

10.05am, Thursday 2 May 2019

Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Process on the Proposal to relocate St Crispin's Special School to a new building in the Burdiehouse Area

Item number	8.6
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The City of Edinburgh Council is asked:
 - 1.1.1 to approve the proposal to relocate St Crispin's to new purpose-built accommodation in the Burdiehouse area.

Alistair Gaw

Executive Director Communities and Families

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Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Process on the Proposal to relocate St Crispin's Special School to a new building in the Burdiehouse Area

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 On [7 March 2017](#), the Education, Children and Families Committee approved a programme of work to ensure that our special schools keep pace with changing needs. This includes increasing special school provision for children with autism. A key element in securing the long-term sustainability of authority's provision for children with autism is the relocation of St Crispin's Special School into new accommodation.
- 2.2 A [statutory consultation](#) was undertaken between 3 May 2018 and 19 June 2018.
- 2.3 A Planning proposal to relocate St Crispin's Special School to a new building in the Burdiehouse Area was also subject to consultation. Planning consent for the proposed new school was approved in March 2019.

3. Background

- 3.1 Successive reports to Education, Children and Families Committee, most recently in [December 2017](#), have highlighted the growth in the population of children who require additional support in school. The Council has adopted a strategy for Additional Support Needs that considers these demographic pressures and policy priorities.
- 3.2 Since 2008, a number of studies and scoping exercises have been undertaken in consultation with staff. Specialist buildings across the country have been studied in order to inform the design of the new school to provide accommodation that is well suited to the needs of pupils and the effective delivery of a school education into the future. Care has also been taken to design the school to support after-school, weekend and holiday use for children with a disability and the wider community.
- 3.3 A feasibility study in 2012 concluded that refurbishing the existing St Crispin's building was not a viable option. The existing school is considered too small with poor circulation space, lack of suitable storage and toilet provision, no dedicated

dining space, no dedicated space for visiting professionals and main class bases that are too small for class group numbers. In some cases, the constricted nature of the school spaces gives rise to increased health and safety risks to both pupils and staff.

- 3.4 In addition to the looking at re-providing the current school we have looked to ways in which the new school can work as part of the wider special school community. As a result of these considerations it is intended to improve provision at St Crispin's itself in a way that enhances the wider effectiveness of our special school provision for learners with Autism. The current requirements for the new school include:
- 3.4.1 Capacity to accommodate all of the current (10) classes on site.
 - 3.4.2 Two behaviour support units to accommodate children from St Crispin's and from other special schools, to enable learners' needs to be met and prevent the requirement of out of authority provision.
 - 3.4.3 One additional behaviour support unit and two additional classrooms in anticipation of projected demand for future expansion.
- 3.5 On 7 March 2017, the Education, Children and Families Committee approved a programme of work to ensure that our special schools keep pace with changing needs. This includes increasing special school provision for children with Autism. A key element in securing the long-term sustainability of authority's provision for children with autism is relocation of St Crispin's Special School into new accommodation.
- 3.6 The statutory consultation paper proposed the **relocation of St Crispin's Special School to a new building in the Burdiehouse area.**
- 3.7 In addition, an application for planning approval was made in May 2018. SEPA issued an objection in principle to the application, as it is sited on a flood plain.
- 3.8 Additional information was provided for the Development Management Sub-Committee of the Planning Committee on Wednesday 6th March 2019. The report is available at http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4656/development_management_sub-committee where **permission for this application was granted.**
- 3.9 Due to SEPA's objection, the decision will be referred to the Scottish Ministers who have 28 days to call the application in. There are no timescales provided in the event the application is called in by the Ministers.

4. Main report

- 4.1 A statutory consultation was undertaken between 3 May 2018 and 19 June 2018. The full statutory consultation paper is available [online](#) and a summary paper provided during the consultation period is attached in Appendix 1. A copy of the full statutory consultation paper is also available in the Elected Members lounge for reference. One public meeting was held during the consultation period on 22 May

2018 at St. Crispin's Special School. The public meeting was independently chaired. Council officials answered questions following a short presentation. A record of the meeting is included in Appendix 2.

- 4.2 Representations on the proposal were invited by letter, email, or through a specifically designed online response questionnaire. There were 7 received. The number of completed online questionnaires was 6 with 1 comment received by email. The tables in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 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.
- 4.3 The majority of the online submissions (4) were from parents/carers. Two local residents and a local organisation also completed the questionnaire.
- 4.4 Those who responded using the online questionnaire were asked whether they support the proposal. Five responded that they did and two responded that they did not.

4.5 Key Themes and Issues and Council Responses

This section draws out the main themes and issues that were raised during the consultation period and sets out the Council's response.

4.5.1 Existing Site Issues

Issues about the plans for the existing site after the school move, along with loss of employment opportunities were raised. The Council's response to these issues is set out in detail in Appendix 5. The new school will be larger and will offer more employment opportunities and the future use of the existing site will be subject to consideration in its own right under Planning regulations. In light of the above, no change to the proposal set out in the statutory consultation paper is proposed.

4.5.2 Existing School Building

Issues about the state of the existing school building, and its suitability for learners until the new building is ready were raised. The Council's response to these issues is set out in detail in Appendix 5. No change to the proposal set out in the statutory consultation paper is proposed.

4.5.3 Primary Pupils

There was a concern that the primary pupils had not been considered in this consultation. The Council's response to these issues is set out in detail in Appendix 5.

All current, and future, learners of St Crispin's School will move to the new school. This will include primary pupils. The proposal sets out the case for enabling flexibility for St Crispin's to cater more for upper primary and secondary pupils if required. The rationale for this is that it is not always possible to predict at a very early age which learners will develop the most complex needs that would most benefit from the environment and facilities of the new school. Any such changes required to meet needs in the future would be managed carefully on a phased basis

and will take into account the relationship between St Crispin's and other special schools. The overall goal is to make the best possible match of facilities to pupil needs.

4.6 Education Scotland

4.6.1 As required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, all of the responses received during the public consultation were made available to Education Scotland for their consideration. A report from Education Scotland providing their response to the proposal was submitted dated June 2018. This report is attached in Appendix 5.

4.6.2 The conclusion of Education Scotland is that the proposal is of clear educational benefit to children and young people with complex additional support needs arising from a learning disability and Autism.

4.6.3 Response to Education Scotland

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 3 key issues is provided in the following table.

Issue Raised	The proposal makes reference to a gradual shift in emphasis for St Crispin's School in favour of upper primary and secondary school provision. However, it does not set out how this shift will be achieved and how the needs of lower primary children will be met.
Council Response	<p>The Council makes a range of special school provision for children with learning disabilities and will adjust to ensure that children of all ages have access appropriate school education.</p> <p>The process will be managed carefully on an individual basis and none of the pupils enrolled at the time of the move will be required to move from St Crispin's for this reason.</p> <p>The proposed change is enabling so it will be implemented as and when required to make the best overall provision as needs change over time.</p>
Issue Raised	Staff were unclear as to how the proposed behavioural support units would be staffed.
Council Response	The staffing of the behavioural support units will be subject of further consultations with the school and partners in particular the ASL Service, Psychological Services, the Disability Intensive Support Service, Allied Health Professionals and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services to provide the most effective service.

Issue Raised	Parent representatives were unsure what impact, if any, the new site would have on existing out of school activities such as weekend swimming and after school club.
Council Response	The new design will offer enhanced facilities for out of school and weekend activities. The Council will work closely with parents, third sector and community partners to ensure the best possible benefits to children with complex needs and the wider community.

Conclusions

- 4.7 Permission for this application was granted** at the Development Management Sub-Committee of the Planning Committee on Wednesday 6th March.
- 4.8 Due to SEPA's objection, the decision will be referred to the Scottish Ministers who have 28 days to call the application in. There are no timescales provided in the event the application is called in by the Ministers.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The provision of the new school will:
- 5.1.1 Provide an improved environment for learning and teaching
 - 5.1.2 Provide a safer environment for learners and staff
 - 5.1.3 Providing a high-quality environment for afterschool and weekend activities
 - 5.1.4 Enable the needs of children and young people with complex needs on the roll of St Crispin's to be met more effectively and efficiently within Edinburgh
 - 5.1.5 Enable the needs of children and young people with complex needs on the roll of other specials schools in Edinburgh be met more effectively and efficiently.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 Funding of £12.056m for construction of the new St Crispin's School is included within the currently approved 2018-2023 capital programme.
- 6.2 The estimated additional revenue costs are £568K and this will be factored into the Council's planning assumptions for future years.
- 6.3 The overall loan charges associated with this expenditure over a 20-year period would be a principal amount of £12.056m and interest of £7.684m resulting in a total cost of £19.74m based on a loans fund interest rate of 5%. The annual loan charges would be £0.987m.
- 6.4 It should be noted that the Council's Capital Investment Programme is funded through a combination of General Capital Grant from the Scottish Government,

developers and third-party contributions, capital receipts and borrowing. The borrowing required is carried out in line with the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy and is provided for on an overall programme basis rather than for individual capital projects. Following instruction from Members, notional loan charge estimates have been provided above, which it should be noted are based on the assumption of borrowing in full for this capital project.

- 6.5 As the net capital expenditure outlined in this report forms part of the approved capital investment programme, provision for funding it will be met from the revenue loan charges budget earmarked to meet overall capital investment programme borrowing costs. The revenue costs for the new schools will be met through the budgets currently available for the existing school and future growth will be funded from the demography budget for special schools. The total expected increase in the revenue budgets for the new school including the additional classes is £294,540.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The most significant risk to the recommendations made in this paper is that the new school cannot be delivered at an appropriate time and the measure of success is not achieved.
- 7.2 The implementation of the proposal is subject to approval of Scottish Ministers following SEPA's objection
- 7.3 There are no negative equality or human rights impacts arising from this report.
- 7.4 Accordingly, these proposals have no adverse impact on any equalities groups and provide greater opportunities for pupils during the school day and beyond. For these reasons, the overall equalities relevance score is 1 (out of a possible 9) and a full Equalities Impact Assessment is not required
- 7.5 The primary purpose of the consultation is to ensure that school accommodation is sufficient to support the sustainable economic growth of the city. The proposed new school would be designed to minimise its impact on carbon emissions and energy consumption. The proposal is not expected to lead to an increase in the number of pupils requiring transport to school as most are already transported to the existing building from across the city, and this policy will continue
- 7.6 The statutory consultation process ran from 3 May 2018 and 19 June 2018 and has been undertaken according to the procedures set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Report to the Education, Children and Families Committee on [7 March 2017](#), which approved a programme of work to ensure that our special schools keep pace with changing needs. This includes increasing special school provision for children with

Autism. <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Support-Social-Care/Unpaid-Carers/Implementation/Carers-scotland-act-2016>

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 Summary of the Statutory Consultation Paper
- 9.2 Appendix 2 Minutes of the Statutory Consultation Public Meetings
- 9.3 Appendix 3 Summary of Representations
- 9.4 Appendix 4 Issues Raised and Council Response
- 9.5 Appendix 5 Education Scotland Report

Appendix 1 - Summary of the Statutory Consultation Paper

Proposal to relocate St Crispin's Special School to a new building in the Burdiehouse Area

What is being proposed?

Relocation of St Crispin's Special School to a new site in Burdiehouse Crescent. Also proposes a gradual shift in emphasis for St Crispin's school in favour of upper primary and secondary school provision and the provision of enhanced accommodation for behaviour support working in conjunction with other special schools in Edinburgh.

Why do we need a new building for St Crispin's School?

The existing school is considered too small with poor circulation space, lack of suitable storage and toilet provision, no dedicated dining space, no dedicated space for visiting professionals and main class bases that are too small for class group numbers. In some cases, the constricted nature of the school spaces gives rise to increased health and safety risks to both pupils and staff.

In addition, we have increasing demand for places in our special schools due to rising rolls. We also want to improve provision at St Crispin's itself in a way that enhances the wider effectiveness of our special school provision for learners with Autism and a new building will help us do that.

Who will the changes affect?

The changes will affect existing, and future, learners at St Crispin's school. It may also affect future learners at other special schools who will benefit from access to the facilities at the new St Crispin's School.

When would the changes come into effect?

If the proposal is approved by the Council, the date when the new school will open will be August 2120

Why are we consulting?

We want to hear the views of anyone affected by the proposals. There is also a legal obligation to carry out a statutory consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young people (Scotland) Act 2014.

How will I know if my views have been considered?

All comments made during the statutory consultation period will be recorded and represented in a final 'Outcomes of the Consultation Report' that we expect to be considered by Council in October 2018. The report will be published three weeks in advance of the Council meeting and parents of pupils attending affected schools and anyone who has responded to the consultation will be notified of its publication.

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

If you want more information you can find the full consultation paper and other supporting information at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/...

We have also organised a public meeting, as below:

Venue	Date	Time
St Crispin's School	Tuesday 22 May 2018	6.30pm – 8.30pm

The meeting will open with a short presentation about the consultation and what is proposed, followed by a question and answer session. We will take a note of the meeting and all of the points made will be captured in the final 'Outcomes of the Consultation Report'. You can attend any meeting which suits you.

Please telephone (0131) 529 2136 by Monday 14 May 2018 if you need translation services or childcare at the meeting.

Tell us your views: public consultation period closes 19 June 2018.

It would be helpful if you could take time to complete our short survey – you can find it easily online at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/...mart. If you don't have internet access then you can view the full consultation paper at one of the affected schools or at Central Library, Captains Road Library, and Newington Library.

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

Alistair Gaw
Executive Director of Communities and Families
City of Edinburgh Council
Waverley Court
Level 1.1
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG

All comments should arrive by Tuesday 19 June 2018.

Appendix 2 – Minutes of Public Consultation Meeting – 22 May 2018

Proposal to relocate St Crispin's Special School to a new building in the Burdiehouse Area

Public Consultation Meeting held at 6.30 pm, Tuesday 22 May 2018, St Crispin's Special School, Edinburgh

Present: Approximately 10 members of the public

In Attendance: Tom Wood (Independent Chair), Councillor Alison Dickie (Vice-Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee), Anna Gray (Quality and Improvement Manager, Special Schools and Additional Support for Learning), Martin Vallely (Service Manager, Special Schools and Additional Support for Learning) and Veronica MacMillan (Committee Services).

Introduction

Tom Wood introduced himself and advised that he had been invited by the City of Edinburgh Council as an independent person to chair the public consultation meeting. 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 the 19 June 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 October 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.

Presentation/Proposal

Martin Vallely (Service Manager, Special Schools and ASL Service) delivered a presentation that provided the rationale for and the implications of relocating St Crispin's Special School to a new site in Burdiehouse Crescent.

Requirement for Change

Today St Crispin's Special School provided education for pupils with additional support needs that arose from severe and complex learning difficulties including autism. In 2008, the school was prioritised for replacement as part of the Wave 3 school replacement programme.

A feasibility study in 2012 concluded that refurbishing the existing building was not a viable option. The existing school was considered too small with poor circulation space, lack of suitable storage and toilet provision, no dedicated dining space, no dedicated space for visiting professionals and main class bases that were too small for class group numbers.

In some cases, the constricted nature of the school spaces gave rise to increased health and safety risks to both pupils and staff.

Proposal

The new St Crispin's School would be built to meet the needs of today's and future learners and would ensure a more effective environment for learning and teaching. It would be tailored to the specific needs of children and young people with a range of complex additional support needs that arose from severe disabilities in learning and language communication. Specialist facilities, effective use of space and access to a high quality natural environment would enable a learning experience that is relevant, meaningful, safe and appropriately challenging. It would create opportunities for staff and pupil collaboration, joint training of staff, the sharing of best practice and closer working relationship between special schools.

The City of Edinburgh Council placed a strong emphasis on school/community partnerships. St Crispin's School already had an excellent relationship with its parents, partner services and the wider community and the new school would provide opportunities to build on this. The specialist facilities would help encourage greater use of the school out with school hours, particularly by parents of children and young people with additional support needs whose access to universal services was restricted.

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 publicly 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 October 2018. The report would be published three weeks in advance of the Council meeting.

Questions/Comments

Question 1 – The biggest problem I have with the new site is that I don't drive – where is the nearest public transport for the school for a wheelchair and/or a special buggy? There is no direct bus route. Has the architect thought about where it is located? Need to figure out the long term options regarding transport to the new site.

Answer – The new site is not far from Captains Road which is a main bus route. We can look at that and provide a fuller response.

Follow-up Question/Comment – If you are coming from Princes Street or that part of town it is a much further distance. I would like to know how much further it is to the new site than to the old site, especially if you are travelling from the Leith area. I wouldn't want my son to be on public transport for another 20 minutes.

Follow-up Answer – We can certainly look at that and it will depend on the planning of the transport routes. From the current site it is 15 minutes to travel to the new site.

Tom Wood – The new site is definitely closer to Leith than the current site. What is really important about this consultation is that we consider the future provision for people 40 years from now, it is really important that we get it right for future pupils as well as the current pupils.

Follow-up Comment – I wouldn't use the number 7 or 11 buses from Princes Street as that wouldn't be quickest route to get to the new site. I want to make sure that the new school is accessible by public transport and I think that the 37 bus is the quickest route to the new site from Princes Street. Would it be possible for the 37 to divert to the new site?

Tom Wood – In terms of transport and safe routes to school, all of that would be considered as part of the planning process, which is standard.

Follow-up Comment – My biggest concern is how long it would take my son to get to school.

Question 2/Comment – I have a child that is a pupil in the school but leaves the school in five weeks. I have noticed that the space has been an issue over the years and I was glad to see from the presentation that there will be flexibility in how the space will be used. A lot of space is required for children that have challenging behaviour. If the school needs to be extended in the future is there space for that to happen? The huts that we have on the current site are not good. We need to move away from anything like that in the future.

Answer – There is additional space on the site for an extension. The original plans included 10 classrooms and an additional support base with the provision to extend. However, it was recognised that the extension would be disruptive to the children and to build this from the outset. We can never expect that one school will serve all the needs of the children and we need to look at it on a whole estate basis and that's why we've designed the school so it complements the special schools and it can help strengthen the support provided to children. Never say never in terms of extending but we are not planning on that basis.

Follow-up Question/Comment – That's good, because I think we need to move away from permanent fixtures and ensure the space is as flexible as possible.

Answer – It is recognised that the current functional space was not fit for purpose or sufficient and that we needed to design flexible support areas.

Follow-up Comment – We had a situation where we had a class that was based away from the main school and it must have been strange for the parents and the staff.

Follow up Question – What is the capacity of the new school?

Answer – The capacity of the current school is 54, and the capacity of the new school is 12 classes, 72 pupils, plus 3 additional spaces that can accommodate up to 6 pupils, but these spaces are not designed to be used as classrooms but as flexible space.

Question 4 – Pupils that are coming from different schools to the new site, how would that be staffed? Would it be staffed using St Crispin's staff or staff from other schools?

Answer – We haven't yet looked at a staffing model but we are looking to build more co-operation/collaboration between schools and the additional support for learning staff, so staffing and support would be individualised around pupils.

Follow-up comment – I am assuming that the staff to pupil ratio will stay the same or increase.

Question 5 – I am concerned about the toilet facilities, I can't see from the plans where the toilets will be allocated.

Answer – Officers pointed out on the plans where the toilets will be allocated and stated that they will be near the classrooms.

Follow-up Comment – That's good, it would be an issue for some pupils if the toilets were not close to the classrooms.

Question 6 – Could I make sure that the Architect thinks about the types of taps that are used in the new school? It's critical for some children that like to play with water. It would cause chaos for some children. I know I'm talking about detailed stuff and this maybe isn't the right time for detail but it is really important.

Answer – This will definitely be taken into consideration.

Follow-up Comment – Children would get scalded at school if the wrong type of tap is installed.

Question 7 – What size would the furnishings in classrooms and the toilets in the school will be? I'm not sure if the architect has thought about this.

Answer – The school will be equipped for children as they are and the age they are, so there will be what you would expect in the classrooms, small furnishings, small toilets etc. The building is meant to last over a 50 year period and during this time period we may have to make adjustments to the composition of the school.

Tom Wood – The Architect and his colleague arrived and Tom summarised the questions that had already been asked.

Follow-up Question – Will there be washing facilities and drying facilities?

Answer - Yes, there will be. There is a separate laundry room inside the school.

Tom Wood - What about taps? What kind of taps will be installed?

Follow-up Question – It would be good to have the taps that come on when you put your hands under them and then off when you take your hands away. My son would play with ordinary taps. Would the taps have a timer on them where they would switch off after a minute?

Answer – We spoke to the suppliers last week and are considering sensor taps or push button taps but haven't decided yet.

Question 8 – I wondered if the swimming pool on the new site would be easy for the children to get in and out of and what the changing facilities would be like. It can be difficult helping children get out of their wet swimming costumes, especially if they have challenging behaviour.

Follow-up Question – Will the pool be regularly maintained? The St Crispin's pool sometimes has problems with it that would take a while to get fixed meaning that the pool could not be used.

Answer – We have a pool specialist working with us on the design to ensure that the pool will be fit for purpose and the pool will be regularly maintained so that you should not have the problems that you have previously experienced with it.

Follow up Question – Will there be a wet room in the shower room and would you have to go upstairs to get changed?

Answer – The pool size will be the same size that it is now. There will be large accessible male and female changing rooms with changing beds, toilets and an accessible shower.

Follow-up Question – Is it possible to increase the size of the area around the pool so that there is space for staff/parents to stand with the children?

Answer – We could increase the size but we would have to reduce the size of the pool to do so. We can ask the pool specialist and get their opinion on whether it is possible.

Follow-up Question – In terms of the decision about whether to reduce or not reduce, is the pool specialist knowledgeable about designing pools for children with learning and support needs?

Answer – Yes, the specialist has designed pools for people with special needs. The pool designer would not take a decision in isolation, it would be done in consultation with the school.

Follow-up Question – Will there be specialist equipment available for the children in the changing rooms and in the pool? As the pool will be used by the wider community, is this not a requirement?

Answer – It is not a requirement and we haven't been asked to provide it, but we recognise that it is important.

Follow-up comment – Surely it is better to include the requirement for the equipment at the design stage?

Answer – We will ensure that we make the pool as accessible as possible. It is about getting the balance right and we also have to work within a budget and it's about what's providing what is desirable and what is essential.

Question 9 – We are not sure what the height of the fences will be on the new site, and wouldn't want children to be able to climb over it but don't want it to be a prison either. What height are the fences?

Answer – Officers explained the layout of the playground, the segregated zones and the fencing arrangements. There is a 2 metre perimeter fence. One of the fences would be surrounding by a hedge and we do recognise that some children will eat the hedge.

Question 10 – How far is the new site away from shops?

Answer – The shops are about 200 yards away from the new site. There is a shop next to the Community Centre and a post office and a newsagent close by, and there is a Tesco which is a 10 minute walk away from the site.

Question 11 – Will there be any sensory rooms built in the new school and are they marked on the plans?

Answer – There will be two sensory rooms, and officers pointed out the location of the sensory rooms on the plans.

Question 12 – Will the gardens be pre-planted? Will there be trees etc?

Answer – The best person to ask would be the landscape architect but there is the potential to plant trees in the gardens.

Follow-up Comment – Consideration should be given to the type of plants in the gardens as some of the children may try and eat them or could have a reaction to them. Someone that specialises in plants would probably be able to advise on the best type of plants to use.

Follow-up Question – I am concerned that if the garden is just going to be grass and mud because my son would probably roll about in it. Will there be grass, mud or concrete?

Answer – We will discuss this with the landscape architect and we may have a consultation just on the landscape to explore all options.

Tom Wood – Can we move on and have a discussion about the quality of the education being offered – it's a new school and new facilities.

Comment – The new school environment will help staff to maximise opportunities for collaborative working between staff and pupils and improve the educational experience that the children have.

Question 13 – Could we have music in the pool that would enhance the experience for pupils – aquafit or relaxation music, or possibly dim the lighting to help improve the experience.

Answer – Yes, we could offer music but I'm not sure about the lighting systems.

Question 14 – Could you tell us more about the entrance into the school, in the foyer? At the moment we have a space where you come into the school with classrooms leading off from there and any visitors to the school that are waiting in the foyer, or pupils that are being collected can hear if children are upset. Does the new design ensure that children can avoid having to go through the foyer most of the time?

Answer – Yes, the design separates out various functions, and there will be a separate entrance for the foyer, and separate entrances for senior and junior pupils to avoid congestion at certain points of the day, for example, at the start of the school day and at the end of the school day. We are trying to avoid the pupils having a sensory overload.

Follow-up Question – Is there a keypad system?

Answer – There will be a single/swipe access system which is the most secure method to use.

Follow-up Question – Will you have a fob to use to gain entry?

Answer – Yes, it so much smaller and easier.

Question 15 – It's about the education part, is there a big communal hall for the kids to eat in, will there be WiFi there?

Answer – Yes, there will be a big communal hall with access to WiFi.

Tom Wood – Any last questions?

Question 16 – When will the school be finished?

Answer – The school will be completed May/June 2020 and the pupils will stay at the current site until then.

Follow-up Question – There have been problems with other schools in terms of walls falling down. What guarantees do we have that the Council has got it right this time and that the building will be fit for purpose?

Answer – It is about future-proofing, it is about quality, and it is about pupils, teachers and parents being part of the decision making on the design of the school.

Follow-up Comment – Please think about the long-term and not just the short-term.

Answer – It is very much about the long-term and it is about future-proofing the school.

Question 17 – How is the school going to be heated? Will it be environmentally friendly? It costs a fortune to heat a school.

Answer – We are going to the excess energy generated from the pool for electricity, and using solar UV panels. Radiators are not ideal as they can be pulled off the wall so we are looking at alternatives.

Question 18 – Will there be fire extinguishers in the building or something more sophisticated, as these can be pulled off.

Answer – This is something that is currently under discussion, as well as fire alarms.

Question 19 – Storage – you can never have enough storage. We would like storage that is safe and accessible but not accessible to pupils.

Answer – We recognise that storage is an issue in the current school and all options are being explored. We are looking at having a storage wall that has a smartboard and has a storage system which is lockable. We are looking at having sliding doors instead of handles and all options will be explored. There were also be a gym storage and a community storage.

Question 20 – Are there general toilets for visitors coming in?

Answer – Yes, there are toilets, including accessible toilets, junior and senior wings have accessible toilets as well as toilets for pupils.

Conclusion

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 19 June 2018 to make any further contributions.

Martin Vallely thanked everyone for coming and for their contributions. Mr Vallely commented that the new school has been really well designed but a number of important things have been raised tonight which will all be fed into the consultation, and he asked everyone to keep their comments coming in until the consultation closed on the 19 June 2018.

Appendix 3 – Summary of Representations

The table below identifies which of the submitted representations supported the proposal and identifies (with an 'x') the theme of any issue raised. The Council's response to the issues raised are set out in Appendix 4.

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Do you support the proposal? (Y = Yes, N = No)	Existing Site Issues (Appendix 4 Issue 1 and 2)	Existing School Issues (Appendix 4 Issue 3)	Primary Pupils (Appendix 4 Issue 4)
ANON-UXY9-PPMY-5	Y	X		
ANON-UXY9-PPM2-X	N	X		
ANON-UXY9-PPMM-S	N			X
ANON-UXY9-PPME-H	Y			
ANON-UXY9-PPMK-Q	Y			
ANON-UXY9-PPMP-V	Y		X	
Emailed Comment 1	Y			

Appendix 4 – Issues Raised and Council response

Existing Site Issues

	Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council should be mindful that something community minded, not just an expansion of residential properties, will be put on the site.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local community should be invited to participate meaningfully in identifying desirable development goals for the site.
1	Response	The reuse of the existing St Crispin's site will be subject to full consultation and planning consents.
2	Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school's relocation represents a significant loss of employment opportunity in the area from which it is moving.
	Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of the new school will result in a net increase in employment opportunities in its new setting. The proposed setting is accessible by public transport from the existing site

Existing School Building

3	Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern about the current provision for pupils in a building thought not to be fit for purpose until the new school is built.
	Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending the opening of the new school the Council will maintain its commitment to ensure that the current building remains safe and effective.

Primary Pupils

4	Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary pupils have been forgotten about in this move.
	Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All current, and future, learners of St Crispin's School will move to the new school. This will include primary pupils.

Appendix 5 – Education Scotland Report

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The City of Edinburgh Council to: relocate St Crispin's Special School to a new building in the Burdiehouse area and to create two behavioural support units within the new site to meet the needs of children from St Crispin's School and from Kaimes, Prospect Bank, Pilrig Park, Redhall and Braidburn Special Schools.

1. Introduction

1.1.1 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's proposal to relocate St Crispin's Special School to a new building in the Burdiehouse area and to create two behavioural support units within the new site to meet the needs of children and young people from St Crispin's School and from Kaimes, Prospect Bank, Pilrig Park, Redhall and Braidburn Special Schools. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- 1.2.1 the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of St Crispin's, Kaimes, Prospect Bank, Pilrig Park, Redhall and Braidburn Special Schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- 1.2.2 any other likely effects of the proposal;
- 1.2.3 how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- 1.2.4 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:
- 1.3.1 attendance at the public meeting held on 22 May 2018 in connection with the council's proposals;
 - 1.3.2 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;
 - 1.3.3 visit to the proposed site at Burdiehouse Crescent; and
 - 1.3.4 visit to the site of St Crispin's Special 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 3 May 2018 to 19 June 2018. Copies of the proposal were made available electronically and in paper format at the council offices at Waverley Court, Central Library, Captains Road Library, Newington Library and at the schools affected by the proposals. A public meeting was held on 22 May 2018. The council posted the consultation document on its website.
- 2.3 Four parents/carers attended the public consultation meeting. They were supportive of the proposal but requested further detail on areas such as: location of toilets, height of fencing and how children and young people from other special schools attending the behavioural support units would be supported. The council received seven responses to an online survey. Five of the responses were supportive of the proposal. Two were not. Reasons given for not supporting the proposal included: the lack of reference to primary children in the proposal and concerns about how the vacated site will be used.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

- 3.1 The council has set out a reasonable case for the re-location of St Crispin's Special School to a new building in the Burdiehouse area and for the creation of two behavioural support units accessible to learners from across the city. Over recent years there has been an increase in the number of children identified with Autism in Edinburgh. The most recent figures indicate that around 850 pupils in the city of Edinburgh Schools have Autism. This proposal has a number of educational benefits for children and young people. The new St Crispin's School will provide a high quality, safe and secure learning environment for children and young people with complex additional support needs arising from a learning disability and Autism. It will offer more effective use of space, improved storage and dedicated specialist facilities. Opportunities for indoor and outdoor learning will be improved as will access to digital learning opportunities. Drop off and pick up facilities will be improved. Children and young people from other Edinburgh special schools will benefit from access to the proposed behavioural support units. The proposal makes

reference to a gradual shift in emphasis for St Crispin's School in favour of upper primary and secondary school provision. However, it does not set out how this shift will be achieved and how the needs of lower primary children will be met.

- 3.2 Staff and parents from St Crispin's Special School who met with HM Inspectors strongly supported the proposal. They were able to clearly articulate the benefits to children and young people. Benefits included: a modern, purpose built learning environment with improved access both internally and externally. Improved classroom design supported by modern technology, reduced noise disruption, improved toilets and more efficient storage systems. Increased safety and effective traffic systems for dropping off and picking up children were also seen as being beneficial. St Crispin's Special School staff welcomed increased storage, improved class layout, better regulated temperature and ventilation. They liked the proposed layout of the new building with designated wings and central areas. They felt the council had actively listened to, and acted on, their suggestions. However, staff were unclear as to how the proposed behavioural support units would be staffed. Parent representatives were unsure what impact, if any, the new site would have on existing out of school activities such as weekend swimming and after school club.
- 3.3 No staff or parents from Kaimes, Prospect Bank, Pilrig Park, Redhall and Braidburn Special Schools met with HM Inspectors.

4. Summary

The council's proposal is of clear educational benefit to children and young people with complex additional support needs arising from a learning disability and Autism. It addresses the identified increase in the number of children identified with Autism in Edinburgh. The new St Crispin's School has the potential to provide a safe and secure high-quality learning environment for children and young people. It will offer more effective use of space, improved storage and dedicated specialist facilities. Access to digital learning opportunities will be improved. Drop off and pick up facilities will be improved. Children and young people from other Edinburgh special schools will benefit from access to the proposed behavioural support units. In taking forward the proposal, the council needs to engage with stakeholders to ensure that they are aware of how the shift in emphasis for St Crispin's School in favour of upper primary and secondary school provision will be achieved. In doing so, it should also clarify how the needs of children in the lower stages of primary will be met.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
June 2018**