	7	156	163	168	164	170	171	171	173	173	173	173																																														

	<b>DEAN PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL AND BALERNO HIGH SCHOOL</b>		
Issue Raised	<p>The proposal will have a positive impact on Dean Park Primary School and Balerno High School in the form of investment and funding (additional classrooms, refurbishment), a stable catchment population will increase the school roll and bring it in parity with Currie High School and will lead to a broader curriculum and academic choice for pupils.</p> <p>Protect and secure the future of Balerno High School by increasing its catchment population.</p>	Yes	14, 17, 57, 72, 76, 78, 82, 83, 84, 86, 90, 95, 100, 101, 102, 105, 111, 118, 120, 121, 122, 123, 126, 129, 130, 131, 147, 148, 153, 155, 157, 162, 171, 178, 179, 199, 208, 209, 214, 218, 222, 233, 235, 285, 307, 318, 324, 332, 341, 344, 347, 348, 352, 354, 364, 365, 368, 369, 372, 409, 416, 420, 427
Council Response	There is no definitive guidance on size of school in terms of curriculum choice. However, the Council acknowledges that having a larger school roll means that there are more teaching staff		

Appendix 3: Summary of Issues Raised and Council Response

	<p>available, larger numbers of learners, and therefore greater likelihood of there being a range of courses on offer.</p> <p>Dean Park Primary School will need to be extended to accommodate its extended catchment population. A working group with the school, the parent council and a design team will be established to deliver the additional classrooms.</p>		
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	<b>NETHER CURRIE EXTENSION AREA</b>	Support?	Respondent
Issue Raised	<p>Nether Currie boundary change makes sense and does not affect the transition from primary school to high school, including splitting peer groups.</p> <p>Nether Currie change will reduce out-of-catchment requests.</p> <p>Opportunity to partially support the proposal should have been provided.</p>	No	33, 38, 81, 93, 109, 158, 182, 187, 195, 197, 224, 225, 245, 252, 262, 288, 290, 298, 301, 314, 322, 323, 327, 330, 357, 358, 359, 360, 366, 371, 373, 376, 382, 385, 391, 392, 397, 402, 405, 412,
Council Response	It is acknowledged that there is support for this part of the proposal.		
Issue Raised	Nether Currie has capacity	Yes	1, 5, 18, 35, 49, 58, 71, 75, 77, 95, 96, 137, 139, 176, 188, 218, 220, 223, 292, 317, 379, 421
Issue Raised	Nether Currie has capacity	No	223, 288
Council Response	The Statutory Consultation Paper identifies that, on average, Nether Currie's catchment population represents 55% of the school roll and that the school roll operates, on average, at 75% of its available capacity. Projections indicate the extended catchment area can be accommodated without creating accommodation pressure at the school.		

Appendix 3: Summary of Issues Raised and Council Response

	<b>CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL</b>	Support?	Respondent
Issue Raised	There is support to complete phase 2 of the extension to Currie Primary School. The planned extension would bring Currie Primary School to a three stream school which is easier to organise. Options to extend Currie Primary School should be fully explored before catchment changes are progressed.	No	19, 33, 158, 181, 189, 225, 252, 290, 299, 360, 357, 358, 361, 371, 376, 405, 418,
Issue Raised	The proposal will ease accommodation pressure at Currie Primary School, it is bursting at the seams. Currie Primary School is already oversubscribed and has three lunch sittings with inadequate communal facilities. After school club is oversubscribed and its waiting list is closed for two years because of demand for the service.	Yes	3, 5, 14, 18, 28, 36, 46, 49, 53, 63, 67, 91, 92, 95, 96, 97, 101, 102, 105, 123, 131, 137, 139, 147, 152, 154, 157, 173, 209, 218, 234, 235, 286, 317, 347, 354, 364, 365, 369,
Council Response	The accommodation solution at Currie Primary School is forecasted to meet the projected roll until 2023 where it is expected to exceed 22 classes. The proposed realignment of the catchment areas will relieve future, projected accommodation pressure at Currie Primary School. The aim of the proposed realignment is to ensure the long term provision of sufficient catchment places in the area.		

	<b>CONDITION OF EXISTING ESTATE</b>		
Issue Raised	I support Balerno High School being refurbished to an equivalent standard of the rebuilt Currie High School and we wish investment to be secured to ensure this happens as soon as possible and within a reasonable timescale.	Yes	76, 84, 91, 105, 157, 214, 344, 354, 364,
Council Response	On Thursday, 21 June 2018, the Education, Children and Families Committee approved the <a href="#">‘Wave 4 Education Infrastructure Prioritisation’</a> report that identified the extension and refurbishment of Balerno High School as a priority project, ranked sixth out of seven schools, subject to budget availability. Currie High School was ranked first.  On Friday, 1 February 2019, in a report on the <a href="#">‘Capital Investment Programme 2019/20 – 2023/24’</a> to the Finance and Resources Committee, it was noted that the proposed Capital Investment Programme did not include further funding for Wave 4 schools until a sustainable revenue budget is established for the period to 2023.		

Appendix 3: Summary of Issues Raised and Council Response

	The programme and budget to extend and refurbish Balerno High School is not known at this time.		
Issue Raised	Dean Park Primary School and Balerno High School require investment (refurbishment and/or extension and/or rebuilt) to support a larger school roll, including ancillary facilities.	Yes	14, 26, 47, 72, 78, 84, 86, 151, 160, 178, 179, 214, 315, 316, 368, 409, 426
Council Response	Dean Park Primary School is undergoing asset management works to upgrade its roof, windows, lighting, ventilation, hot water and electrical systems to maintain the building's condition.  It is acknowledged that additional classrooms will be required to support the increased catchment area. A working group with the school, the parent council and a design team will be established to deliver the additional classrooms.		
Issue Raised	Currie Primary School needs an extension to the dining and gym hall to support the rising roll	No	79, 424
Council Response	There are no plans to provide additional ancillary or support accommodation at Currie Primary School.		
Issue Raised	I am concerned about the condition of Nether Currie Primary School and the facilities it has. Prefer Currie Primary School over Nether Currie Primary School.	No	98, 274
Issue Raised	Nether Currie needs upgrading and investment.	Yes	421
Council Response	Nether Currie is currently undergoing an upgrade of lighting and electrical systems otherwise condition survey has scored this school as being in Good (A) condition in accordance with the Core Facts guidelines for School Premises.		
Issue Raised	Build a bigger Currie High School	No	20
Council Response	On Thursday, 21 June 2018, as part of the <a href="#">Update on Informal Consultation on West-South West Schools</a> , the Education, Children and Families Committee committed to increasing the capacity of Balerno High School and Currie High School to 1000 pupils subject to budget availability.		

Appendix 3: Summary of Issues Raised and Council Response

Issue Raised	Dean Park site and building can support additional pupils	Yes	318
Council Response	In the Council's opinion, Dean Park Primary School can support additional accommodation. A working group with the school, the parent council and a design team will be established to deliver the additional classrooms once the scope of the new build has been determined following the statutory consultation.		

	<b>SUPPORT REALIGNMENT OF NEW HOUSING AREAS ONLY</b>		
Issue Raised	Catchment realignment should only affect new housing at Kinleith Mill and/or Newmills only. Existing residents not affected by the change, limited disruption.	No	20, 21, 24, 38, 93, 107, 112, 225, 245, 284, 290, 330, 335, 360, 371, 392
Council Response	<p><b>Nether Currie Extension Area:</b> The housing development at Kinleith Mills is not geographically linked to Nether Currie's existing catchment area, therefore the proposed extension would have to incorporate part of the existing urban area.</p> <p><b>Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area:</b> The Council has considered only realigning the new housing development at Newmills only. This would not address accommodation pressure at Currie Primary School and would require further building at Currie Primary School and Dean Park Primary School.</p>		

	<b>CONSULTATION PROCESS</b>		
Issue Raised	We requested residents in the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area were polled before proceeding with a statutory consultation.	No	186, 371
Council Response	The Council did not poll residents in the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area prior to the commencement of the statutory consultation. However, the Council did inform all affected residents in the Dean Park and Balerno Extension Area and Nether Currie Extension Area of the statutory consultation in writing despite no legislative requirement to do so.		

Appendix 3: Summary of Issues Raised and Council Response

Issue Raised	Consider the two affected areas of change separately – there is support for the proposed Nether Currie Extension Area realignment.	No	314, 359, 371, 385, 391, 39, 402, 410, 424
Council Response	The purpose of the statutory consultation is to reduce accommodation pressure at Currie Primary School. The realignment of the proposed Nether Currie Extension Area would not address the accommodation pressure at Currie Primary School in its own right.		
Issue Raised	The views of those directly affected should be given more weight than those who are not directly affected	No	33, 109, 288, 320, 385
Issue Raised	Since it does not affect me, I do not have any strong opinions on the matter. I only hope that the opinions of those families who are directly affected are given more weight than the (perhaps) more vocal voices of those who are not directly affected.	No preference	345
Council Response	The aim of the statutory consultation is to gather the views of as many stakeholders as possible, particularly the families affected. The Outcome Paper highlights the findings from the affected areas.		
Issue Raised	Start again and focus more on engaging with the current community instead of catering for the new houses still being built.	No	375
Council Response	It is considered the Council has undertaken extensive consultation of the proposed changes as part of the informal consultation of the South West and West Edinburgh Schools Review in advance of this statutory consultation.		
Issue Raised	This consultation has taken way too long. This has been to give everyone a chance to have their voice heard, but this whole thing could have been in two weeks rather than two months. It's been hard for parent councils to engage parents attention for that long on a subject, a shorter consultation would have been a benefit.	Yes	315
Council Response	The regulations setting out the statutory requirements of the consultation are outlined in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.		
Issue Raised	All last year you tried to make us go to Balerno and breakup Currie but we all stopped it and now you're trying again and it's not fair. You are a bad Council because you don't listen to us.	No	193
Council Response	This statutory consultation is the outcome of the informal consultation the Education, Communities and Families Committee agreed upon on 21 June 2018.		

Appendix 3: Summary of Issues Raised and Council Response

Issue Raised	Dean Park Parent Council and Balerno Community Council do not speak for the majority in the affected Dean Park / Balerno extension area.	No	288
Council Response	The statutory consultation provided an opportunity for the residents and families affected by the proposed change to contribute. The Outcome Paper highlights the findings from the affected areas.		
Issue Raised	I would like to condemn the actions of the Convener, Vice Convener and Edinburgh Council Administration during the wider SW high schools review.	No	391
Council Response	<p>The Ethical Standards in Public Life (Scotland) Act 2000 introduced a new ethical framework to Scotland and required that the Scottish Ministers issue a Code of Conduct for Councillors.</p> <p>The Code plays a vital role in setting out the standards of conduct for councillors and applies to all councillors in the Council. The Code sets out when councillors have to declare an interest and the rules surrounding gifts and hospitality and the use of council facilities.</p> <p>The Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland investigates complaints against councillors and the Standards Commission for Scotland provides the Code and considers hearings to determine if a councillor has contravened that code.</p> <p>Download the <a href="#">Code of Conduct (external link)</a> from the Standards Commission for Scotland website.</p>		

	<b>OTHER - VARIOUS</b>		
Issue Raised	The Council closed/amalgamated Curriehill / Riccarton Primary School. This was short sighted.	No	181, 195, 391
Council Response	<p>In February 2004 the Council undertook a review of the Primary School Estate to achieve best value, known as the Smart Schools Initiative.</p> <p>In August 2004 the Council approved a statutory consultation to amalgamate Curriehill and Riccarton Primary Schools. The Council approved the amalgamation in December 2004.</p>		

	<p>At that time Kinleith Mills was identified in the Finalised Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan (June 2003) as a housing site and it was assumed the Curriehill Primary School site could potentially be suitable for redevelopment as a housing site. No other strategic housing sites were identified in the area. Projections indicated the amalgamated school catchment area and resultant two stream school would serve the new catchment area.</p> <p>The Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan was adopted in 2006, replacing the Currie-Balerno Local Plan (1987).</p> <p>In March 2013, the Council's Planning department published the First Local Development Plan. It did not identify any strategic housing sites in Currie or Balerno.</p> <p>In June 2013 SESPlan approved Supplementary Guidance to increase the overall housing land requirement across the six Council areas (Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian, Scottish Borders and southern Fife).</p> <p>In June 2014 the Council's Planning department published the Second Local Development Plan. It identified housing sites at Riccarton Mains Road, Curriehill Road and Newmills Road. The Edinburgh Local Development Plan was adopted in November 2016 and included those sites and another site at Ravelrig Road.</p> <p>The Council made the decision to amalgamate Curriehill and Riccarton Primary School with the best available information and data available to them at that time (December 2004) and could not have predicted that, almost 10 years later, strategic housing sites would be allocated in the area. The amalgamation has resulted in significant revenue savings over the period since closure that would otherwise have had to be generated from a reduction in services delivered by the Council.</p>		
Issue Raised	I believe my children should get to go to school in Balerno. I do not want them travelling to a school every day. Schools should get work done if needed during school holidays. I also think more classrooms should be built and more teachers needed again something that could be done during holidays.	No	172
Council	The respondent's postcode is aligned to Dean Park Primary School and Balerno High School and		

Appendix 3: Summary of Issues Raised and Council Response

Response	<p>the proposed catchment realignment does not change that.</p> <p>Asset management work and extensions to schools are carried out in consultation with the school and the parent council to minimise disruption to learning and teaching.</p>																				
Issue Raised	Reduce out of catchment places, and traffic associated with out-of-catchment places and guarantee places for local children	Yes	16, 75, 95, 122, 176, 307, 337																		
Council Response	The Council’s priority is to ensure there are sufficient classrooms available to support demand from catchment pupils. The Council cannot refuse out of catchment placing requests if there are places available.																				
Issue Raised	Balerno residents are campaigning in support of this proposal to prevent further house building in Balerno because the education infrastructure will be at capacity.	No	360																		
Council Response	The statutory consultation paper does not suggest or imply the proposed realignment will prevent further housing development in the area.																				
Issue Raised	I feel that the intake at Balerno High School is high enough.	No	396																		
Council Response	<p>The S1 intake for Balerno High School and Currie High School over the last five years is as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>Year</td><td>Balerno</td><td>Currie</td></tr><tr><td>2014</td><td>107</td><td>138</td></tr><tr><td>2015</td><td>115</td><td>115</td></tr><tr><td>2016</td><td>133</td><td>114</td></tr><tr><td>2017</td><td>135</td><td>145</td></tr><tr><td>2018</td><td>134</td><td>132</td></tr></table> <p>The intake limit for Balerno High School is 160 and Currie High School is 180. The Council considers that the intake for the both schools is in line with their notional capacity and is acceptable.</p>	Year	Balerno	Currie	2014	107	138	2015	115	115	2016	133	114	2017	135	145	2018	134	132		
Year	Balerno	Currie																			
2014	107	138																			
2015	115	115																			
2016	133	114																			
2017	135	145																			
2018	134	132																			
Issue	Dual catchment areas could be created in the proposed areas of change.	No	69, 213, 224, 333, 385, 423																		

## Appendix 3: Summary of Issues Raised and Council Response

Raised			
Council Response	The Council is trying to remove dual catchment area across the city. Dual catchment areas create forecasting issues that cause problems projecting school rolls and assessing future accommodation requirements of a school to support a catchment population.		
Issue Raised	I would like to see more transparent analysis of out of catchment placements into Balerno High School to understand how the number of placements may drop after the catchment changes. Both of our children will be out of catchment placements, coming from West Lothian (just on the boundary).	Yes	108
Council Response	<p>The Council's priority is to ensure there is sufficient capacity available to support demand from catchment pupils. It is acknowledged that as the catchment population increases the number of out of catchment places available falls. Out of catchment placing requests will be considered in line with the Council's <a href="#">Policy: Admissions to Mainstream Schools</a>. Pupils living in the City of Edinburgh Council area have priority for places over pupils living in other local authority areas.</p> <p>The projection methodology does not separate the catchment and non-catchment figures. Information about non-catchment places comes from school census information gathered at a point in time (normally every September). Additional classes are not created to provide places for non-catchment pupils. Non-catchment placing requests are granted if there are places available after all catchment pupils have been accommodated.</p>		
Issue Raised	The maps you have provided are entirely unclear of surrounding areas. I am currently in the catchment for Currie Primary & am unable to establish whether or not the changes will affect me.	No	306
Council Response	The respondent was not affected by the catchment change. Their property was not on the list of affected addresses that formed part of the consultation paper.		
Issue Raised	Special consideration should be given to out-of-catchment requests from residents in the affected areas for the August 2019 intake process	Yes	63
Council Response	The registration process for August 2019 started in November 2018. All children who are a resident in their catchment area are guaranteed a place provided they register by 28 February. The closing date for non-catchment placing requests was 24 December 2018 and the		

	<p>availability of places in schools for non-catchment places will be considered after the 28 February.</p> <p>Out of catchment placing requests will be considered in line with the Council's <a href="#">Policy: Admissions to Mainstream Schools</a>.</p>		
Issue Raised	Extend Nether Currie Primary School's catchment area further	No	197, 224, 252, 403, 415
Council Response	The Council has explored this and the projections indicated extending Nether Currie Primary School's catchment area further may lead to accommodation pressure at the school. The proposed realigned catchment areas seek to limit the amount of new accommodation required across the estate. It is considered the proposed Nether Currie Extension Area represents is an appropriate extension to the school's catchment area at this time.		

	<b>OTHER - EDUCATION</b>		
Issue Raised	While in principle composite classes provide equally good education I have seen challenges in planning a curriculum across school years (e.g. topic work) when the stage affected by a composite class varies, depending on how pupils are arranged into classes in each school year. Three classes in each year would remove this problem.	Yes	318
Council Response	<p>Composite classes should be organised in accordance with CEC Policy i.e. age (e.g. in a P1/2 class, oldest P1s/youngest P2s) and considering an appropriate gender balance. There should be no less than 5 pupils from 1 year group in a composite class. This approach ensures equity.</p> <p>Where composite classes exist within a school's model of configuration, the curriculum rationale, and framework, should take account of this. Approaches to curriculum design seek to ensure that learning is more personalised to the individual learners in each class, and more open-ended to allow for this personalised response e.g. rather than classes learning fixed topics such as "Egyptians" you may see "Ancient Civilisations." Further to this, rather than "WW2" as a topic, you may see "World Conflict." This allows for greater pupil voice, personalisation and choice in planning of learning, avoiding repetition. Key in avoiding this is effective</p>		

	<p>arrangements at transition points i.e. the reception teacher should have a clear record of work detailing what learning has gone before.</p> <p>As with all, classes, learning should be differentiated. In a non -composite class, it is entirely possible that the range of needs is likely to be wider than that of a composite class e.g, in a P7 class there could be highly challenged readers and learners with a reading age of 17 years. The class teacher is responsible to plan a differentiated curriculum to support the needs of the class.</p>		
Issue Raised	I support the proposal because it keeps the number of pupils / class down and will only benefit the learning capacity per child.	Yes	54
Council Response	<p>This is not identified as an Educational Benefit in the Statutory Consultation Paper. Accordingly it is not an outcome the Council purports will be achieved if the proposed realignment is approved.</p> <p>The Council's priority is to ensure there is sufficient capacity available to support demand from catchment pupils. The projections assume the most efficient arrangement of class size and provision of teaching staff in P1 and include out of catchment placing requests will be considered in line with the Council's <a href="#">Policy: Admissions to Mainstream Schools</a> and meets the legislation on class sizes.</p>		
Issue Raised	My child will go to Dean Park Primary School and I don't want huge class sizes where they will be lost in a crowd	No	331
Council Response	The council meets the legislation on class sizes; the Education (Lower Primary Class Sizes) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 (as amended). This means a class size maximum of 25 for P1 and 30 for P2 and P3 is implemented. This is interpreted as a ratio of 25 pupils to one teacher for P1 and as a ratio of 30 pupils to one teacher for P2 and P3. A national agreement has agreed a class size maximum of 33 from P4-7.		
Issue Raised	Centralising schools takes away the initiative and individuality of separate schools and forms an anonymous conglomerate.	No	55
Council Response	The proposed realignment of the catchment areas does not seek to remove the autonomy of individual schools. However, catchment areas are managed centrally to ensure the efficient		

Appendix 3: Summary of Issues Raised and Council Response

	use of the school estate across the city and to forecast need and demand for future catchment places.		
Issue Raised	Balerno High School consideration should lead the way in making digital transformations to widen subject choice and the way subjects/teaching might be accessed. This would aid partnership working across a number of schools and would also solve problems when snow and other weather conditions limit attendance at school.	Yes	72
Council Response	<p>The <a href="#">National Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy</a> published in 2016 recommends key actions and suggested uses of digital technology which could be taken forward including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively share knowledge and examples of how digital technology can enrich education and facilitate digital skills development across education establishments and local authority boundaries.</li> <li>• Ensure that the use of digital technology is a central consideration in the planning and delivery of any learning and teaching across Curriculum for Excellence.</li> <li>• Opening up experiences and opportunities for learners - educators can provide learners with access to a range of digital resources which allow 'anytime/ anywhere learning' and build a level of digital skills which will be vital in today's digital world.</li> <li>• Equity of educational choice - live video streaming and digital tools and services allow the potential for learners to study subjects via online distance learning.</li> </ul>		

	<b>OTHER - ESTATE</b>		
Issue Raised	Do not support a new combined 'super school'.	No preference	34
Council Response	The statutory consultation does not propose the amalgamation of Balerno and Currie High Schools.		
Issue Raised	Dean Park Primary School cannot support additional pupils. The school facilities are very dated.	No	19, 145, 149
Council Response	Dean Park Primary School is undergoing asset management works to upgrade its roof, windows, lighting, ventilation, hot water and electrical systems to maintain the building's condition.		

Appendix 3: Summary of Issues Raised and Council Response

	It is acknowledged that additional classrooms will be required to support the increased catchment area. A working group with the school, the parent council and a design team will be established to deliver the additional classrooms.		
Issue Raised	I think it is important to ensure Currie High School remains on its original site.	Yes	161
Council Response	The proposed catchment realignment does not propose moving any school to a new location.		
Issue Raised	Extend Currie Primary School and Dean Park Primary School	No	330, 408, 412
Council Response	Under the status quo both schools would be extended. The statutory consultation paper explains that if the proposed realignment is approved then an extension would only be required at Dean Park Primary School. The outcome of the statutory consultation will inform the number of classrooms required at each school to accommodate the projected roll. If a sibling guarantee is approved then temporary accommodation at Currie PS is proposed.		
Issue Raised	Build a nursery in Nether Currie Primary, and potentially increase the size of Nether Currie Primary	No	228
Council Response	As part of the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) across the city, the Council has submitted an application for planning permission to build a nursery in the grounds of Nether Currie Primary School (application reference: 18/09626/FUL). The ELC expansion is wholly separate from the statutory consultation.		
Issue Raised	As CEC are considering whether a new school is a possibility for Balerno High school instead of a refurbishment and extension, perhaps a better solution for CEC would be to build a campus school, which has a new primary school and secondary school, co-located on the same site, near the existing BHS and Rugby club sites. The advantages would be many, better facilities and educational opportunities for our children and also this area is closer to the Newmills area.	Yes	409
Issue Raised	Rebuild Dean Park Primary School and Balerno High School as a campus on the High School site, if catchment change goes ahead the Newmills and Cherry Tree area will be closer.	No	405
Council Response	On Thursday, 21 June 2018, the Education, Children and Families Committee approved the <a href="#">‘Wave 4 Education Infrastructure Prioritisation’</a> report that identified the extension and refurbishment of Balerno High School as a priority project, ranked sixth out of seven schools,		

	<p>subject to budget availability.</p> <p>On Friday, 1 February 2019, in a report on the '<a href="#">Capital Investment Programme 2019/20 – 2023/24</a>' to the Finance and Resources Committee, it was noted that the proposed Capital Investment Programme did not include further funding for Wave 4 schools unless sustainable revenue budgets are established for the period to 2023.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that new schools provide up-to-date facilities for pupils and the community. However, the Council is not considering, and there is no budget allocated, to rebuild Dean Park Primary School and the current Capital Investment Programme does not allocate any funding for the replacement of Balerno High School within the Wave 4 Programme.</p>		
Issue Raised	I am concerned that the option is being put forward without any form of proposal for how Dean Park Primary School would be extended in due course. Plans to extend Currie Primary School have been developed and approved. Only four of the eight have been built when eight could've been built from the outset. This shows a concerning degree of lack of foresight by the Council.	No	301
Issue Raised	Why did CEC only build half of the proposed extension at Currie PS given the current projections show the additional class space will be required in two years time.	No	375
Council Response	The decision to take forward a phased extension at Currie Primary School was taken having cognisance of the informal consultation that was being undertaken at the time. To build all eight classrooms at once would have prejudiced the outcome of the informal and statutory consultation process.		
Issue Raised	<p>With property developers looking to build more houses in this area, it may be that a new primary will need to be built here in future years.</p> <p>Could a primary school (or infants/juniors) be included in the rebuild of Currie High?</p>	No	298
Council Response	The Council has assessed the impact of the growth set out in the LDP through an <a href="#">Education Appraisal</a> (August 2018), taking account of school roll projections. To do this, an assumption has been made as to the amount of new housing development which will come forward. This takes account of new housing sites allocated in the LDP and other land within the urban area.		

	<p>In areas where additional infrastructure will be required to accommodate the cumulative number of additional pupils, education infrastructure 'actions' have been identified. The infrastructure requirements and estimated delivery dates are set out in the Council's <a href="#">Action Programme</a> (January 2019).</p> <p>If the education infrastructure actions identified in the current Action Programme are not sufficient to accommodate an increase in the cumulative number of new pupils expected in that area as a result of the development (for example unallocated greenfield/greenbelt sites) the Council will seek a developer contribution to mitigate the impact of the proposed development. Whether a new school is required will depend on the impact of the development proposed. Children and Families are consulted on any applications which will potentially have an impact on education infrastructure across the city. If it was considered there was no feasible way of accommodating the pupils generated by a proposed development then this would be stated in the consultation response. The Planning department would then consider this, along with any other material planning considerations, whether such an application should be refused.</p> <p>At this time, based on known housing developments with Planning support in the area there is no requirement for another primary school in the area.</p>		
Issue Raised	The proposal would increase the number of lunch sittings at Currie Primary School from three to four. Children do not get time to play at lunch break.	No	305, 424
Council Response	The proposed realignment would reduce the catchment population of Currie Primary School and would limit further increases to the existing school roll in the long term. It is not proposed to provide additional dining facilities at Currie Primary School.		
Issue Raised	The cost-saving outlined directly in the report is misleading because the comparison was based on known costs for building phase 2 of Currie Primary School's approved extension and forecasted costs of a proposal that has not went through a detailed design process at Dean Park Primary School.	No	288, 371
Issue Raised	The entire sum of section 75 agreement monies secured to mitigate pupil generation from housing developments at Ravelrig and Newmills should be allocated to extend Dean Park	Yes	426

	Primary School.																																																		
Council Response	<p>It is acknowledged there is more cost certainty to take forward the approved extension at Currie Primary School and that the accommodation solution, and the final costs, at Dean Park Primary School will not be known until a working group involving officers from the School Estate Planning Team and representatives from the school management team begin the process of determining the most suitable accommodation solution for the school with the budget available.</p> <p>The cost of a five classroom building at Dean Park Primary School was estimated using the £sqm of recent rising roll projects.</p> <p>Through Section 75 Agreements for the Newmills (15/05100/FUL) and Ravelrig (14/02806/FUL) housing developments, the Council secured £429,602 and £573,000 respectively to mitigate the impact of pupil generation. Creating an estimated shortfall of £489,398.</p>																																																		
Issue Raised	Non-catchment pupils at Dean Park Primary School have fallen year on year because of a reduction in out of catchment places available.	Yes	428																																																
Council Response	<p>Over the past five years the number of non-catchment places in P1 at Dean Park, Currie and Nether Currie, according to school census information is as follows:</p> <table><tr><th rowspan="2">P1 Intake</th><th colspan="2">Dean Park</th><th colspan="2">Currie</th><th colspan="2">Nether Currie</th></tr><tr><th>Catchment</th><th>Non-Catchment</th><th>Catchment</th><th>Non-Catchment</th><th>Catchment</th><th>Non-Catchment</th></tr><tr><td>2018</td><td>47</td><td>4 (8%)</td><td>81</td><td>6 (7%)</td><td>18</td><td>5 (22%)</td></tr><tr><td>2017</td><td>57</td><td>2 (3%)</td><td>67</td><td>2 (3%)</td><td>11</td><td>13 (54%)</td></tr><tr><td>2016</td><td>67</td><td>6 (8%)</td><td>52</td><td>11 (17%)</td><td>17</td><td>7 (29%)</td></tr><tr><td>2015</td><td>53</td><td>4 (7%)</td><td>63</td><td>3 (5%)</td><td>6</td><td>14 (70%)</td></tr><tr><td>2014</td><td>52</td><td>8 (13%)</td><td>48</td><td>9 (16%)</td><td>18</td><td>10 (36%)</td></tr></table> <p>The table shows there are limited non-catchment places available at Dean Park Primary School because the P1 intake limit, which is centrally managed for August admissions, limits the number of non-catchment places available in relation to the number of catchment places to</p>	P1 Intake	Dean Park		Currie		Nether Currie		Catchment	Non-Catchment	Catchment	Non-Catchment	Catchment	Non-Catchment	2018	47	4 (8%)	81	6 (7%)	18	5 (22%)	2017	57	2 (3%)	67	2 (3%)	11	13 (54%)	2016	67	6 (8%)	52	11 (17%)	17	7 (29%)	2015	53	4 (7%)	63	3 (5%)	6	14 (70%)	2014	52	8 (13%)	48	9 (16%)	18	10 (36%)		
P1 Intake	Dean Park		Currie		Nether Currie																																														
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	ensure all catchment places are met and achieves an efficient arrangement in terms of class size and provision of teaching. The non-catchment places available at Nether Currie Primary School demonstrate how non-catchment placing requests can be accommodated while achieving efficiencies in class size and teaching provision.		
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At each of the schools affected by the proposed catchment realignment a Quality Improvement Officer from Communities and Families outlined the proposed changes with a range of children from different year groups to gather their opinion. A summary of the discussion at each school is provided below.

### **Currie Primary School Pupils**

#### **What are the most important features about belonging to Currie Primary School?**

- Lots of friends
- Really good teachers
- Lots of space in school
- Siblings attending the same school
- Knowing everyone
- Friendly and welcoming
- Welcoming to new people
- Most pupils in P7 go to Currie High School at the moment
- It is a local school
- Able to walk or cycle to school
- Groups for different subjects

#### **From what you have heard about the proposals/changes what worries, if any, would you have?**

- Some children in P7 might not get to go to Currie HS but would be in catchment for Balerno HS and so they wouldn't have same transition opportunities
- We already know teachers from Currie HS but we don't know teachers at Balerno HS

#### **What opportunities/benefits do you see?**

- Not so much traffic congestion
- Able to continue to have whole school assemblies because we will fit in the hall
- School won't get any bigger

### **Dean Park Primary School Pupils**

#### **What are the most important features about belonging to Dean Park Primary School?**

- Outdoor space – field, playground, outdoor classroom, supported play
- Food quality
- Most children live close to the school
- Classrooms are very spacious
- No busy roads to cross
- Able to walk to school with friends
- Lots of space in the school
- All round school – lots of opportunities Bikeability, Rugby, Athletics, Music
- 1:4 electronic devices

#### **From what you have heard about the proposals/changes what worries, if any, would you have?**

- Assemblies – not everyone will fit in the hall

- Need for a bigger hall or another hall so that everyone can have 2 hours of PE
- Road safety – busier roads so more dangerous
- Lack of space outside for everyone
- Need for more classrooms
- Having a bigger school might be daunting for some children
- Need for staggered breaks and lunches
- Noisy and loud
- Friendships – some children might be in catchment for Currie HS instead of Balerno HS
- Transition work is with Balerno HS
- Busy bus stops
- Busier playground might lead to more accidents
- More children you don't know
- Not going to same school as siblings
- More congestion arriving and leaving school at entrances
- More cars leading to more pollution

**What opportunities/benefits do you see?**

- More friends
- Getting to know more people maybe from other schools
- More children with similar interests
- Improved trade for local shops
- Opportunities for improved sports teams but this could be a negative too as not all children will have the opportunity to be in the team

**Nether Currie Pupils**

**What are the most important features about belonging to Nether Currie Primary School?**

- Living close to the school and able to walk to and from school
- Knowing everyone
- School friends live nearby in the community
- Small school – big playground
- Great teachers
- Good education – lots of active learning
- Small school in terms of number of pupils but with lots of space
- Small classes

**From what you have heard about the proposals/changes what worries, if any, would you have?**

- Might have to make composite classes
- School might become really big
- Harder to make friends with everyone
- Bigger classes – bigger groups – less support for individuals who need it
- Lack of money for resources
- Less resources, less space
- Less space for everyone in the playground
- New nursery will already be taking up room
- We won't stand out as individuals if there are bigger classes and more children in the school

**What opportunities/benefits do you see?**

- More people to be friends with
- More people to play with
- Bigger budget for the school
- More opportunities to be friends with people with the same interests

**Balerno High School Pupils**

**S1**

Group former pupils of Dean Park PS, Windyknowe PS, Royal High PS

- Changes might be problematic – people will not want to move schools so needs to be a guarantee that they don't have to
- Would not want to be at different school to sibling
- P1 would be ok as friendships less established at nursery
- Out of catchment requests are good – it's good to come to a school that's better
- Not good to have fewer out of catchment spaces at Nether Currie
- Dean Park – already quite big
- Good to have protected green space
- Building "up" – extra floors – a possibility at Dean Park
- Some people who live in the Currie catchment already come to Balerno
- Balerno is as good a school as Currie
- Roads and transport – up by Harelaw/ Ravelrig is already bad and might be made worse if more go to Dean Park
- Really big schools lack personal touch sometimes and can be harder for teachers to build relationships
- There are no lights in the Turner Avenue/Dalmahoy estate – this is a health and safety issue especially for small kids walking to school
- If Balerno HS gets bigger, are we getting it done up?
- Can it be modernised? Redecorated?
- Can we have better sports facilities – gym/basketball courts/sports centre on the roof like Boroughmuir
- If Balerno gets bigger, we will need more teachers – we already have too much cover/supply teacher in Computing
- We've got a good HT – everyone loves him!
- In S1, if we were bigger, it would be good to be in different grouped classes more often and to be mixed up a bit more – especially good for out of catchment pupils as it would be easier to make friends
- Don't want Balerno HS to get too big – don't want to lose community feeling

**S2**

Group were former pupils of Dean Park PS, Balgreen PS, Carmondean PS

- Is there going to be a new West Edinburgh HS?
- Proposal to make Nether Currie catchment bigger to relieve pressure on Currie PS seems ok
- Dean Park is already quite big – class size is important to us
- If Dean Park gets bigger, more bigger classrooms will need to be built
- Play spaces need to be thought out carefully – keep lots of green space
- Could be ok to build at Dean Park though

- We don't like the huts at Dean Park!
- Sibling guarantee very important – would stop families having to drop kids off in two different places
- Another solution could be to change Dean Parks's start time to allow a family to make both
- Balerno and Dean Park are closer to the Cala homes
- Transitions need to be thought through very carefully
- Friendships/social connections are important
- If Balerno HS is getting bigger, we need to change the accommodation/building
- The huts at Balerno could go and new classrooms could be built there
- Corridors are already too narrow and cramped, especially upstairs English/Social Subjects
- Canteen is too small
- Could we combine the large/small games halls and extend facilities?
- The janitors close the bathrooms sometimes – could we have more? Better and modernised?
- Changing facilities are horrible – can we have new ones? Better swimming pool changing rooms?

### S3

Group were former pupils of Dean Park PS, Kirknewton PS, Mid-Calder PS, Ratho PS

- Making Nether Currie's catchment bigger is sensible
- Having too many people added to a school could change the feel of it though
- Newmills is closer to Currie
- Cherry Trees closer to Balerno – should come to Dean Park
- If Dean Park have space to build, they should consider the environment – protect the fields, Nature, animals, playgrounds
- Where would they build at Dean Park specifically? Can we have some details about this?
- It would take longer to walk to Dean Park than Currie PS from Newmills
- Lanark Road is very busy
- There is no parking
- Environmental concerns
- If Balerno HS is getting bigger, it's already squished
- Would need to add on new classrooms
- Would need to increase number of teachers
- The canteen would need to be expanded – it's already so busy, so many queues
- Could we have more social spaces to sit in?
- The concourse is very cramped when you are walking in between classes
- We need more new toilets
- Build an extension – don't replace the huts
- I think better use could be made of the space we currently have – there are too many meeting rooms and rooms that are not defined well

### S4

Group were former pupils of Dean Park PS, Canal View PS, Livingston Village PS

- Cherry Trees should go to Dean Park
- Catchment zones won't suit everyone
- It feels fair to expand Nether Currie
- It is important to protect the parents' right to choose schools

- Concerned it would leave Dean Park PS under pressure – space was already going down anyway
- There is not much space to build on at Dean Park – would it be on green space or fields?
- We would like specific details of the proposed build at Dean Park
- We don't want you to build on the P5/6/7 playground
- To do it [the build at Dean Park] properly would be expensive
- Don't build on the park next to it – it's public land and would take this away from the community
- Please do the build properly!
- Let's not turn every piece of public land into schools and playgrounds
- How big does a primary school have to be to be too big – where does it stop?
- How big can a school get before you need another one/
- Feels ok in principle that Cherry Trees goes to Dean Park and on to Balerno
- Balerno can't cope with more pupils as it currently is
- Need to do up the school (Balerno)
- Refurbish the basics – decorate, refresh the Operating Systems on the computers, give us newer computers
- Pupils are starting not to respect the building because it's older
- We need a 21<sup>st</sup> century school
- We would prefer it to be refurbished rather than remade
- We would need new classrooms
- Could the rugby club help by letting staff share in their car park – could the community work in partnership with the school to come up with solutions?
- The pool car park could be built on
- Building "up" could be tricky with the way the school is and the roof is
- For parents, having kids at different schools could be really stressful
- Parents should have a right to have their kids at the same school
- Sibling guarantee really important – stressful for children if this isn't the case
- Very important to have the sibling guarantee
- Social transition for those currently in P6 (who will be S1 in 2020), finding out they have to go to a different high school to the one they expected, could be challenging
- Should be fine for those who will be in P1 as they've never been to any school – start with them
- Learners with ASN might benefit in a smaller school – parents might choose Nether Currie for this reason - need to consider this
- The council has cut funding for PSAs – this is a real worry!
- We have questions about if there is going to be a new school in West Edinburgh – what will the catchment be? Will it be Kirknewton and Ratho? We'd like to know more about this.

## S5

Group were former pupils of Dean Park PS and Ratho PS

- Expanding the catchment of Nether Currie seems logical and sensible
- Parents should just send their children to their local school!
- Cala homes – makes sense to go to Dean Park and Balerno
- Balerno HS should get bigger!
- Mixed views on whether the current building could cope
- If it gets bigger, this might force the council to upgrade our building
- New equipment is needed
- New hall space

- Better and more social areas
- The huts could be replaced by a proper extension
- The upstairs corridors need to be bigger
- The Café is already too small
- No one uses the playground (except for 1 snowball fight a year which is quickly stopped) – could this be built on?
- There needs to be an exception to the “send your kids to the local school” rule for siblings and for legitimate reasons (bullying, health and wellbeing concerns...)
- Important to keep parental requests for different schools an option for the right reasons
- It is easier to walk to Dean Park from Cherry Trees
- It is easier to get into Balerno than out (transport-wise)
- No real concerns about Dean Park getting bigger – larger primary schools are not any worse than small ones

### **Currie High School Pupils**

Pupil group were mixed age and former pupils of Nether Currie PS, Currie PS, Juniper Green PS, Bonaly PS and one pupil who attended primary school in India

Matters discussed:

- Group were in favour of the proposal to extend the catchment area of Nether Currie PS to relieve pressure on Currie PS
- Recognition that building more at Currie PS could eat into green space
- Learners from Nether Currie PS spoke about how small their classes were in terms of making the transition to Currie HS and felt it would be better to have more in each year group
- A further point about transition from nursery to primary was made – that it was important to group children from nursery schools together in terms of who would go to Currie PS and who would go to Nether Currie PS and keep them together at primary school
- Sense that it would be good for children to go to their local school wherever possible (although parental choice respected)
- In terms of the Cala homes, there was a feeling that it would be a longer travel distance to Dean Park PS but Balerno HS would be closer
- Group were not familiar with Dean Park PS therefore did not feel strongly about building there
- It would not be fair, however, for those who bought a house to attend, for example, Currie HS to suddenly find out their children had to go somewhere else – they didn’t choose this
- Group more comfortable with proposed P1 in 2020 changes than S1 – could be split up from classmates which would not be good
- Loud voices in favour of sibling guarantee – no families should have to have children at two different schools
- Recognition from the group that there are a lot of houses being built, therefore lots of new pupils moving into the area which could lead to overcrowding so need to do something
- In terms of Currie HS getting bigger, the group would very much like to know what the current proposals are for their school in terms of refurbishment and extension or rebuild
- In order to accommodate the increased roll (MM shared roll projections with the group - with catchment review and without catchment review), the group feel new classrooms and extra teachers will be needed
- They feel they are entitled to know what is happening with any proposed new building
- They would like better CDT facilities
- A better astroturf – no more sand! They’d like a 3G pitch.

- Better heating
- More seats in the lunch hall and spaces to eat and socialise – comments that in S1 there is a pressure to get a seat and you don't always get one
- In order for Currie HS to be a bigger school, the council needs to give it more funding
- Would any new school still be a community use school?

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

**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The City of Edinburgh Council to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School.**

January 2019

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of The City of Edinburgh Council proposal to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all statutory 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 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:

- 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 Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

## 2. Consultation process

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

2.2 The formal consultation ran from 23 October 2018 to 3 December 2018. The proposal paper was made available electronically on the council website and in paper format. Copies were also available for inspection at, Central Library, Currie Library, Balerno Library, Ratho Library and at the schools affected by the proposals. Public meetings were held on 14 and 19 November 2018 at Balerno and Currie High Schools. The council received 420 responses to an online survey. Responses from those affected by the changes to Balerno High School, Dean Park Primary Schools and Nether Currie Primary School were generally supportive. Almost all parents, children

and other stakeholders affected by the catchment area changes in Currie High School and Currie Primary School were not positive. A significant number of respondents across all schools were concerned about the impact of increased traffic on safety, congestion, and the separation of siblings across primary and secondary schools if the proposals are implemented.

### 3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The authority believe that the proposed changes will allow them to accommodate a growing population of children and young people in the area which has resulted from new housing developments and a general increase in school age population. The growth is predicted to continue year on year. An analysis by the council suggests that:

- Currie Primary School will require 22 classes by 2024.
- Nether Currie Primary School has capacity to support additional demand.
- Currie Primary School and Dean Park Primary School would need new accommodation due to new housing development if the council does not take action.
- The proposal to change catchment areas would mean new accommodation would only be required at Dean Park Primary School.
- The proposal would align school catchment boundaries with Community Council Boundaries.

Given the above, the proposal would provide an educational benefit in the longer term because of the more efficient use of existing school buildings. It would ensure that all schools in the area affected would be working at full capacity, and able to accommodate the projected community need going forward. A few stakeholders questioned the accuracy of the figures used by the council to predict pupil growth resulting from the new housing estates being built. Educational benefits are subject to these figures being correct.

Aligning school catchment areas with Community Council Boundaries has the potential to facilitate community planning, and strengthen further the communities sense of belonging.

Attainment and achievement in all schools are broadly similar as evidence by data provided by the council.

3.2 Children, young people and parents of Balerno High School and Dean Park Primary School appreciate the benefits of the proposal. Dean Park Primary School will have new accommodation that will enhance the current learning space. Balerno High School will have an increased school population which has the potential for them to offer a broader curriculum with more choice. Young people will also have a larger social group to develop their social and emotional skills.

Children and parents in Currie Primary School whose children will be re-aligned with Dean Park Primary School and Balerno High School have significant concerns that:

The journey to school is longer and entails crossing a busy main road which may place their children at increased risk. Parents are more likely to drive their children to school which will increase congestion on Lanark Road and Balerno village. The council need to ensure that safe routes to school are available for children, taking account of their age, and physical wellbeing.

Siblings will be separated which will fracture family cohesion, and make parental engagement in their child's education more difficult because their children may be in different primary and or secondary schools. The council need to consider the possible negative impact of siblings being educated in different schools, and how they might minimise these effects.

Parents feel that their children's connections with the Currie community will be diluted and this will affect long term friendships for their children and wider family relationships. Currently, these families use facilities in Currie for shopping, out of school leisure activities, and health services. They have a strong identity with the Currie community.

Children, parents and other stakeholders from Nether Currie Primary School can see the advantages of the proposed changes. Class sizes will be more consistent across stages, and more opportunities for working in groups, and socialising with a wider range of children will be afforded by the bigger class sizes.

## 4. Summary

The council's proposals are of educational benefit in the long term. The proposed changes will complement any future regeneration and economic growth by better aligning mainstream schools to potential housing developments and existing growth in the school aged population. More efficient use of the school estate will result from the proposals. In its final consultation report, the council will need to indicate how it plans to address the issue of siblings being educated in different schools, the possible risks to children walking to and from school along a busy road, the congestion concerns raised by stakeholders in both the Currie and Balerno communities, and the accuracy of figures used to predict the increased number of pupils requiring education generated from the new estates.

**HM Inspectors**  
**January 2019**