

Castlebrae Community High School: Consultation on Option for Closure

and associated catchment changes for Portobello and Liberton High Schools

Education, Children and Families Committee

9 October 2012

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek authority from Committee to consult on an option for the closure of Castlebrae Community High School.

2 Summary

- 2.1 Consideration has been given to the future of Castlebrae Community High School. The pupils in the school continue to experience very poor educational outcomes and, with by far the smallest roll in the city of 200 pupils (an occupancy level of 33%) which is expected to decline further over the next few years to a low of 158 in 2015, the position is unsustainable.
- 2.2 There is spare capacity in the other secondary schools in the local area which could accommodate both the existing, and future medium term, school roll from the Castlebrae Community High School catchment area. The majority of pupils already choose to attend other secondary schools in the area.
- 2.3 This report seeks approval to consult on the proposed closure of Castlebrae Community High School from the end of the 2012/13 school year together with required changes to secondary school catchment areas.
- 2.4 In the longer term it remains the expectation, and intention, to build a new high school in the Craigmillar area when significant anticipated new housing is built and the secondary school capacity in the area is no longer sufficient to accommodate catchment demand.

3 Main report

3.1 Castlebrae Community High School (CCHS)

Current School Capacity and Roll

- 3.1.1 CCHS has a capacity of 600 places and is served by 4 feeder primary schools; Prestonfield, Newcraighall, Niddrie Mill and Castlevue. Prestonfield has dual feeder status with Liberton High School which means pupils have the choice of either secondary school. A catchment area map is shown at Appendix 1.
- 3.1.2 In the 2011/12 school year there were 729 pupils in the catchment area, an analysis of which is provided in Appendix 2; no catchment data is yet available for

2012/13. Table 1 shows the secondary schools attended by pupils in the area. Pupils have the right to attend either their denominational or non-denominational catchment school and, in the Castlebrae area, 40% of the population choose their denominational schools which is very high compared to the city average of 13%.

Table 1: Secondary School Attended by Pupils in the CCHS Catchment Area (2011)

| Secondary School Attended | Pupils | % |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Holy Rood RC | 251 | 34% |
| Castlebrae | 226 | 31% |
| Portobello | 111 | 15% |
| St Thomas of Aquin's RC | 43 | 6% |
| James Gillespie's | 28 | 4% |
| Liberton | 28 | 4% |
| Other | 42 | 6% |
| Total Catchment Pupils | 729 | 100% |

- 3.1.3 In the 2011/12 school year CCHS had a roll of 251; only 226 (31%) of the CCHS catchment population attended the school. Table 2 illustrates in which feeder primary school catchment areas the pupils live.

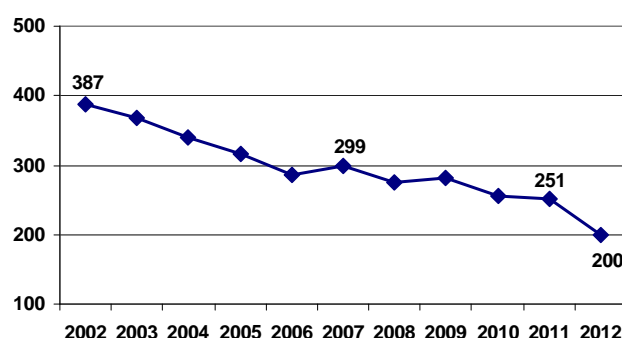
Table 2: CCHS 2011 Roll by Address in Feeder Primary School Catchment

| Primary School | Catchment Total | Attending CCHS | % |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| Niddrie Mill | 328 | 107 | 33% |
| Castleview | 216 | 114 | 53% |
| Newcraighall | 84 | # | # |
| Prestonfield | 101 | # | # |
| CCHS Catchment Area | 729 | 226 | 31% |
| Other Primary School areas | - | 25 | |
| Totals | 729 | 251 | |

In accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act, figures not disclosed as less than five

- 3.1.4 The September 2012 CCHS roll has reduced to an estimated 200; an occupancy rate of 33%. The significant drop reflects a very low S1 intake for 2012 of 21. There has been a steady decline in the roll over the last ten years as shown in Figure 1; for the last seven years the roll was under 300 and is now the lowest in the city.

Figure 1: Historic CCHS School Roll



- 3.1.5 The drop in numbers in recent years is principally due to increasing numbers of parents opting to send their children to other secondary schools in the area. Between 2005 and 2011 the total CCHS catchment population (non-denominational and denominational) dropped by 8% from 790 to 729.
- 3.1.6 With secondary school S1 intakes continuing to fall across the city providing spare capacity at surrounding schools; this has allowed more placing requests to be granted to parents not choosing their catchment school.
- 3.1.7 An analysis of the actual CCHS school roll by year stage for the last five years is shown in Table 3; it should be noted that the totals for 2012 are provisional although any further variation is not expected to be significant.

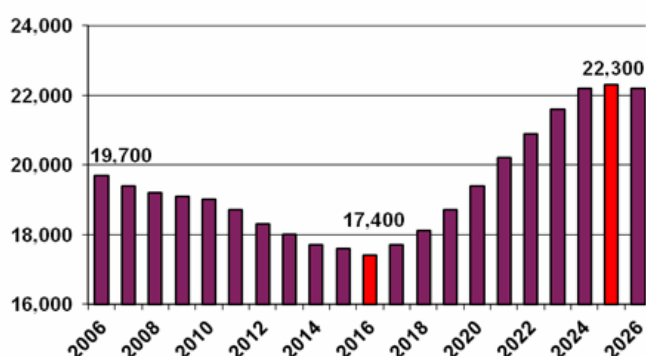
Table 3: Actual CCHS School Roll by Year Stage

| Year | S1 | S2 | S3 | S4 | S5 | S6 | Total |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|
| 2008 | 48 | 79 | 62 | 45 | 28 | 13 | 275 |
| 2009 | 59 | 52 | 79 | 57 | 26 | 8 | 281 |
| 2010 | 38 | 58 | 48 | 75 | 32 | 5 | 256 |
| 2011 | 48 | 41 | 58 | 42 | 50 | 12 | 251 |
| 2012 | 21 | 37 | 40 | 49 | 30 | 23 | 200 |

Future School Roll

- 3.1.8 In Edinburgh, secondary school rolls have been declining since 2006 and are expected to continue to fall until 2016 but thereafter are projected to steadily increase to 2025. This trend is illustrated in Figure 2. S1 intakes in the period to 2016/17 are expected to remain broadly level being followed by an annual increase of approximately 5% for the ensuing four years.

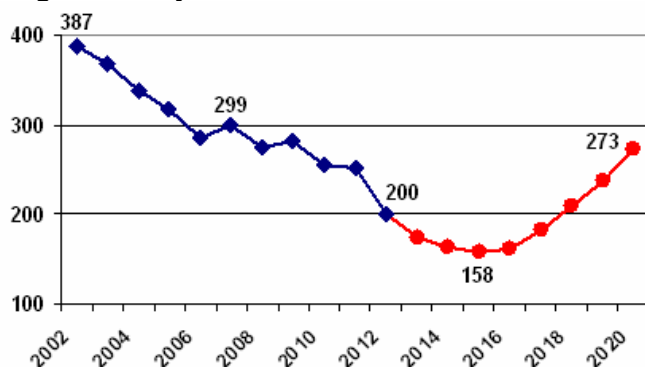
Figure 2: Predicted Secondary School Rolls in Edinburgh



- 3.1.9 This trend is expected to be reflected in the CCHS area where the roll is anticipated to continue to fall as parents continue to make placement requests to alternative schools at S1. When it would start rising again would depend on:
- Increasing population in the Castlebrae catchment area as a result of rising rolls but, of more significance, through new housing development in the area; an assessment of which is detailed in Appendix 3.
 - Increasing rolls at neighbouring schools which will reduce the number of placing requests available to CCHS catchment pupils. There is significant spare capacity in neighbouring schools and rolls are only forecast to rise to current levels by 2019 so it is likely to be past 2020 that this becomes a factor.

3.1.10 An exercise has been undertaken to predict the future roll of CCHS taking into consideration the above factors. The CCHS roll is expected to continue to fall over the next few years to a low of 158 in 2015/16 as illustrated in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Projected Future CCHS School Roll



Educational Outcomes for Pupils at CCHS

Educational Attainment

3.1.11 Attainment data is best assessed relative to other schools in Scotland which are considered to be similar in nature to CCHS. Including CCHS there are 21 comparator schools which are determined nationally by the Scottish Government through the use of the Principal Component Analysis. This includes comparison of data using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, free school meals and the percentage of mothers who have a degree. The other 20 schools are mainly from the Glasgow area but also include Craigroyston and WHEC in Edinburgh.

3.1.12 Educational outcomes for pupils at CCHS are, and have been consistently, significantly poorer than those for all, or the majority of, the 20 other schools. This is illustrated in Table 4 which shows the ranking out of the 21 schools of the attainment of S4 pupils at CCHS by the end of S4, S5 and S6. The data is shown for the three year period to 2011; 2012 comparative data is not yet available.

Table 4: Ranking of CCHS in National Qualifications out of 21 Comparator Schools

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

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

- Level 3: Access 3; Standard Grade at 5-6 (Foundation)
- Level 4: Intermediate 1 at A-C; Standard Grade at 3-4 (General)
- Level 5: Intermediate 2 at A-C; Standard Grade at 1-2 (Credit)
- Level 6: Higher at A-C
- Level 7: Advanced Higher at A-C

- 3.1.13 Although we have yet to receive data for all comparator schools for 2012, an analysis of the pre-appeal S4 pupil attainment at CCHS compared with WHEC and Craigroyston (which are both also within the comparator group of 21 schools) is shown in Table 5. CCHS continues to perform notably less well than the Edinburgh comparator schools in all S4 attainment measures.

Table 5: Performance in National Qualifications 2012 (pre-appeal)

| Stage | Awards | Castlebrae | Craigroyston | WHEC |
|-----------|---------------|------------|--------------|------|
| By end S4 | 5+ @ level 3+ | 71% | 89% | 90% |
| By end S4 | 5+ @ level 4+ | 21% | 49% | 67% |
| By end S4 | 5+ @ level 5+ | 0% | 11% | 21% |

Attendance and Exclusions

- 3.1.14 In both attendance and exclusions, CCHS performs notably less well than comparator schools and, again based on the 2011 data, is ranked 21st (out of 21) in both indicators there being 80.9% attendance and an exclusion rate of 1.1% compared with the average for the 21 comparator schools of 88.1% and 0.2%.

Positive Destinations

- 3.1.15 Young people moving into positive destinations is analysed for each school leaver cohort. Table 6 below compares the outcomes for CCHS pupils against the nearest similar schools within the city. In 2010/11 CCHS performed notably less well than these similar schools.

Table 6: Percentage of pupils moving into a positive destination

| School | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Castlebrae | 78.9% | 58.8% | 67.9% | 69.0% | 42.0% |
| Craigroyston | 53.7% | 64.5% | 63.3% | 67.0% | 61.5% |
| Drummond | 83.9% | 80.0% | 72.0% | 66.7% | 74.0% |
| WHEC | 74.7% | 73.0% | 53.0% | 65.1% | 78.3% |

Education Scotland (formerly HMIE) Inspections

- 3.1.16 The most recent inspection of CCHS by HMIE (now part of Education Scotland) took place in January 2011. The report evaluated 3 out of 5 indicators as weak with 2 evaluated as satisfactory. HMIE did not disengage from the school and made a return visit in February 2012. While there were some indications of improvements, these had not led to an impact on improved outcomes for young people and HMIE remain engaged with the school with a further follow through visit planned for early in 2013. It is unusual for the City of Edinburgh to have a school where there remains this on-going level of engagement with HMIE.

- 3.1.17 Previously, Castlebrae was inspected by HMIE in 2002. Evaluations of the quality of educational experience were unsatisfactory and HMIE continued to engage each year for a total of 4 years between 2002 and 2006.

Support for Castlebrae

20:20 Initiative

- 3.1.18 With effect from 2005/06 onwards, CCHS was one of three secondary schools involved in the 20:20 initiative which saw significant resources given to the school to deliver transformational change resulting in expected improved outcomes for young people. Approximately £1.5m was allocated between the three schools over a three year period there being agreed outcomes for improvement in attainment and positive destinations. While there were some short term improvements, these have not been sustained following the 20:20 initiative. The development of more vocational curricular opportunities was a successful outcome of this project and continues to be delivered where courses are viable.

Support for school improvement

- 3.1.19 In addition to a staffing allocation which sees a low staff/pupil ratio and significant resources allocated to support pupils with additional learning needs, CCHS has also received significant support for school improvement.
- 3.1.20 Officers have supported the school improvement journey in a range of on-going activities over a number of years. This has included supporting improvements in learning and teaching, where the school has been a priority for training staff in cooperative learning approaches. The Quality Improvement Officer and Senior Education Manager (Quality & Curriculum) have worked closely with the school to support in a range of areas including learning and teaching, positive destinations and behaviour management. The school has also had additional support from HMIE, from staff within other local authority schools, from other Quality Improvement officers with subject specialisms and from the National Positive Behaviour Team. The problems associated with CCHS have existed for some time and it is worth noting that staff at the school have made efforts over the years to improve the situation.

Instep

- 3.1.21 CCHS benefited from resources associated with the Instep project from 1992 until May 2009 receiving additional resources to run Instep of £210,000 per annum. In May 2009 a decision was made to close the project and a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 18 March 2010 outlined in detail the delivery of services previously supported by the Instep Project and how these would be undertaken. Many of the activities which Instep carried out are now undertaken by Pupil Support staff as is the case in all other schools while additional activities were either mainstreamed or provided by voluntary sector organisations working within the CCHS community. A further parent link worker was appointed by the school and Community Learning and Development in session 2011/12.

Impact of low school roll in delivering an appropriate curriculum

- 3.1.22 Delivering an appropriate curriculum in a small secondary school is challenging. The roll for 2012 is 200 and the numbers in the S1 intake of 21 pupils mean one timetabled S1 class. This class will be able to have an appropriate curriculum in S1 but there will be no opportunity to set classes by ability. Opportunities to work collaboratively in a larger cohort experiencing inter-disciplinary learning are

limited. The current small roll S1-S3 creates significant difficulty in providing the broad, general education of Curriculum for Excellence. Personalisation and choice is severely limited in S1-S3. It is usual in larger schools that a broad range of choice is able to be offered to pupils through subject choice and electives providing increased motivation focusing on the interests of individual pupils. At CCHS opportunities to deliver this are limited.

- 3.1.23 When the 2012 S1 cohort moves into S2, and given the low expected S1 numbers in 2013, it is likely that the school would be recommended to adopt joint timetabling across S1-S3 to deliver the broad, general education. The impact of this would be that, whilst it would allow greater personalisation and choice, the range of abilities of learners will create increased challenges for teachers in meeting their learning needs with such a wide spread of abilities and age groups.
- 3.1.24 There is currently joint timetabling across the S4-S6 year stages. The anticipated 2012 cohort in S4-S6 is 102 pupils. This remains challenging in terms of providing a senior phase as outlined in Curriculum for Excellence. CCHS already finds it difficult to offer more academic opportunities on site for senior pupils given the very low numbers. This situation is likely to become increasingly difficult as the projected roll drops further.
- 3.1.25 At present, CCHS offers a range of vocational curriculum opportunities for S4-S6 pupils however there are limited opportunities for Intermediate 2 or Higher classes to run due to the small number of pupils. When comparing an S5/S6 course choice with other schools where the roll is between 750 and 1,200 it is clear that there is a limited range of courses on offer at CCHS by comparison.
- 3.1.26 CCHS serves a small pupil population in an area of significant disadvantage. The result of parental placing requests has meant that the school has found it increasingly challenging to improve educational outcomes. Year groups are small and there is a lack of a social mix which is important for the delivery of a comprehensive education. Due to the very small pupil numbers it is increasingly challenging to provide an appropriate curriculum at all stages and to deliver the principles of Curriculum for Excellence where young people have choice in their learning and access to a broad range of curriculum experiences. Outcomes for young people in all indicators are significantly poorer than those from similar backgrounds in other schools despite significant resources being allocated to CCHS over a period of time.

Pupils with Particular Support Needs

- 3.1.27 There are a number of pupils within CCHS for whom there are particular support needs which fall into three main categories: EAL (English as an additional language); ASN (additional support needs) and LAAC (looked after and accommodated children). Table 7 shows the numbers of pupils in CCHS at September 2012 compared with the position at the most similar schools in the city. In each case the number of pupils is shown as a proportion of the school roll.

Table 7: Pupils with Particular Support Needs (September 2012)

| | Castlebrae | | Drummond | | Craigroyston | | WHEC | |
|-------------|------------|-------|----------|-------|--------------|-------|------|-------|
| | No | %Roll | No | %Roll | No | %Roll | No | %Roll |
| EAL | 13 | 7% | 126 | 27% | 38 | 9% | 28 | 9% |
| ASN | 87 | 44% | 64 | 14% | 50 | 12% | 72 | 24% |
| LAAC | 14 | 7% | 13 | 3% | 34 | 8% | 12 | 4% |

- 3.1.28 Additional support, and funding where appropriate, is made available to provide the support required for these pupils and would continue to be the case. An individual and comprehensive review of support requirements for those young people with additional needs would be undertaken prior to the closure of the school and this would inform an individual support plan which would be delivered in the receiving school. The implementation of the plan and pupils' progress would be monitored on a regular basis and further support would be provided where necessary.

Improved Outcomes for Young People in Other Schools

- 3.1.29 The neighbouring schools, which have a roll between 635 and 1,305 pupils, provide significantly more opportunity to deliver a broad curriculum at all stages. Across these schools there is considerable greater subject choice for pupils than currently exists within CCHS.
- 3.1.30 In each of the neighbouring schools, they have pupils from a broad range of socio-economic backgrounds creating comprehensive schools. This provides opportunities for positive role modelling and broadens horizons in addition to providing a greater range of courses.
- 3.1.31 It is particularly clear in both Portobello and Holy Rood High Schools, which in 2011 attracted 15% and 34% of the CCHS catchment respectively, that young people from the CCHS catchment achieved good outcomes. Attainment data for these schools in comparison with CCHS is provided later in this report.

Vocational Curriculum

- 3.1.32 CCHS currently offers a range of vocational curriculum including hairdressing, automotive and construction. CCHS has achieved good outcomes for young people following vocational courses and has developed skills of staff in these areas. We would seek to maximise this expertise by sharing this practice both within receiving schools and across the city through the delivery of the Senior Phase of Curriculum for Excellence. Current work at a strategic level developing the Senior Phase of Curriculum for Excellence involves working with Further Education Colleges and all schools to create consortia arrangements in order to widen further the range of curriculum available and so the vocational curriculum resources and expertise from CCHS would continue to make a valuable contribution in this area.
- 3.1.33 Resources of the hairdressing salon and the automotive resources will be able to be transferred to a receiving school.

Tracking of improved outcomes in receiving schools

- 3.1.34 Tracking of improved outcomes for CCHS pupils in receiving schools would be through both quantitative and qualitative measures. Tracking of attainment in literacy and numeracy of CCHS pupils would be benchmarked against performance within each receiving school, against city wide performance data and previous CCHS performance data in literacy and numeracy at S2. This would take place for the current S1 who have baseline data from the end of P7 and evidence would be gathered at the end of S2 when pupils undertake S2 standardised assessments in literacy and numeracy.
- 3.1.35 In S4-S6, attainment of CCHS pupils moving into receiving schools would be benchmarked against attainment of the receiving school and against the previous

attainment data from CCHS. Further quantitative measures which would be used are data on attendance and exclusions. Qualitative measures would include feedback from receiving schools on progress of CCHS pupils and the views of the pupils and their parents in terms of how well they had settled in and how satisfied they were with the quality of education they were receiving.

Existing CCHS School Buildings

- 3.1.36 A survey of the existing CCHS buildings was undertaken during July 2012 to assess the condition of the building fabric and the associated services. This involved undertaking detailed surveys of the internal areas of the property, external areas, curtilage, landscaping and also mechanical and electrical services.
- 3.1.37 The school was assessed as achieving a score of 67 out of 100 which falls within Category B under the Scottish Government School Estate Core Facts guidance and is described as 'Satisfactory – Performing adequately but showing minor deterioration.' The building surveyors concluded that the building fabric was in a fair condition but that roofing works were required as well as the upgrading of services. A number of other areas were identified where works were required.
- 3.1.38 The building surveyors identified the costs associated with repair, maintenance and replacement works they considered necessary over a 30 year period but stress that these are very much estimates which require to be validated once the detailed specification for any necessary works was determined. The estimated total costs over a 30 year period are £8.7m as detailed in Table 8 below; of this total £3.5m is identified as being required over the next five years. Only base costs were identified by the surveyors to which provision has been added for the necessary preliminaries, professional fees and contingency. In all cases, costs are based on current prices and exclude any provision for future inflation.

Table 8: Estimated Repair, Maintenance and Replacement Works at CCHS

| | Year 1-5 £'000 | Year 6-15 £'000 | Year 16-30 £'000 | Total £'000 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Base costs from survey report | 2,639 | 2,119 | 1,773 | 6,531 |
| Preliminaries @ 12.5% | 330 | 265 | 222 | 817 |
| Professional Fees @ 10% | 264 | 212 | 177 | 653 |
| Contingency @ 10% | 264 | 212 | 177 | 653 |
| Totals | 3,497 | 2,808 | 2,349 | 8,654 |

- 3.1.39 The other related factor in determining the ongoing acceptability of any school is its suitability which assesses the extent to which a school building and its grounds are appropriate in providing an environment which supports quality learning and teaching and those other services provided to individual children and to the school community, in terms of practicality, accessibility and convenience.
- 3.1.40 In accordance with the Scottish Government School Estate Core Facts guidance CCHS was assessed as having a rating of C (the second lowest) which is described as 'Poor – Showing major problems and/or not operating optimally (the school buildings and grounds impede the delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school)'.
- 3.1.41 This assessment was undertaken several years ago before the introduction of Curriculum for Excellence and may have deteriorated since. The costs noted in

Table 8 above incorporate no provision for any works which may be considered necessary to make any improvements regarding the suitability of the buildings.

School Budget

- 3.1.42 The school budget for 2012/13 is £2.084m the details of which are provided in section 4. Based on a roll as at September 2012 of 200, this equates to a cost per pupil of £10,418 in comparison with the considerably lower average across all other secondary schools in the city of £4,757. The school with the next lowest roll is WHEC for which the cost per pupil is £7,453 based on a roll of 303.
- 3.1.43 In addition to its main budget of £2.084m, the school also receives a further budget of £0.188m relating to the costs associated with the provision of community related services in its capacity as being one of the eight community high schools within the city.

3.2 Other Secondary Schools in the Area

Capacity

- 3.2.1 There are four non-denominational secondary schools in south-east Edinburgh which have a combined capacity of 3,500 and a combined S1 intake limit of 660; an analysis of the estimated position as at September 2012 is provided in Table 9. The September 2012 data is provisional although any further variation is not expected to be significant. Catchment data is only available for 2011 and is shown for illustrative purposes.

Table 9: Secondary Schools in SE Edinburgh (September 2012)

| School | Capacity | 2012 Roll | Spare Places | S1 Intake 2012 | S1 Intake Limit | ND Catchment S1 2011* |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Castlebrae | 600 | 200 | 400 | 21 | 120 | 78 |
| Portobello | 1,400 | 1,305 | 95 | 209 | 260 | 187 |
| Liberton | 850 | 635 | 215 | 95 | 160 | 180 |
| Gracemount | 650 | 636 | 14 | 109 | 120 | 104 |
| Totals | 3,500 | 2,776 | 724 | 434 | 660 | 549 |

* The catchment totals have been amended to remove the double-counting of dual feeders with numbers having been attributed as follows: Prestonfield to Liberton and Gracemount/Liberton dual-feeder to Gracemount.

- 3.2.2 There are two denominational secondary schools which serve the CCHS catchment area. The area is mainly served by Holy Rood RC High School with St Thomas of Aquin's largely serving the Prestonfield primary school catchment. An analysis of the position as at September 2012 is provided in Table 10; this data is provisional although further variation is not expected to be significant.

Table 10: Rolls at Holy Rood and St Thomas of Aquin's (September 2012)

| RC School | Capacity | 2012 Roll | Spare Places | S1 Intake 2012 | S1 Intake Limit |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Holy Rood RC | 1,200 | 1,021 | 179 | 203 | 240 |
| St Thomas of Aquin's | 750 | 769 | - | 139 | 140 |
| Total | 1,950 | 1,790 | 179 | 342 | 380 |

- 3.2.3 As at September 2012, across the secondary schools in the area there were 903 spare places of which CCHS accounted for 400; the remaining 503 arising mainly in Liberton (215), Holy Rood (179) and Portobello (95). Excluding CCHS, the combined S1 intake limit for secondary schools in the area is 920 against which there was a combined S1 intake in 2012 of 776 leaving headroom of 144 places.
- 3.2.4 Table 11 below shows the detail of the 2012 roll by year stage for the three schools in the area which have the highest number of spare places – Liberton, Holy Rood and Portobello – compared against their S1 intake limits. This shows there is considerable spare capacity across all year stages in each school.

Table 11: Secondary Schools Rolls by Year Stage (September 2012)

| School | S1 | S2 | S3 | S4 | S5 | S6 | Total | Intake Limit |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|--------------|
| Liberton | 95 | 116 | 118 | 124 | 98 | 84 | 635 | 160 |
| Holy Rood | 203 | 198 | 193 | 185 | 146 | 96 | 1,021 | 240 |
| Portobello | 209 | 220 | 244 | 238 | 220 | 174 | 1,305 | 260 |

Educational Outcomes

- 3.2.5 Performance in National Qualifications in the other local schools which have spare places is significantly higher than at CCHS as illustrated in Table 12 which shows the comparative pre-appeal attainment data for 2012 for each school.

Table 12: Performance in National Qualifications 2012 (pre-appeal)

| Stage | Awards | Castlebrae | Portobello | Liberton | Holy Rood |
|-----------|------------------------|------------|------------|----------|-------------------|
| By end S4 | English/Maths Level 3+ | 76% | 97% | 88% | 101% ¹ |
| By end S4 | 5+ @ level 3+ | 71% | 94% | 87% | 97% |
| By end S4 | 5+ @ level 4+ | 21% | 81% | 64% | 88% |
| By end S4 | 5+ @ level 5+ | 0% | 32% | 24% | 34% |
| By end S5 | 1+ @ level 6+ | 5% | 49% | 35% | 38% |
| By end S5 | 3+ @ level 6+ | 0% | 29% | 12% | 18% |
| By end S5 | 5+ @ level 6+ | 0% | 12% | 6% | 7% |
| By end S6 | 5+ @ level 6+ | 0% | 21% | 11% | 21% |

¹ Percentages are calculated based on actual results expressed as a percentage of the roll at the start of the school year from the September census; it is likely that the number of pupils increased in the intervening period.

3.3 Proposal

- 3.3.1 Given the issues highlighted above, consideration has been given to the future of Castlebrae Community High School as a result of which it is proposed that the school should close at the end of the 2012/13 school year in July 2013. Following this it is proposed that, unless a potential alternative use for them is identified, the existing buildings would be demolished at the earliest opportunity. The principal reasons for the proposed closure are as follows:

- Educational outcomes for pupils at the school are very poor compared with similar schools both elsewhere in the city and also nationally. Outcomes across a variety of measures are either close to, or, the lowest when compared with the 20 national comparator schools. The position is not

improving and continues to deteriorate there having been a negative trend over the last 5 years.

- Educational outcomes achieved at the other local secondary schools to which pupils would be transferred are considerably higher than at CCHS. With careful and sensitive planning the closure of CCHS and transition of pupils to new schools should not have a negative impact on the pupils. There is considerable potential to impact positively on attainment in the short term with, for example, wider course choice and larger year group numbers allowing pupils to be grouped in different ways.
- The tracking of young people's attainment would continue to take place through our current use of standardised assessments in literacy and numeracy, at P4, P7 and S2, through tracking of progress throughout the academic year and in measuring progress in terms of outcomes in national qualifications. In addition, a range of qualitative indicators would be used including the views of both young people and their parents.
- The Department will work very closely with the management teams and staff within CCHS and the receiving schools to ensure that the transition and integration process is as effective as possible and that any disruption to the pupils and families affected by the changes is minimised.
- The school has the lowest secondary school roll in the city of just 200 pupils at the start of the 2012/13 session; the roll has been declining for many years and is expected to decrease further in the next few years to a low of 158.
- The school has an occupancy rate of just 33%, again the lowest in the city, and is expected to decrease further in the next few years to a low of 26%.
- In 2011/12, only 31% of the CCHS catchment population attended their catchment non-denominational school, with 69% choosing other schools, most of which were in the local area.
- There are sufficient spare spaces available in other local schools in the short to medium term to accommodate the pupils who currently attend the school and also those who would be expected to attend in the future. The required changes to secondary school catchment areas which are proposed for consideration are discussed in more detail in paragraph 3.4 of this report.
- Whilst the option proposed defines specific changes to the non-denominational secondary schools for pupils in the CCHS area involving either Portobello or Liberton; there is also significant spare capacity at all year stages at Holy Rood which is already the denominational catchment school for the majority of pupils in the area and would remain a further option for parents to consider.
- The cost per pupil in 2012/13 is estimated to be £10,418 compared with an average for other secondary schools in the city of £4,757.
- After taking into consideration the requirement to transfer certain budgets to the receiving schools, including positive action funding and that relating to pupils with special needs; very significant ongoing revenue cost savings of an estimated £1.3m per annum can be achieved if the school was to close.
- The significant repairs, maintenance and renewal costs relating to the existing buildings of an estimated £8.7m over a 30 year period, of which £3.5m is identified as being required over the next five years, would be avoided.
- With the exception of the 3G pitch which would be retained; there is limited existing extra-curricular use of the school buildings and a comparatively small community and adult education programme; the provision of which it is believed can be relocated to other locations in the immediate area.

3.4 Proposed Changes to Secondary Catchment Areas

- 3.4.1 The closure of CCHS would require changes to be made to the existing non-denominational secondary catchment areas. Existing denominational catchment arrangements would remain unaffected. The majority of the Prestonfield Primary School catchment area would continue to have St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School as its catchment denominational secondary school with the remaining three primary school areas continuing to have Holy Rood RC High School.
- 3.4.2 In assessing options to change the non-denominational catchment areas, consideration must be given to the extent to which any proposed alternative secondary school has the capacity to accommodate any existing, or future, pupils.
- 3.4.3 Parents will continue to have the right to exercise parental choice and apply for any alternative schools (to that proposed) which would be subject to the normal constraints of capacity being available. However, in planning school and estate capacity, any proposals for change must be based on being able to accommodate the maximum number of catchment pupils within available capacity. Of the other non-denominational secondary schools in the area, between them both Portobello and Liberton have sufficient combined spare capacity to achieve this.
- 3.4.4 Although there is considerable spare capacity at Holy Rood RC High School and this will remain as the denominational catchment school for the majority of pupils in the area; this cannot be assigned as the non-denominational catchment school for the area. Parents can exercise this as a choice for their children but non-denominational pupils cannot be required to attend a denominational school.
- 3.4.5 There is currently significant surplus capacity at both Portobello High School and Liberton High School, a position which is expected to continue in the short to medium term. Accordingly, the following is proposed as the revised non-denominational catchment school arrangements for pupils in the current CCHS catchment area:
- Pupils in the Prestonfield Primary School catchment area already have Liberton High School as a dual-feeder school (in conjunction with CCHS) and it is therefore proposed that Liberton High School becomes the sole non-denominational catchment secondary school for the area.
 - The remaining CCHS areas comprising the Niddrie Mill, Newcraighall and Castlevue Primary School catchment areas together with the area of land shown in Appendices 4 and 5 on which there are no dwellings at present and for which there is currently no designated denominational secondary school catchment, would become a *dual-catchment* area with a choice of either Portobello High School or Liberton High School.
 - The revised catchment area for Liberton High School under this proposal is shown at Appendix 4 with the revised catchment area for Portobello High School being shown at Appendix 5.
 - For pupils who live in the *dual-catchment* area, they would have a choice of attending either Portobello or Liberton as their non-denominational catchment school. The Children and Families Department will work with the school to make every effort to accommodate all requests for places. Only if all options are genuinely exhausted and there is not sufficient space at the school of first choice a place would be made available at the other *dual-catchment* school. There are a small number of non-catchment pupils who

currently attend CCHS and they would be treated in the same way as those living in the catchment area i.e. they would have *dual-catchment* status

- If there was not sufficient space in the school to meet all first choice requests, a prioritisation process would be followed with places at either Portobello or Liberton being allocated in the following order:
 1. Pupils from the existing school catchment area;
then for pupils from the existing Niddrie Mill, Newcraighall and Castlevue Primary School catchment areas together with the area of land for which there is no catchment at present, as follows:
 2. Exceptional cases; then
 3. Pupils with siblings in the school; and then
 4. Pupils without siblings in the school on the basis of the shortest safest walking distance from home to school.
and then finally:
 5. Pupils wishing to make placing requests into the school from other non-catchment school areas following the normal prioritisation process.

3.4.6 The Council would make every effort to accommodate all requests for places at the school of first choice however, if there was not sufficient space in the school to meet all requests, a place would be available at the other *dual-catchment* school.

3.4.7 Parents would also have the option of attending either Holy Rood RC High School (which will remain as the denominational catchment school for the pupils in the dual-catchment area) or making a placing request to any other secondary schools in the city subject to the normal processes for such requests being followed and there being sufficient capacity available.

3.5 Impact of Proposed Catchment Change on Receiving Schools

3.5.1 If CCHS was to close and the catchment area changed to make both Portobello High School and Liberton High School *dual-catchment* schools for the majority of the existing CCHS area as described in section 3.4, it would obviously have consequences for these schools, the impact on which has been considered.

3.5.2 It should be noted that, whilst the proposal would offer pupils places at either Portobello High School or Liberton High School, parents would still have the right to exercise parental choice and apply for an alternative school, perhaps following existing patterns.

3.5.3 The proposal involves the designation of the majority of the secondary catchment area for CCHS as *dual-catchment* to either Portobello High School or Liberton High School. For this to be feasible there must be sufficient spare capacity between the Portobello High School and Liberton High School catchment areas to cater for both existing, and projected future, pupils from the *dual-catchment* area. It assumes that the maximum roll scenario could apply to ensure that such an eventuality could be accommodated i.e. that there is no reduction in the expected pupil numbers transferring as a result of parental choice for placement requests to other schools.

3.5.4 This has been considered in detail for Portobello High School as shown in Appendix 6 and for Liberton High School as shown in Appendix 7. The conclusion for each school individually is that there would be sufficient capacity to

accommodate a transfer of either almost or all of the proposed *dual-catchment* area for CCHS to the school depending on the year in question. There is, however, projected ample combined capacity across both schools over each year at S1 stage and in total as illustrated in tables 13 and 14. The only exception is the S1 intake figures which would be marginally breached in 2020.

Table 13: Projected Future S1 Intake of Combined *Dual-Catchment* Areas

| Year | Liberton S1 Intake | Portobello S1 Intake | Combined Total | Combined S1 Intake Limit | Balance | CCHS S1 Intake |
|------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------|----------------|
| 2013 | 105 | 210 | 315 | 420 | 105 | 27 |
| 2014 | 105 | 210 | 315 | 420 | 105 | 29 |
| 2015 | 107 | 210 | 317 | 420 | 103 | 31 |
| 2016 | 109 | 210 | 319 | 420 | 101 | 33 |
| 2017 | 119 | 215 | 324 | 420 | 96 | 40 |
| 2018 | 129 | 220 | 349 | 420 | 71 | 46 |
| 2019 | 140 | 225 | 365 | 420 | 55 | 52 |
| 2020 | 151 | 230 | 381 | 420 | 39 | 59 |

Table 14: Projected Future Roll of Combined *Dual-Catchment* Areas

| Year | Liberton Roll | Portobello Roll | Combined Total | Capacity | Balance | CCHS Roll |
|------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|----------|---------|-----------|
| 2013 | 598 | 1,251 | 1,849 | 2,250 | 401 | 174 |
| 2014 | 581 | 1,219 | 1,800 | 2,250 | 450 | 154 |
| 2015 | 575 | 1,191 | 1,766 | 2,250 | 484 | 158 |
| 2016 | 577 | 1,167 | 1,744 | 2,250 | 506 | 161 |
| 2017 | 592 | 1,165 | 1,757 | 2,250 | 493 | 183 |
| 2018 | 623 | 1,176 | 1,799 | 2,250 | 451 | 209 |
| 2019 | 658 | 1,191 | 1,847 | 2,250 | 403 | 237 |
| 2020 | 702 | 1,211 | 1,913 | 2,250 | 337 | 273 |

- 3.5.5 In light of the potential for additional numbers of pupils to move to Liberton High School, the condition and suitability of the existing buildings has also been reviewed and considered as shown at Appendix 8.
- 3.5.6 A detailed condition survey of the existing Liberton building(s) was undertaken during July 2012 to assess the condition of the building fabric and the associated services. The survey identified estimated total repair, maintenance and renewal costs over a 30 year period of £13.7m, of which £3.6m was identified as being required over the next five years.
- 3.5.7 Within the current Asset Management Works Capital Budgets for properties within the Children and Families Estate there is currently provision for funding of approximately £534,000 in respect of planned works to Liberton High School over the 2012/13 and 2013/14 financial years. The condition survey identified areas of particular priority which will be discussed in detail with the school to assess the adequacy of the existing budget provision and ensure that any funding already allocated is directed towards the highest priority areas.

- 3.5.8 The position regarding the existing Portobello High School is more complex. It has been the intention to build the new Portobello High School on part of Portobello Park however this was the subject of an ongoing legal challenge which culminated in a judgment on 12 September from the Inner House of the Court of Session which concluded that the Council did not have the power to do this.
- 3.5.9 A report will be taken to the next scheduled meeting of the Council on Thursday, 25 October and this will consider two key questions; what legal options are available to build the new school on Portobello Park and what alternative site options are available in the event that this does not, ultimately, prove to be possible.
- 3.5.10 Whilst there is no doubt regarding the requirement to build a new school as soon as possible; there will now be a further delay to this being achieved. Whilst considerable investment has already been made in the school over the last few years to undertake any essential repairs and maintenance works; the position is now being reviewed again with the school to identify any further works which may be necessary in light of the expected further delay in a new school being opened.
- 3.5.11 Should there be considered to be any gaps in the existing funding provision for Liberton High School and/or the necessity for any urgent repairs or maintenance works to be undertaken at Portobello High School this will be reported back to Elected Members in due course on conclusion of the consultation process. It is, however, important to note that the works at both schools would be required irrespective of any proposal to close CCHS albeit that, if there was a significant increase in the number of pupils in the schools, this might accelerate the necessity for certain works to be undertaken.

3.6 Home to School Transport

- 3.6.1 An assessment has been undertaken of the potential walking routes between CCHS and Liberton High School; the proposed new denominational catchment school for the existing CCHS catchment area. Three main routes were identified as shown in Appendix 9. Of the three potential routes only one via Peffermill Road/Gilmerton Road is considered to be a safer route. The distance between the two schools following this route is 4.2km or 2.6 miles.
- 3.6.2 The existing Council policy relating to the provision of free home to school transport for secondary school pupils is that, for a pupil to qualify for free transport, the distance between their home address and their catchment school based on the most suitable walking route must be greater than 3 miles.
- 3.6.3 Were CCHS to close and Liberton High School was chosen as the preferred *dual-catchment* school then pupils from the eastern half of the catchment area would be eligible for free transport under the 3 mile distance criteria using the identified route via Peffermill Road/Gilmerton Road. There are an estimated 73 pupils currently attending CCHS who might be eligible. However, this would still leave a significant number of pupils who currently attend CCHS with a considerably longer distance to travel to school than they have at present were they to choose to attend Liberton.
- 3.6.4 The existing Lothian Bus routes have been reviewed and potential issues identified regarding the frequency of the services provided and also constraints regarding the actual routes and proximity to Liberton High School which would result in either long journey times and/or additional long walking distances.

Existing bus links to the Liberton area are poor and even connections to the main bus routes serving Liberton and the city centre are poor.

- 3.6.5 In recognition of the issues identified with the existing bus routes and the considerable longer distances which would be involved for pupils to travel to Liberton it is, therefore, proposed that dedicated bus service(s) would be established to transport any pupils from the proposed new *dual-catchment* area (who wished to attend Liberton) from their home (via established pick-up points) to Liberton High School. This would extend to those who were eligible for free transport under the Council 3 mile qualifying distance policy with any choosing to attend Liberton also benefiting from a place on the bus on a grace and favour basis in recognition of the very unique circumstances which arise on this occasion.
- 3.6.6 For secondary school pupils in receipt of free home to school transport, this is ordinarily met through the provision of a bus pass allowing pupils to use existing Lothian Bus routes to get to school. The annual cost of a bus pass is approximately £225 which, for the maximum 174 pupils estimated to be eligible in 2013/14, would equate to a total cost of £39,150 per annum.
- 3.6.7 Obviously the numbers of pupils involved and the associated costs will be dependent on the number of pupils who choose Liberton High School as their new school. Using the cost of providing bus passes as a base and assuming the provision of bus services would be at a slightly higher cost, an estimate of £50,000 per annum has been used if all 174 pupils were to chose Liberton High School as their new school.
- 3.6.8 There are a number of pupils from the Niddrie Mill, Newcraighall and Castlevie Primary School catchment areas who already attend Portobello High School. No home to school transport issues are anticipated were CCHS to close and Portobello High School was chosen as the preferred *dual-catchment* school for any pupils.

3.7 Existing CCHS Community Use

- 3.7.1 In light of the associated sensitivities and the inability to discuss matters in detail with the staff concerned, Senior Managers from Community Learning and Development have undertaken an initial analysis of the current extra-curricular use of the school including the community and adult education programme and how, and where, such activity would be re-provided were the school to close.
- 3.7.2 Initial analysis has suggested that the level of existing use is low as exemplified by the very limited range of vocational and non-vocational classes offered as part of the advertised adult education programme for the current school term.
- 3.7.3 The initial analysis has also concluded that it should be entirely feasible to re-provide either all, or the vast majority, of the existing provision which is delivered within the school building at other nearby locations such as the Jack Kane Centre or Castlevie Community Centre.
- 3.7.4 The outdoor facilities available at the existing school comprise two grass pitches which attract no charge but are not in very good condition; the other being a 3G pitch which was provided several years ago by PARC. The 3G pitch does not belong to the school and is run by a local community group who manage the facility and set letting charges. The pitch brings in around £11,000 towards the existing school's income target from lets.

- 3.7.5 It is proposed that, unless a potential alternative use for them is identified, the existing school buildings be demolished once the school is closed which would result in potential issues regarding how the 3G pitch (and the grass pitches if they are well used and would benefit from retention) were managed and what access to changing facilities was available. A potential solution could involve the use of the adjacent Castlevue Community Centre which may require some limited capital works to upgrade existing facilities.
- 3.7.6 Should Committee approve the proposal to consult on the closure of the school; this area will be assessed fully in consultation with the appropriate staff and other relevant parties. This matter would also form part of the intended consultation process with the school and local community to determine what existing services should be re-provided and how that would be best achieved. This will also assess any further savings which may be possible from the additional budget of £0.188m which the school receives in relation to the provision of community related services in its capacity as being one of the eight community high schools within the city. The outcomes would be reported back to Elected Members on conclusion of the consultation process.

3.8 Existing CCHS School Buildings

- 3.8.1 If the closure of the school was approved; in light of the significant ongoing costs and risks associated with retaining them unless a potential alternative use is identified for them the existing buildings would be demolished at the earliest opportunity.
- 3.8.2 In light of the sensitivities associated with such a proposal, no costings have yet been sought. A rough approximation based on the projected costs associated with the demolition of existing James Gillespie's Campus buildings as part of the project to replace that school is up to £0.5m. This would include the removal of any asbestos within the buildings.
- 3.8.3 Should Committee approve the proposal to consult on the closure of the school; a detailed survey and estimate will be sought regarding the costs to demolish the existing buildings. The outcome would be reported back to Elected Members on conclusion of the consultation process.
- 3.8.4 The responsibility for any demolition costs for the current school buildings and with whom any value which would be realised from the potential redevelopment of the existing school site would rest requires further discussion with PARC. This is intrinsically related to their current consideration of the future direction for the regeneration of the Craigmillar area and the intended location for a new school which will form an integral part of any proposals.

3.9 A Future New Secondary School in the Craigmillar Area

Background

- 3.9.1 The need for top quality educational and learning opportunities through the delivery of a new High School and public library has, for many years, been seen as being central to the regeneration of the Craigmillar area of the city. Whilst new homes can be built in the area; education and learning has always been seen as the driving force behind creating a sustainable, long-lasting and vibrant local community.

- 3.9.2 A new school was originally intended to form an important part of the redeveloped Craigmillar town centre, and be based at a new site off Niddrie Mains Road. Together with the proposed public library and new sports facilities, it was to be at the very heart of the regeneration of the Craigmillar area, serving a wide range of needs for the entire community. As well as providing a first class educational facility, the school and library was also seen as being of major benefit for the wider community, providing opportunities for education, recreation and entertainment in the evenings and the weekends.
- 3.9.3 The proposed new facilities would have seen the replacement of the existing Castlebrae Community High School. The delivery of the new school and related facilities was originally identified as one of the community benefits that PARC were to deliver to the Council with the investment requirements being fully met by PARC. One of the key community benefits; the provision of two new primary schools (the combined campus of Niddrie Mill and St Francis primaries) in the area, was delivered and opened to pupils in August 2008. A detailed design was also progressed for the new high school facilities involving extensive consultation with the local community.
- 3.9.4 Part of the rationale for providing a new high school was the provision of places for pupils generated from the new housing anticipated throughout the Craigmillar area. The timescales for any investment in the school require to be related to the numbers of new houses being developed in the area.
- 3.9.5 At present, the delivery of new housing has slowed (but with some signs of resurgence). Longer term, over 2,500 new houses are still proposed for development in the Castlebrae catchment area by PARC and via private housing developer on land at Greendykes. This could, once completed, result in the catchment population increasing from 729 pupils to over 1,000 pupils. However, given the status of the current housing market it is difficult to determine when these houses will be delivered; this is considered in more detail in Appendix 3.
- 3.9.6 The new Craigmillar Library was subsequently incorporated into the new East Neighbourhood Office which is currently under construction and will be situated at the heart of the new Craigmillar Town Centre. This will serve the local neighbourhood in purpose-built accommodation that will replace a number of old premises that are no longer fit for purpose. As well as bringing staff together from several Council departments and partner agencies, the building will provide a new community space, with a large modern library delivering a range of activities for all ages. The new hub supports the ongoing regeneration of Craigmillar and will be a key focal point.
- 3.9.7 With regard to the planning situation, the previous master-plan for the regeneration of the area showed the school in a town centre location, although planning permission for the school design was never sought as the project was put on hold due to the economic down-turn. The rationale for the replacement of the school was to give it a more prominent location in Craigmillar to endeavour to make it a more popular choice for its catchment population and for it to be a significant contributor to the town centre. A statutory consultation exercise under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 was conducted in 2002 on this basis and concluded that the intended site in the town centre was the best location.
- 3.9.8 PARC has advised they are currently considering the future direction for the regeneration of the Craigmillar town centre and that a new community high school remains a critical part of their master plan for the Craigmillar town centre which was granted planning permission by the Council at the start of 2009. PARC is

currently reviewing the bids of potential development partners who will be delivering the new town centre, and an announcement will be made on the preferred partner by early 2013. The intended location for a new school will form an integral part of any proposals. In the event that any change is proposed to the previously agreed and approved site for a new school, a new statutory consultation process under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 would require to be undertaken.

Scope for New School and Cost of Delivery

- 3.9.9 The originally proposed new Craigmillar High School (and Community Library) was designed for a core roll of 600, with vocational accommodation for a further 100 learners. The building design had an expansion strategy to accommodate a further 300 if, and when, required to take the capacity to 900.
- 3.9.10 The total Gross Internal Floor Area for the building in the original design was 12,928m², which included provision for a community library and shared community facilities. The project was progressed to detailed design stage in November 2008 but planning permission was not sought as the project was put on hold. The cost of the project was previously estimated to be approximately £32m.
- 3.9.11 Since the original design for the proposed new Craigmillar High School (and Community Library) was undertaken; the space metrics which the Council applies to its new schools have changed and the construction cost of new buildings has also reduced significantly. Whilst the scope of the project requires to be re-considered and has already changed with the subsequent removal of the library; the current cost of the project at today's prices (excluding any increase due to future construction price inflation) would be in the order of £18m using the following key assumptions:
- A capacity of 700 as before; based on 600 pupils and a further 100 vocational learners;
 - A total learning space allocation of 9,100m² and the original space allocation for shared community facilities of 395m² with the space originally assigned to the proposed library having been removed as that facility has been provided in a different way; and
 - On this basis, total space for the new building would be 9,495m² to which a construction cost of £1,900/m² is applied based on construction prices as at Q2 2011.
- 3.9.12 This is a broad approximation and should be considered to be only very indicative. Site specific factors could easily result in a higher cost and the figure of £18m also excludes any cost inflation which would arise between Q2 2011 and the date when the new school is actually constructed which could be significant. The extent of the additional cost involved could only be determined with any degree of certainty once we are clearer on when a new school will be required and what the scope of the facilities provided therein will be.
- 3.9.13 The scope of the new school and associated community facilities will need to be carefully considered at the appropriate time and consultation undertaken with the local community. Looking forward to a new school in the Craigmillar area, it would be essential that this would be a rich learning environment for pupils to provide excellent educational outcomes. Opportunities may exist to create a city-wide resource within the new school, perhaps as a centre of excellence in an area such

as science, which may benefit regeneration activity already planned in the Craigmillar area.

- 3.9.14 A new secondary school is still seen as being a significant contributor to the success of the regeneration, symbolising investment in renewal and the future regeneration of Craigmillar. Whilst a new school remains as a priority, a number of key issues remain outstanding with regards to location, as well as the scope of the intended new school and associated community facilities. As well as this there is a need to fully determine the current plans for housing development in the Craigmillar area, when this housing will be occupied and, critically, what funding is available for the new school from the latest business plan for the regeneration of Craigmillar.
- 3.9.15 There is no funding currently identified in the Children and Families Department Capital Investment Programme for a new school. The funding requirement from the Council has still to be determined and will be incorporated into the Capital Investment Programme as a priority at the appropriate time but is expected to be reduced considerably by a contribution from the development of Craigmillar. PARC has confirmed that it is hoped that proceeds from the town centre development – which also includes a major new food store, more shops homes and a new town square – will contribute to the delivery of the new community high school, together with investment anticipated to come from the Council.

Timing for a New School

- 3.9.16 In assessing the proposed closure of CCHS, consideration has been given to projected future school rolls in the area and at what point the secondary school capacity which would remain in the area following the closure of CCHS would be insufficient to accommodate demand. This is very complex and is dependent on a number of variables which are, by their nature, inherently difficult to predict with any degree of certainty including the schools to which CCHS pupils would actually transfer, the impact of declining and then rising secondary rolls and new pupil generation from expected housing developments.
- 3.9.17 There is expected to be sufficient spare capacity within the other secondary schools in the area to accommodate the closure of Castlebrae in the short to medium term.
- 3.9.18 The projections undertaken suggest that it would be approximately 2019 when the total secondary capacity in the area could be breached however not by a significant margin and other short term solutions might be available to deal with any such demand which arose at the time.
- 3.9.19 There would be a lead time of several years to initiate the project to deliver a new school in advance of when it was actually required. Whilst the necessity to initiate such a project is not expected to arise in the next few years; the projections will be kept under regular review.
- 3.9.20 At the time in the future when it becomes necessary to initiate the project to deliver a new school the appropriate consultation will be undertaken with the community regarding the school capacity, catchment area, scope of services to be provided and transition arrangements.
- 3.9.21 The intention to deliver a new school in the Craigmillar area in future years when significant anticipated new housing is built and the secondary school capacity in

the area is no longer sufficient to accommodate demand from the area therefore still remains.

3.10 Consultation Process

3.10.1 The consultation process which must be followed regarding the proposed closure of any school is prescribed in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. A full consultation paper will be developed in advance of the consultation process based on the proposals set out in this Report; Committee is asked to delegated authority to the Director of Children and Families to develop this paper.

3.10.2 The statutory consultees for the proposal include:

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

3.10.3 The legislation requires a minimum six week consultation period of term time during which representations on the proposal can be made. It is proposed that consultation takes place from 25 October 2012 (immediately following the conclusion of the mid-term break) to 7 December 2012. During this period a public meeting will be held with each of the four secondary schools either directly, or potentially, affected by the proposals (Castlebrae, Liberton, Portobello and Holy Rood) at a suitable venue near each school.

3.10.4 At the end of the consultation period, the Council must send to Education Scotland a copy of the proposal paper; written representations received by the authority during the consultation period (or, if agreed, a summary of representations) and a record of the public meetings.

3.10.5 Education Scotland is required to prepare a report on the educational aspects of the relevant proposals and must submit this report to the Council within three weeks (or longer if agreed). It is anticipated that their assessment would be undertaken during December 2012 and January 2013. The Council must then take account of this report in preparing the Consultation Report on the outcomes of the consultation.

3.10.6 This Consultation Report must be publicly available at least three weeks prior to its consideration by Council and notification will be given to those individuals or groups that have made representations during the consultation period. The report will include a summary of written representations received during the consultation period and representations made at the public meetings along with the Council response to representations made. It is anticipated that the consultation report will be presented to a meeting of the Council on 14 March 2013 setting out final recommendations.

- 3.10.7 Should the Council approve the closure of Castlebrae Community High School, then Scottish Ministers would have six weeks from the date of the Council decision to decide whether to call in the proposals for determination. Should Scottish Ministers decide not to call in the proposals, then the Council could enact the decision. Based on a Council decision being taken on 14 March 2013, the six week potential call in period would conclude on 26 April 2013.
- 3.10.8 The determination of placing requests for the August start of session is undertaken during the preceding April. Whilst the final outcome regarding the proposal will not be determined until the end of April 2013; the numbers of pupils involved are sufficiently small to allow the management of any necessary reallocation of places for the August 2013 start of session to be undertaken.

4 Financial Implications

Revenue Cost Savings

- 4.1 Net annual recurring revenue cost savings of an estimated £1.302m have been identified as being achievable as a result of the proposal to close Castlebrae Community High School the details of which are shown in Table 15.

Table 15: Gross Annual Revenue Savings

| | 2012/13 Budget (£'000) | Recurring Savings (£'000) | Budget Transferred (£'000) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| Teaching Staff | 1,365 | 736 | 629 |
| Non-Teaching Staff | 352 | 299 | 53 |
| Premises | 94 | 94 | - |
| Other Costs | 36 | (14) | 50 |
| Total Devolved School Budget | 1,847 | 1,115 | 732 |
| Rates | 105 | 105 | - |
| Cleaning | 117 | 117 | - |
| Grounds Maintenance | 15 | 15 | - |
| Total School Budget | 2,084 | 1,352 | 732 |
| Additional school transport costs | | (50) | |
| Net Annual Recurring Savings | | 1,302 | |

- 4.2 In arriving at the net savings the following key assumptions have been made:
- No potential alternative use for the existing school buildings exists and they would be demolished as soon as possible following closure allowing current property related costs such as rates to cease and any potential new costs which may be required (were the buildings to remain) such as security to be avoided;
 - It is conceivable that efficiencies could be achievable in the overall level of non-promoted teachers required if small numbers of pupils could be accommodated within existing class groups at other schools. Whilst alternative non-denominational *dual-catchment* schools have been identified as part of the proposals; parents will have the opportunity to exercise their

parental choice rights to choose a different school to that identified for their child subject to sufficient space being available at the intended school.

- It will be very important to ensure that the needs of pupils are fully met therefore it has been assumed that the full budget for non-promoted teaching staff would transfer to the receiving schools. Once the distribution of pupils to schools is known with certainty the required level of additional teaching resource to fully meet their needs can, and will, be assessed.
- Any necessary budgets would transfer to the receiving secondary schools. In addition to the above noted provision for teaching costs; other related costs such as consumables, provision for curricular travel, examination fees, etc. would also move to the receiving schools. Existing positive action funding and specific resources allocated for learning support within the existing CCHS budget would be transferred.
- No savings have been assumed from the additional budget of £0.188m which the school receives in relation to the provision of community related services in its capacity as being a community high school.
- It has been assumed that all staff affected by the proposal would be re-deployed.

Capital

- 4.3 Should this proposal proceed, the existing school site would become surplus. The responsibility for any demolition costs for the current school buildings, and with whom any value which would be realised from the potential redevelopment of the existing school site would rest, requires further discussion with PARC. This is intrinsically related to their current consideration of the future direction for the town centre and the intended location for a new school which will form an integral part of any proposals. Should Committee approve the proposal to consult on the closure of the school this matter will be considered in detail and reported back to Elected Members on conclusion of the consultation process.
- 4.4 Although not quantified as a saving as no provision for such works is included in any existing Council capital investment programme budget, it should be noted that, based on an assessment of the existing condition of the existing CCHS buildings which would not be retained, it has been estimated that a repairs and maintenance pressure of approximately £3.5m over the next five 5 years will be avoided.
- 4.5 There are a number of areas where further clarification is required regarding the extent of any further expenditure which might be considered necessary in support of these proposals, these include:
- Any expenditure necessary to support the re-provision of existing extra curricular activities;
 - The demolition costs for the existing buildings; and
 - Any investment required for any further repairs, maintenance or replacement works considered necessary at either Portobello High School and/or Liberton High School.
- 4.6 Should Committee approve the proposal to consult on the closure of the school these areas will be considered in detail and reported back to Elected Members on conclusion of the consultation process together with the proposed sources of funding for any additional costs which may be required which could be from

existing Asset Management Works budgets or through financing by prudential borrowing.

5 Equalities Impact

- 5.1 The closure of the school would impact in a number of areas which come under our equalities impact assessment process. Within the equalities impact assessment guidelines, the areas which are likely to see an impact are in the following categories - carers, disability, gender, race and social class.
- 5.2 The gathering of information, consultation with the local community and monitoring of outcomes, which are essential parts of the equalities impact assessment, will form an integral part of the planned consultation process.

6 Environmental Impact

- 6.1 The proposal to close Castlebrae Community High School should have a beneficial environmental impact in that it would result in one less school building to heat and maintain. There would be a reduction in energy consumption with less carbon emissions assisting the Council to meet its carbon emission targets.
- 6.2 There is the opportunity to re-use and rationalise furniture, materials and equipment across the rest of the school estate assisting with resource use policies. There is spare capacity at Liberton, Portobello and Holy Rood High Schools and larger school rolls would make more effective use of these buildings.
- 6.3 An increase in the level of free home to school transport would result in an increase in carbon emissions although this is not expected to be significant.
- 6.4 There is potential for the development of housing on the existing CCHS site.

7 Conclusions

- 7.1 Consideration has been given to the future of Castlebrae Community High School. The pupils in the school continue to experience very poor educational outcomes and, with by far the smallest roll in the city of 200 pupils (an occupancy level of 33%) which is expected to decline further over the next few years to a low of 158 in 2015, the position is unsustainable.
- 7.2 This paper seeks approval to consult on a proposal to close Castlebrae Community High School with effect from the end of the 2012/13 school year following which, unless a potential alternative use for them is identified, the existing buildings would be demolished at the earliest opportunity.
- 7.3 There is spare capacity in the other secondary schools in the local area which could accommodate both the existing, and projected future, school roll from the Castlebrae Community High School catchment area. A significant number of pupils already choose to attend other secondary schools in the area; with most attending Holy Rood RC High School.
- 7.4 It is proposed that the existing CCHS catchment area would be transferred to the Liberton High School catchment for the current Prestonfield Primary School area and, for the remainder, to a *dual-catchment* arrangement to either Portobello High School or Liberton High School which, between them, have sufficient spare capacity to absorb it. However, there will be considerable choice open to parents in the area regarding other options; including anticipated significant spare capacity

at all year stages in Holy Rood which is already the denominational catchment school for the majority of pupils in the area.

- 7.5 If approved, the proposal would result in an improvement in the educational outcomes for the pupils; generate revenue savings of approximately £1.3m per annum and avoid necessary capital expenditure of £3.5m over the next five years.
- 7.6 The proposal will be subject to a full statutory consultation process in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 7.7 In the longer term it remains the expectation, and intention, to build a new high school to serve the Craigmillar area when significant anticipated new housing is built and secondary school capacity in the area is no longer sufficient to accommodate catchment demand.

8 Recommendations

8.1 Committee is requested to:

- a) Approve that statutory consultation is carried on the proposed closure of Castlebrae Community High School as set out in this report;
- b) Approve that the statutory consultation includes any related secondary school catchment changes arising from the proposal;
- c) Delegate authority to the Director of Children and Families to develop a detailed consultation paper on the basis of the proposals outlined in this report;
- d) Approve that the statutory consultation should be undertaken, to commence on 25 October 2012, once schools resume from the mid-term break;
- e) Note that it is the intention to return to a future meeting of the Full Council for a decision on the proposal;
- f) Note that the proposal will require Scottish Ministers approval prior to implementation should the Council decide to proceed;
- g) Note that, in the longer term, it remains the expectation, and intention, to build a new high school to serve the Craigmillar area; and
- h) Note that the use to which any revenue cost savings which would arise as a result of any the proposed closure would be considered as part of the Council budget setting process.

Gillian Tee
Director of Children and Families

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Appendices | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Current Castlebrae Community High School Catchment Area2. Castlebrae Community High School Feeder Primary Schools3. Potential Future Housing Development in the Castlebrae Area4. Proposed Revised Portobello High School Catchment Area5. Proposed Revised Liberton High School Catchment Area6. Portobello High School – Impact of Proposed Changes to Catchment Areas7. Liberton High School – Impact of Proposed Changes to Catchment Areas8. Condition and Suitability of Existing Liberton High School Buildings9. Potential Walking Routes From Castlebrae Community High School to Liberton High School |
| Contact/tel | Mike Rosendale, Head of Schools and Community Services Billy MacIntyre, Head of Resources |
| Wards affected | Leith; Leith Walk; Craigmillar/Duddingston; Portobello/Craigmillar; Liberton/Gilmerton; Southside/Newington |
| Background Papers | None |

CURRENT CASTLEBRAE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA



APPENDIX 2

CASTLEBRAE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL FEEDER PRIMARY SCHOOLS

1 Overview

- 1.1 CCHS has four feeder primary schools, one of which (Prestonfield) has dual feeder status with Liberton. In the 2011/12 school year there were 729 pupils in the catchment area with the analysis by feeder primary in Table 1 showing those attending non-denominational (ND) and denominational (D) secondary schools.

Table 1: Pupils in the CCHS Catchment Area (2011)

| PS Catchment | ND | D | Total | %ND | %D |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Niddrie Mill | 192 | 136 | 328 | 59% | 41% |
| Castleview | 147 | 69 | 216 | 68% | 32% |
| Newcraighall | 37 | 47 | 84 | 44% | 56% |
| Prestonfield | 57 | 44 | 101 | 56% | 44% |
| Totals | 433 | 296 | 729 | 59% | 41% |

2 Niddrie Mill Primary School Catchment Area

- 2.1 This is the largest feeder primary catchment area with 328 pupils but only the second largest source of pupils at CCHS (107) as more pupils in the catchment attend Holy Rood (132). There is also a considerable loss to Portobello (72) which is readily accessible from the north side of the catchment area.

Table 2: Secondary School Pupils in the Niddrie Mill PS Catchment Area

| School Attended | No of Pupils | % of Pupils |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Holy Rood RC | 132 | 40% |
| Castlebrae | 107 | 33% |
| Portobello | 72 | 22% |
| Other | 17 | 5% |
| Total | 328 | 100% |

3 Castleview Primary School Catchment Area

- 3.1 This is the largest source of pupils for CCHS attracting 114 pupils. CCHS is located in the centre of the catchment so is well placed to serve pupils, hence the higher intake. Holy Rood is the second choice of school for 31% of catchment pupils and it is closer than Portobello for most, if not all, pupils in the catchment area.

Table 3: Secondary School Pupils in the Castleview PS Catchment Area

| School Attended | No of Pupils | % of Pupils |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Castlebrae | 114 | 53% |
| Holy Rood RC | 68 | 31% |
| Portobello | 10 | 5% |
| Other | 24 | 11% |
| Total | 216 | 100% |

4 Newcraighall Primary School Catchment Area

- 4.1 Newcraighall has a small catchment of only 84 pupils of which over half choose to attend Holy Rood. This high percentage may partly be due to some pupils being eligible for free transport. A further 27 attend Portobello through placing requests. In accordance with the Data Protection Act the number attending CCHS has not been separately disclosed as it is less than 5.

Table 4: Secondary School Pupils in the Castlevie PS Catchment Area

| School Attended | No of Pupils | % of Pupils |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Holy Rood RC | 47 | 56% |
| Portobello | 27 | 32% |
| Castlebrae and Other | 10 | 12% |
| Total | 84 | 100% |

5 Prestonfield Primary School Catchment Area

- 5.1 Prestonfield also has a small catchment of just over 100 pupils. The catchment is dual feeder and pupils have the option of attending either Liberton or CCHS. Unlike the other primary school catchments in the Castlebrae catchment area, the Prestonfield area is served by St Thomas of Aquin's RC rather than Holy Rood RC. The largest number of pupils (40) choose to attend their denominational catchment school and a further 34 pupils make placing requests to James Gillespie's and Boroughmuir. As a consequence, the number of pupils actually going to Liberton is low (19) and to CCHS is negligible (in accordance with the Data Protection Act the number has not been disclosed as it is less than 5).

Table 5: Secondary School Pupils in the Prestonfield PS Catchment Area

| School Attended | No of Pupils | % of Pupils |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| St Thomas of Aquin's RC | 40 | 40% |
| James Gillespie's | 20 | 20% |
| Liberton | 19 | 19% |
| Boroughmuir | 14 | 14% |
| Castlebrae and Other | 8 | 7% |
| Total | 101 | 100% |

APPENDIX 3

POTENTIAL FUTURE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE CASTLEBRAE AREA

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Within the CCHS catchment area there is additional provision for over 2,500 new dwellings which, if all were developed, could bring over 300 secondary school pupils into the area based on 60% of the new dwellings being houses, the remaining 40% being flats.
- 1.2 However, some sites may not come forward and other sites could be delayed or delivered over several years. This analysis makes an assessment of the estimated potential future housing development in the CCHS catchment area in the period to 2020 and the impact which this would have on the secondary pupil catchment population.

2 Planned and Committed Housing Developments

- 2.1 Over the last 10 years some 1,400 dwellings have been built in the CCHS catchment area mainly on redevelopment sites. The average over the last five years has been 125 dwellings per annum compared with 155 per annum for the first five years. Most development has been by PARC and by Housing Associations with limited involvement of the large private house-builders.
- 2.2 The Edinburgh City Local Plan identified three main areas in Craigmillar to help the local regeneration process which are as follows:
 - North of Niddrie Mains Road
 - Greendykes
 - New Greendykes
- 2.3 The area north of Niddrie Mains Road has attracted most new development with 226 units completed and 58 units nearing completion. There are still sizeable areas of undeveloped land, although this includes the area currently reserved for a new High School.
- 2.4 South of Niddrie Mains Road, the former residential area of Greendykes has been largely cleared of housing apart from the high rise flats. A development of 92 dwellings was completed by PARC in 2010 and 21 Century Homes will go on site in late 2012 with 60 units but there is scope for a further 700 dwellings to be built on the vacant land.
- 2.5 South of Greendykes lies new Greendykes where greenfield land is allocated for over 1,000 dwellings. Most of the site has planning permission and Persimmon and Taylor Wimpey plan to start on site with the aim of delivering 40 house completions per annum from 2014 onwards however this is still subject to funding arrangements being in place and site works have still to begin.
- 2.6 At Newcraighall, permission in principle has been granted for two separate developments totalling some 345 dwellings however the sites have still to be marketed and taken forward by developers which could take several years.

- 2.7 Table 1 provides an indicative assessment showing the expected housing to be delivered in each area (analysed between houses and flats) together with the number expected to be completed in the period to 2020.

Table 1: Housing Sites in the Craigmillar Area

| Location | Developer | Houses | Flats | Total | Estimated Completions 12/13-19/20 |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Wauchope Terrace | PARC | 20 | 38 | 58 | 58 |
| Thistle Foundation | PfP | 40 | 92 | 132 | 90 |
| Greendykes | PARC | 350 | 350 | 700 | 190 |
| Niddrie Mains | PARC | 116 | 243 | 359 | 310 |
| New Greendykes | Persimmon/Taylor Wimpey | 634 | 400 | 1,034 | 300 |
| Newcraighall N/E | EDI/Dalrymple | 270 | 75 | 345 | 150 |
| Totals | | 1,430 | 1,198 | 2,628 | 1,098 |

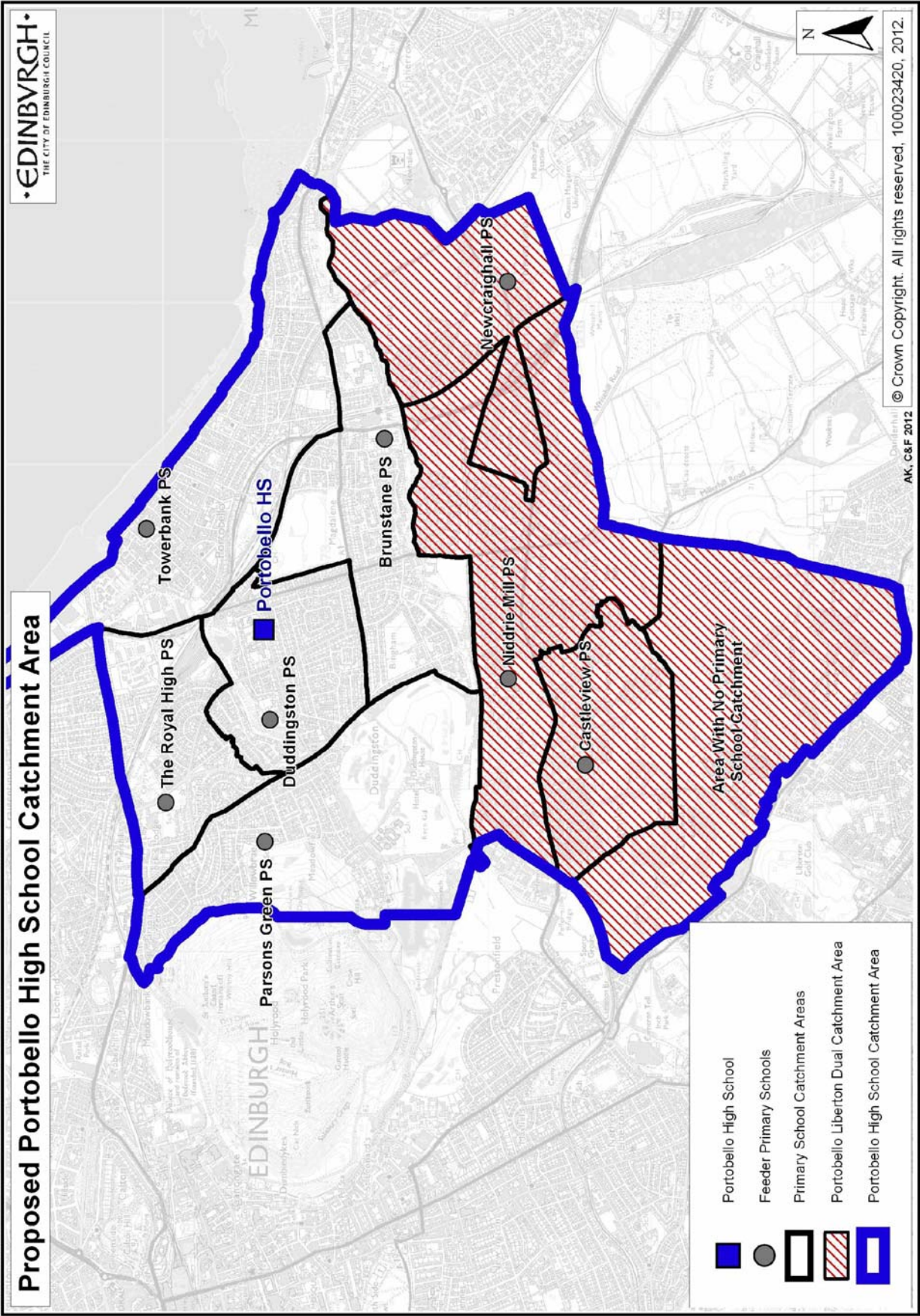
- 2.8 The analysis shows that almost 1,100 dwellings are predicted to be delivered by 2020 which averages around 140 per year. This average is similar to that achieved for the last 10 years, although for the first 5 years the focus in Craigmillar was on demolition and the second five years included the worst of the economic down-turn.
- 2.9 Whilst residential development is still slow and uncertain, the drive to regenerate Craigmillar along with the involvement of the private sector in New Greendykes and Newcraighall means the prediction of 1,100 units by 2020 is realistic. This is slightly less than half of the land capacity but it is likely the remaining capacity will developed in the 10 years beyond 2020.

3 Predicted Secondary School Pupils from Development

- 3.1 Using established pupil to house ratios for houses (0.18) and flats (0.03) that are applied city-wide and taking account of average RC pupil generation, it is estimated that the CCHS catchment area secondary pupil population could increase by around 125 pupils by 2020.
- 3.2 This depends on the predicted new development taking place and assumes a greater provision of houses rather than flats. If private development stalls then pupil generation is likely to be lower, but if private development takes off then pupil generation would probably be higher.

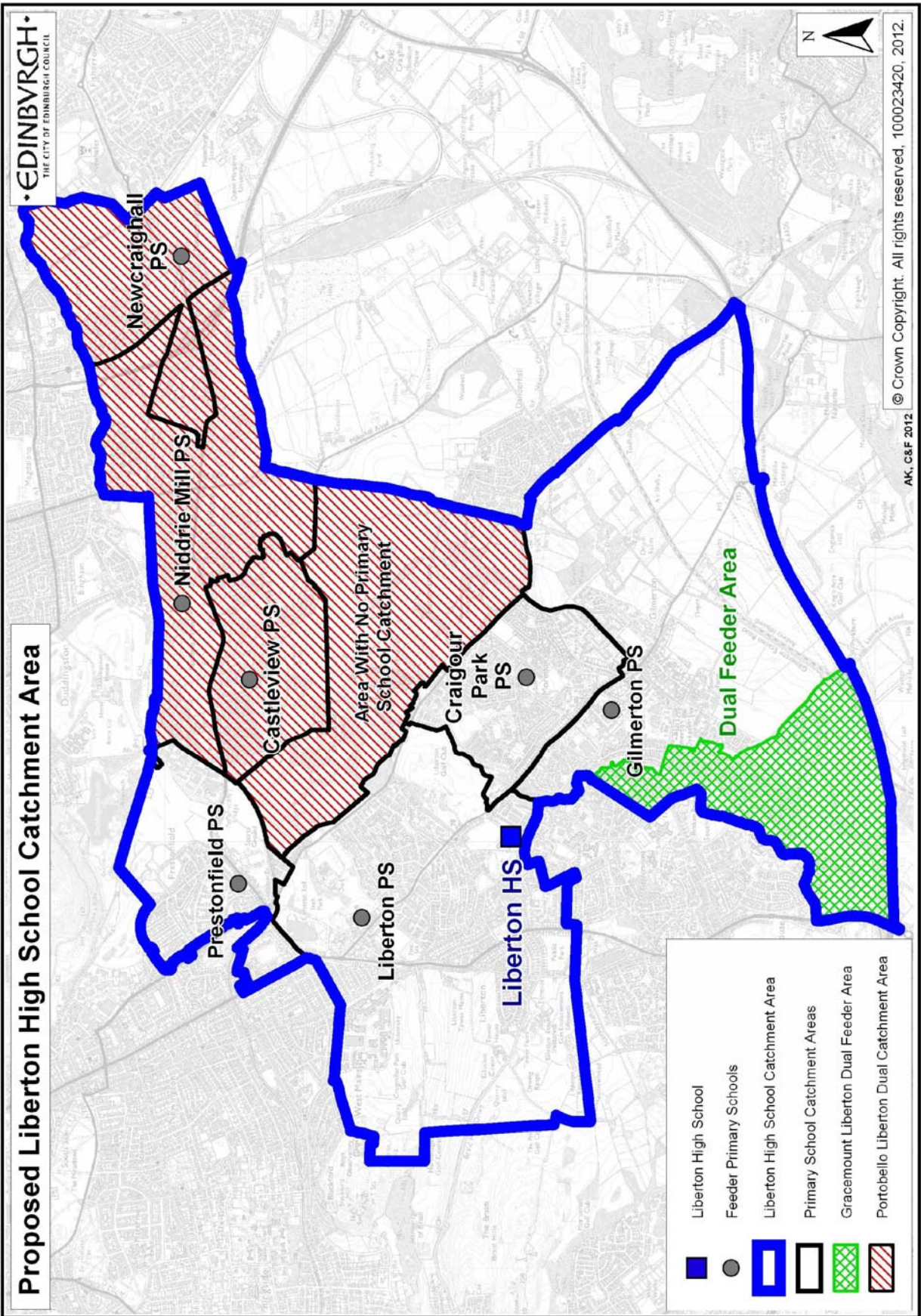
APPENDIX 4

PROPOSED REVISED PORTOBELLO HIGH SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA



APPENDIX 5

PROPOSED REVISED LIBERTON HIGH SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA



APPENDIX 6

PORTOBELLO HIGH SCHOOL - IMPACT OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO CATCHMENT AREAS

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposal for a change of denominational catchment secondary school area involves Portobello High School, together with Liberton High School, being one of two *dual-catchment* schools which would cover the existing secondary catchment area for CCHS (other than Prestonfield Primary) together with an area of local land to which no secondary catchment area is currently allocated.
- 1.2 For this to be feasible there must be sufficient spare capacity between the Portobello High School and Liberton High School catchment areas to cater for both existing, and projected future, pupils from the *dual-catchment* area.
- 1.3 The position for the Portobello High School catchment area alone is considered in this analysis. It should, however, be stressed that this analysis is based on the projected position which would arise were all CCHS catchment pupils to seek places at Portobello as their first choice *dual-catchment* school.
- 1.4 This is shown for illustrative purposes only and is not expected to be the actual outcome. Pupils could and are expected to seek, and be successful in securing, either a place at Liberton as their first choice *dual-catchment* school, a place at their denominational catchment school of Holy Rood or placing requests to other schools. It is expected that number of parents would choose for their child to attend another school through one of these alternative routes; any such shift to other schools would obviously reduce the totals shown in the analysis which follows.

2 Existing CCHS Pupils

- 2.1 With a capacity of 1,400 pupils, Portobello High School has an S1 intake limit of 260 pupils. There are 5 feeder primary schools in the current Portobello High School catchment area – Towerbank, Brunstane, Duddingston, The Royal High and Parsons Green.
- 2.2 In the 2011/12 school year there were 1,438 pupils in the catchment area with the analysis by feeder primary being shown in Table 1 below; in each case the total pupil numbers are also analysed between those attending non-denominational (ND) and denominational (D) secondary schools. Holy Rood is the catchment denominational secondary school for the area and 18% of pupils attend denominational schools.

Table 1: Pupils in the Portobello High School Catchment

| PS Catchment | ND | D | Total | %ND | %D |
|----------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Towerbank | 333 | 79 | 412 | 81% | 19% |
| Brunstane | 251 | 61 | 312 | 80% | 20% |
| Duddingston | 223 | 42 | 265 | 84% | 16% |
| The Royal High | 194 | 46 | 240 | 81% | 19% |
| Parsons Green | 181 | 28 | 209 | 87% | 13% |
| Total | 1,182 | 256 | 1,438 | 82% | 18% |

- 2.3 In the 2011/12 school year there were 1,182 pupils in the catchment area attending non-denominational schools; with the capacity of the school being 1,400 there is spare capacity.
- 2.4 Based on the provisional figures for September 2012, the S1 intake is 209 and the school roll is 1,305 leaving 95 spare places and headroom of 51 within the S1 intake limit. It should be noted that the data for 2012 is provisional although any further variation is not expected to be significant.
- 2.5 Whilst the catchment data is not available for 2012; the 2011 data identified that the vast majority of pupils (78%) are drawn from the local catchment with the majority of non-catchment pupils being drawn from CCHS (8%) and Leith Academy (7%).
- 2.6 An estimate of the future rolls for 2013/14 by year stage has been undertaken for both CCHS and Portobello High School based on the 2012 roll data and taking into consideration the expected S1 intake based on primary school catchment numbers and the expected catchment retention rate; any new pupils arising from anticipated housing developments and expected stay on rates for S5 and S6.
- 2.7 This is shown in Table 2 and assumes that all existing CCHS pupils would choose Portobello as their first choice *dual-catchment* school and that no pupils would seek, and be successful in securing, either a place at Liberton as their first choice *dual-catchment* school, a place at their denominational catchment school of Holy Rood or placing requests to other schools.

Table 2: Placement of Castlebrae Pupils at Portobello High School for 2013/14

| School | S1 | S2 | S3 | S4 | S5 | S6 | Total |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Castlebrae | 27 | 23 | 39 | 42 | 30 | 13 | 174 |
| Portobello | 210 | 209 | 220 | 244 | 214 | 154 | 1,251 |
| Total | 237 | 232 | 259 | 286 | 244 | 167 | 1,425 |

- 2.8 The analysis shows that, if CCHS did close with effect from July 2013 then almost all existing pupils at the school who would have been expected to remain at the school in 2013/14, together with the expected S1 intake to CCHS had it remained open, could be accommodated at Portobello High School. In the S1 intake there would be headroom of 23 against the S1 intake limit of 260 but some potential issues in the upper year stages.

3 Future Potential Pupils

- 3.1 An exercise has been undertaken to predict what the future roll of Portobello would be beyond 2013 if the entire existing CCHS catchment area was transferred to it. This considered the impact of the expected decline in secondary pupil numbers over the period to 2016 following by a period of rising rolls and also incorporated the impact of any projected housing developments in the combined area. The projected combined roll is shown in Table 3 and the S1 intake position in Table 4.

Table 3: Projected Future Roll of Combined Portobello High School/CCHS Areas

| Year | Portobello Roll | CCHS Roll | Combined Total | Capacity | Balance |
|------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|----------|---------|
| 2014 | 1,219 | 164 | 1,383 | 1,400 | (17) |
| 2015 | 1,191 | 158 | 1,349 | 1,400 | (51) |
| 2016 | 1,167 | 161 | 1,328 | 1,400 | (72) |
| 2017 | 1,165 | 183 | 1,348 | 1,400 | (52) |
| 2018 | 1,176 | 209 | 1,385 | 1,400 | (15) |
| 2019 | 1,191 | 237 | 1,428 | 1,400 | 28 |
| 2020 | 1,211 | 273 | 1,484 | 1,400 | 84 |

Table 4: Projected Future S1 of Combined Portobello High School/CCHS Areas

| Year | Portobello S1 Intake | CCHS S1 Intake | Combined Total | S1 Intake Limit | Balance |
|------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|
| 2014 | 210 | 29 | 239 | 260 | (21) |
| 2015 | 210 | 31 | 241 | 260 | (19) |
| 2016 | 210 | 33 | 243 | 260 | (17) |
| 2017 | 215 | 40 | 255 | 260 | (5) |
| 2018 | 220 | 46 | 266 | 260 | 6 |
| 2019 | 225 | 52 | 277 | 260 | 17 |
| 2020 | 230 | 59 | 289 | 260 | 29 |

- 3.2 The above analysis shows the position if the entire current pupil cohort from CCHS and any pupils who would have been expected to attend CCHS in the future attended Portobello High School.
- 3.3 This analysis suggests that in the period up to 2020 either all, or in later years, the vast majority of the combined capacity of the projected Portobello and existing CCHS catchment areas could be accommodated in Portobello High School.
- 3.4 It should, however, be noted that this analysis assumes that all CCHS catchment pupils seek places at Portobello as their first choice *dual-catchment* school. Pupils could seek, and be successful in securing, either a place at Liberton as their first choice *dual-catchment* school, a place at their denominational catchment school of Holy Rood or placing requests to other schools. It is expected that number of parents would choose for their child to attend another school through one of these alternative routes; any such shift to other schools would obviously reduce the totals shown in the analysis above.

4 New Housing Developments

- 4.1 In producing the forecast data above, the impact of any anticipated new housing development in the areas and the expected level of pupil generation arising from it has been taken into consideration. The projected position for the Castlebrae area is detailed in Appendix 3.
- 4.2 Regarding the Portobello area, there is limited new development planned in the area.

APPENDIX 7

LIBERTON HIGH SCHOOL - IMPACT OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO CATCHMENT AREAS

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposal for a change of denominational catchment secondary school area involves Liberton High School being the sole catchment school for the existing Prestonfield Primary School area and in addition, together with Portobello High School, being one of two *dual-catchment* schools which would cover the remainder the existing secondary catchment area for CCHS together with an area of local land to which no secondary catchment area is currently allocated.
- 1.2 For this to be feasible there must be sufficient spare capacity between the Portobello High School and Liberton High School catchment areas to cater for both existing, and projected future, pupils from the *dual-catchment* area.
- 1.3 The position for the Liberton High School catchment area alone is considered in this analysis. It should, however, be stressed that this analysis is based on the projected position which would arise were all CCHS catchment pupils to seek places at Liberton as their first choice *dual-catchment* school.
- 1.4 This is shown for illustrative purposes only and is not expected to be the actual outcome. Pupils could and are expected to seek, and be successful in securing, either a place at Portobello as their first choice *dual-catchment* school, a place at their denominational catchment school of Holy Rood or placing requests to other schools. It is expected that number of parents would choose for their child to attend another school through one of these alternative routes; any such shift to other schools would obviously reduce the totals shown in the analysis which follows.

2 Existing CCHS Pupils

- 2.1 With a capacity of 850 pupils, Liberton High School has an S1 intake limit of 160 pupils. The S5 and S6 stay on rates at Liberton are below the city-wide average which would tend to keep numbers slightly below capacity even were maximum S1 intakes being achieved.
- 2.2 There are 4 feeder primary schools in the current Liberton High School catchment area with the Prestonfield Primary School catchment area being dual feeder with CCHS and part of the Gilmerton Primary School catchment being dual feeder with Gracemount High School.
- 2.3 In the 2011/12 school year there were 1,297 pupils in the catchment area with the analysis by feeder primary being shown in Table 1 below; in each case the total pupil numbers are also analysed between those attending non-denominational (ND) and denominational (D) secondary schools. Holy Rood is the catchment denominational secondary school for the area and 20% of pupils attend denominational schools, which is above the city average.

Table 1: Pupils in the Liberton High School Catchment

| PS Catchment | ND | D | Total | %ND | %D |
|---------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Craigour Park | 365 | 80 | 445 | 82% | 18% |
| Gilmerton | 361 | 60 | 421 | 86% | 14% |
| Liberton | 249 | 81 | 330 | 75% | 25% |
| Prestonfield | 57 | 44 | 101 | 56% | 44% |
| Total | 1,032 | 265 | 1,297 | 80% | 20% |

- 2.4 In the 2011/12 school year there were 1,032 pupils in the catchment area attending non-denominational schools; with the capacity of the school being 850 there is a loss of pupils to the surrounding schools. With dual catchments there tends to be a higher loss where two schools are competing for the same catchment pupils; in this case Gracemount High School tends to draw pupils from the area.
- 2.5 Based on the provisional figures for September 2012, the S1 intake is 95 and the school roll is 635 leaving 215 spare places and headroom of 65 within the S1 intake limit. It should be noted that the data for 2012 is provisional although any further variation is not expected to be significant. Whilst the catchment data is not available for 2012; the 2011 data identified that the vast majority of pupils (87%) are drawn from the local catchment.
- 2.6 An estimate of the future rolls for 2013/14 by year stage has been undertaken for both CCHS and Liberton High School based on the 2012 roll data and taking into consideration the expected S1 intake based on primary school catchment numbers and the expected catchment retention rate; any new pupils arising from anticipated housing developments and expected stay on rates for S5 and S6.
- 2.7 This is shown in Table 2 and assumes that all existing CCHS pupils would choose Liberton as their first choice *dual-catchment* school and that no pupils would seek, and be successful in securing, either a place at Portobello as their first choice *dual-catchment* school, a place at their denominational catchment school of Holy Rood or placing requests to other schools.

Table 2: Placement of Castlebrae Pupils at Liberton High School for 2013/14

| School | S1 | S2 | S3 | S4 | S5 | S6 | Total |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Castlebrae | 27 | 23 | 39 | 42 | 30 | 13 | 174 |
| Liberton | 105 | 95 | 116 | 118 | 99 | 65 | 598 |
| Total | 132 | 118 | 155 | 160 | 129 | 78 | 772 |

- 2.8 The analysis shows that, if CCHS did close with effect from July 2013 then all existing pupils at the school who would have been expected to remain at the school in 2013/14, together with the expected S1 intake to CCHS had it remained open, could be accommodated at Liberton High School without the capacity of the school being exceeded or any year stage breaching the 160 intake limit. In the S1 intake there would be headroom of 28 against the S1 intake limit.

3 Future Potential Pupils

- 3.1 An exercise has been undertaken to predict what the future roll of Liberton would be beyond 2013 if the entire existing CCHS catchment area was transferred to it. This considered the impact of the expected decline in secondary pupil numbers over the period to 2016 following by a period of rising rolls and also incorporated the impact

of any projected housing developments in the combined area. The projected combined roll is shown in Table 3 and the S1 intake position in Table 4.

Table 3: Projected Future Roll of Combined Liberton High School/CCHS Areas

| Year | Liberton Roll | CCHS Roll | Combined Total | Capacity | Balance |
|------|---------------|-----------|----------------|----------|---------|
| 2014 | 581 | 164 | 745 | 850 | (105) |
| 2015 | 575 | 158 | 733 | 850 | (117) |
| 2016 | 577 | 161 | 738 | 850 | (112) |
| 2017 | 592 | 183 | 775 | 850 | (75) |
| 2018 | 623 | 209 | 832 | 850 | (18) |
| 2019 | 658 | 237 | 895 | 850 | 45 |
| 2020 | 702 | 273 | 975 | 850 | 125 |

Table 4: Projected Future S1 of Combined Liberton High School/CCHS Areas

| Year | Liberton S1 Intake | CCHS S1 Intake | Combined Total | S1 Intake Limit | Balance |
|------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|
| 2014 | 105 | 29 | 134 | 160 | (26) |
| 2015 | 107 | 31 | 138 | 160 | (22) |
| 2016 | 109 | 33 | 142 | 160 | (18) |
| 2017 | 119 | 40 | 159 | 160 | (1) |
| 2018 | 129 | 46 | 175 | 160 | 15 |
| 2019 | 140 | 52 | 192 | 160 | 32 |
| 2020 | 151 | 59 | 209 | 160 | 49 |

- 3.2 The above analysis shows the position if the entire current pupil cohort from CCHS and any pupils who would have been expected to attend CCHS in the future attended Liberton High School.
- 3.3 This analysis suggests that in the period up to 2020 either all, or in later years, the vast majority of the combined capacity of the projected Liberton and existing CCHS catchment areas could be accommodated in Liberton High School.
- 3.4 It should, however, be noted that this analysis assumes that all CCHS catchment pupils seek places at Liberton as their first choice *dual-catchment* school and the probability of this scenario arising is considered to be low.
- 3.5 Pupils could seek, and be successful in securing, either a place at Portobello as their first choice *dual-catchment* school, a place at their denominational catchment school of Holy Rood or placing requests to other schools. It is expected that number of parents would choose for their child to attend another school through one of these alternative routes; any such shift to other schools would obviously reduce the totals shown in the analysis above.

4 New Housing Developments

- 4.1 In producing the forecast data above, the impact of any anticipated new housing development in the areas and the expected level of pupil generation arising from it

has been taken into consideration. The projected position for the Castlebrae area is detailed in Appendix 3.

- 4.2 Regarding the Liberton area, a new city-wide Local Development Plan (LDP) is being prepared with a view to publication in 2013. This plan will be required to make minimum provision for an extra 1,000 houses in the south east area of the city mainly via greenfield land release. Most of the housing sites are expected to fall in the Liberton High School catchment area. Although the location and size of sites has still to be finalised through the LDP, it is expected that development will start coming forward by 2015 and the assumption is that 10 extra pupils will be generated per annum thereafter with a total of 60 extra pupils by 2020.

APPENDIX 8

CONDITION AND SUITABILITY OF EXISTING LIBERTON HIGH SCHOOL BUILDINGS

1 Condition Survey

- 1.1 A survey of the existing Liberton High School building(s) was undertaken during July 2012 to assess the condition of the building fabric and the associated services. This involved undertaking detailed surveys of the internal areas of the property, external areas, curtilage, landscaping and also mechanical and electrical services.
- 1.2 The building was assessed as achieving a score of 71 out of 100 falling within Category B under the Scottish Government School Estate Core Facts guidance which is described as 'Satisfactory – Performing adequately but showing minor deterioration.' The building surveyors concluded that the buildings are in a fair condition but that there were a number of areas where repair, maintenance or replacement works were required.

2 Estimated Costs

- 2.1 The building surveyors identified the costs associated with repair, maintenance and replacement works which they considered to be necessary over a 30 year period but stress that these are very much estimates which would require to be validated once the detailed specification for any necessary works was determined. There were some areas to the high level roof which were inaccessible to survey.
- 2.2 The estimated total costs over a 30 year period are £13.7m which are detailed in Table 1 below; of this total £3.6m is identified as being required over the next five years. Only the base costs were identified by the surveyors to which provision has been added for the necessary preliminaries, professional fees and contingency. In all cases, these costs are based on current prices and exclude any provision for future construction inflation.

Table 1: Estimated Repair, Maintenance and Replacement Works at Liberton

| | Year 1-5 £'000 | Year 6-15 £'000 | Year 16-30 £'000 | Total £'000 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Base costs from survey report | 2,714 | 3,019 | 4,602 | 10,335 |
| Preliminaries @ 12.5% | 339 | 377 | 575 | 1,291 |
| Professional Fees @ 10% | 271 | 302 | 460 | 1,033 |
| Contingency @ 10% | 271 | 302 | 460 | 1,033 |
| Totals | 3,595 | 4,000 | 6,097 | 13,692 |

3 Suitability

- 3.1 The other related factor in determining the ongoing acceptability of any school is its suitability which assesses the extent to which a school building and its grounds are appropriate in providing an environment which supports quality learning and teaching and those other services provided to individual children and to the school community, in terms of practicality, accessibility and convenience.
- 3.2 In accordance with the Scottish Government School Estate Core Facts guidance Liberton High School was assessed as having a rating of B which is described as

'Satisfactory – Performing well but with minor problems (the school buildings and grounds generally support the delivery of services to children and communities)'.

- 3.1 This assessment was undertaken several years ago before the introduction of Curriculum for Excellence and may have since changed. The costs noted in Table 1 above incorporate no provision for any works which may be considered necessary to make improvements in the suitability of the buildings.

APPENDIX 9

POTENTIAL WALKING ROUTES FROM CASTLEBRAE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
TO LIBERTON HIGH SCHOOL

