

Education Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 10 December 2013

Consultation on Proposal for the Establishment of a Nursery Class at Wardie Primary School

Item number	7.10
Report number	
Wards	Forth

Links

Coalition pledges	P4 , P5
Council outcomes	CO1 , CO2
Single Outcome Agreement	SO3

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Executive summary

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek authority from Committee to consult on a proposal to establish a new nursery class at Wardie Primary School. The report explains the rationale for, and the implications arising from, the proposal and sets out the consultation process and the means and timescales for making representations.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Education, Children and Families Committee:

1. Approves that statutory consultation is carried out on the proposed establishment of a new nursery class at Wardie Primary School based on the rationale set out in this report;
2. Approves that the statutory consultation process should commence start on 16 December 2013; and
3. Notes that the outcome of the consultation will be reported to full Council on 1 May 2014.

Measures of success

The establishment of a new nursery class at Wardie Primary School will result in:

- more nursery places to meet the increased demand for nursery provision in the City of Edinburgh Council area;
- more availability of free nursery provision from 475 hours to 600 hours a year in August 2014 for all three and four-year-olds of set out in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill;
- additional choice for parents in an area where council nursery provision is currently limited but where demand is high; and
- increased opportunities for improved learning experiences for children in line with Curriculum for Excellence across the early level.

Financial impact

The capital funding of an estimated £774,000 required to deliver the new nursery was approved by Council on 2 May 2013 and is included within the Children and Families Capital Investment Programme.

The staffing cost of the new nursery class will be funded from the additional allocation to the General Revenue budget from the Scottish Government for the implementation of the increased entitlement of early learning and childcare.

Equalities impact

There are no negative equality or human rights impacts arising from this report. The location of additional resources within Wardie Primary School will provide additional choice and improved access to nursery provision for children and their parents.

Sustainability impact

There are no impacts on carbon, adaptation to climate change or sustainable development arising directly from this report. Whilst the proposal would see the addition of a new nursery building, the purpose is to create additional accommodation to meet demand. The new building would be designed to minimise the impact on carbon emissions and energy consumption.

Consultation and engagement

The Council is required to carry out a formal statutory consultation regarding the proposed opening of an education service under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. A detailed Consultation Paper has been prepared which is attached at Appendix 1.

Background reading / external references

[Edinburgh's Early Years Strategy and Action Plan](#)

[Early Years Strategy Progress Report May 2013](#)

[Report to Council on 2 May 2013 approving capital funding](#)

Consultation on Proposal for the Establishment of a Nursery Class at Wardie Primary School

1. Background

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek authority from Committee to consult on a proposal to establish a new nursery class at Wardie Primary School. The report explains the rationale for, and the implications arising from, the proposal and sets out the consultation process and the means and timescales for making representations. The proposed detailed Consultation Paper is included at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The proposals in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill set out a requirement to expand free nursery provision from 475 hours to 600 hours a year in August 2014 for all three and four-year-olds and for two year olds who are, or have been at any time since turning two, looked after or subject to a kinship care order. This is likely to increase demand for the provision of nursery places in the city
- 1.3 The City of Edinburgh Council Early Years Strategy that was launched in January 2010 sets out a vision and long term commitment to improve the life chances for children, supporting the coalition agreement to ensure every child has the best start in life.
- 1.4 Under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Council is required to consult on proposals for the establishment of a new stage of education in a school such as a nursery class.

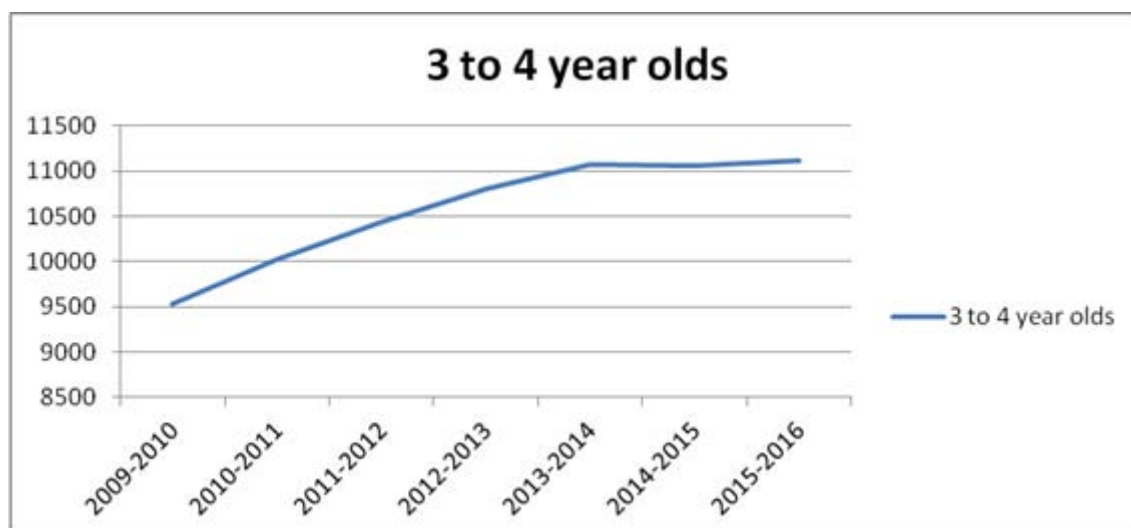
2. Main report

- 2.1 The Consultation Paper in Appendix 1 details the number of places that are currently available in the area and the number of places that are required.

Demographic Trends

- 2.2 The proposed new nursery would help address an increase demand in nursery provision in the City of Edinburgh Council area where births have averaged over 5,500 per annum in the five years from 2008 - 2012. In the five years prior to this, the average was approximately 4,700. This means a predicted rise in the numbers of children from 2013/14 onwards from 9,400 in 2009/10 to 11,000 in 2013/14 (a 17% increase). Figure 1 shows the existing and predicted number of three and four year olds in the city.

Figure 1 – Number of three and four year olds in the city



- 2.3 This increase is stretching capacity across the city and extra provision is needed to cater for demand. Wherever possible, the number of local authority nursery places has been increased to meet this demand. However, there are restrictions in the capacity of some nursery buildings, limiting the option of increasing nursery places. Overall, the number of places has increased by approximately 10% over 2012/13.
- 2.4 One of the aims of the strategy is to develop integrated, flexible services to provide effective learning and childcare for all children and families. To help deliver this aim the Council's stated ambition is to ensure that each neighbourhood, community or cluster has access to integrated, flexible early years services.

Wardie/Granton/Newhaven Area

- 2.5 In order to realise this vision, resources have been re-aligned and includes the proposal to provide a new nursery in this area where demand for additional provision is particularly high. The proposed nursery will provide improved access to early years provision for parents and children living in the vicinity of Wardie.
- 2.6 Wardie Primary School was extended by three classes from the start of the 2013/14 school year to cater for increased demand due to increased birth rate in the city which resulted in a higher primary 1 intake. This development follows on from this extension to the school.
- 2.7 Granton Primary School to the west operates a 60/60 nursery, but demand for places is high and current staffing provision is made for the nursery to operate at full capacity.
- 2.8 The nearest partner provider nursery is Wardie Nursery, which lies some 150 metres to the north. The nursery is a registered charity and is run by a management committee. It caters for pre-school children aged three to five years and is registered for 35 children. The nursery will continue to operate and provide the families in the area with a choice of services.

Financial Considerations

- 2.7 The capital funding of an estimated £774,000 required to deliver the new nursery was approved by Council on 2 May 2013 and is included within the Children and Families Capital Investment Programme.
- 2.8 The staffing cost of the new nursery class will be funded from the additional allocation to the General Revenue budget from the Scottish Government for the implementation of the increased entitlement of early learning and childcare.

Consultation Process

- 2.9 The legislation requires a minimum six week term-time consultation period during which representations on the proposal can be made. It is proposed that the consultation period will take place over a period of eight weeks from Monday, 16 December 2013 to Wednesday, 12 February 2014 and the paper will be made available electronically and in paper format.
- 2.9 The consultation process is set out in detail in Section 8 of the detailed Consultation Paper included at Appendix 1.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Education, Children and Families Committee:

- 3.1 Approves that statutory consultation is carried out on the proposed establishment of a new nursery class at Wardie Primary School based on the rationale set out in this report;
- 3.2 Approves that the statutory consultation process should commence start on 16 December 2013; and
- 3.3 Notes that the outcome of the consultation will be reported to full Council on 1 May 2014.

Gillian Tee

Director of Children and Families

Links

Coalition pledges	P4. Draw up a long-term strategic plan to tackle both over-crowding and under use in schools P5. Seek to ensure the smooth introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence and that management structures within our schools support the new curriculum
Council outcomes	CO1. Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed CO2. Our children and young people are successful learners,

**Single Outcome
Agreement
Appendices**

confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities

SO3. Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential

4. Consultation Paper: Proposal for the Establishment of a Nursery Class at Wardie Primary School

Consultation Paper: Proposal for the Establishment of a Nursery Class at Wardie Primary School

1. Introduction, Context and Rationale

- 1.1 This consultation paper sets out the rationale and the implications from the proposal to establish a nursery class at Wardie Primary School. The paper also sets out the consultation process and the means and timescales for making representations.
- 1.2 A report has already been taken to Education Children and Families Committee on the 21 May 2013 agreeing funding for the proposal and the commissioning of a feasibility study on how best to deliver the proposal.
- 1.3 Wardie Primary School is located in the north side of the city and currently provides education for children from Primary 1 to Primary 7. The school is a 17 class organisation with a capacity of 476 pupils. The current school roll is 435.
- 1.4 Under the terms of the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010, the Council is required to consult on proposals for the establishment of a new stage of education in a school such as a nursery class.

Format of Consultation Paper

- 1.5 The consultation paper is divided into the following sections:

- 1 Introduction, Context and Rationale
- 2 The Proposal
- 3 Wardie Nursery Class – Case for new provision
- 4 Education Benefits Statement
- 5 Accommodation Considerations
- 6 Financial Considerations
- 7 Rationale for the Establishment of a Nursery Class at Wardie Primary School
- 8 Public Consultation Process

- Appendix A** Map 1: Location of Primary Schools, Nursery Classes and Partner Providers
Map 2: Map of Wardie Primary School

Rationale

- 1.6 There is greater demand for extra nursery places on the north side of city.
- 1.7 It is considered that extra demand would be best delivered through the establishment of a new nursery class at Wardie Primary School.
- 1.8 The number of partner provider nurseries is limited in this area.
- 1.9 Higher birth rates are resulting in greater demand for early years services.
- 1.10 Following the agreement of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill the early learning and childcare provision will increase to 600 hours per year which may increase demand on existing early years facilities.

Nursery Capacity

- 1.11 In the consultation paper reference is made to the building capacity of the nursery, the number of nursery places that are made available through staffing allocations and the number of children (the roll) that attend the nursery.
- 1.12 Reference is made to the composition of nursery places. Part-time places may be morning (am) and afternoon (pm). For comparative purposes, nursery places are also counted as full-time equivalents (FTE). A nursery can apply flexibility in the provision of part-time to reflect demand and to utilise the staffing levels that have been made.

Making Representations

- 1.13 Comments on this paper should be submitted at the latest by close of business on **Wednesday, 12 February 2014** to the address set out in Section 8 of this paper. A public meeting detailed in Section 8, will be held as follows:

Venue	Date	Time
Wardie Primary School	27 January 2014	6 pm – 7.30pm

2. The Proposal

2.1 The proposal is that:

- A nursery class will be established at Wardie Primary School for the start of the 2015-16 school year;
- The nursery class will be provided via a new build, in a separate building adjoining the school linked by a corridor;
- The nursery class will provide a maximum of 40 FTE places (or 40 morning places and 40 afternoon places);

- The nursery class will provide an exciting learning environment, a separate room for meetings and parents groups and activities as well as a separate outdoor learning and play area;
- The nursery class will be managed by the Headteacher of Wardie Primary School and staffed in line with current or future staffing models and in line with the Care Inspectorate regulations;
- The proposed nursery class is additional to existing nursery provision in the Wardie area to cater for increased demand and there are no proposals to reduce preschool provision locally;
- A feasibility study has been undertaken to cost the proposal and identify the most suitable location for the nursery class;
- Planning permission and other necessary consents will be sought in 2014 to facilitate the opening of the nursery for August 2015

2.2 Funding provision will be made for the nursery to operate as a 40/40 facility but actual numbers will depend on demand for places. The demand will be monitored and adjusted as necessary to best serve the needs of children and families.

2.3 There are no catchment boundaries associated with nursery provision and any parent can apply for a place at the nursery class subject to availability. It is expected that application for places will start being taken from November 2014. Parents also have the choice of applying to any other nursery school or nursery class or partner provider nursery in the City.

3. Case for Establishment of a Nursery Class at Wardie PS

Location

3.1 Wardie Primary School lies on the north side of the city and serves the Wardie neighbourhood. Map 1 in Appendix 1 shows the location of the school and other schools, nursery classes and partner provider nurseries in the Granton/Wardie/Newhaven area.

Nursery Provision in Wardie/Granton/Newhaven Area

3.2 The Local Authority nurseries that are located around Wardie Primary School are consistently oversubscribed.

3.3 Granton Primary School to the west operates a 60/60 nursery, but demand for places is high and current staffing provision is made for the nursery to operate at full capacity.

- 3.4 To the east lie Trinity and Victoria primary schools and neither school runs a nursery class although Fort Early Years Centre and Bonnington Primary School further to the east provide Council run nursery accommodation.
- 3.5 There are five partner provider nurseries within half a mile radius of Wardie Primary school. Table 1 illustrates the current capacities within the partner provider nurseries

Table 1: Current Position in Partner Provider Establishments

Nursery	Numbers of children currently attending	Spaces available
Trinity Nursery	24	0
Edinburgh Academy	26	0
Edzell	26	0
Trinity Tots	18	0
Wardie	31	0
Total	125	0

- 3.6 Table 2 illustrates the current capacities within the area and demand for places within the Council run establishments in the area.

Table 2: Current Position in Council Run Establishments

Nursery Class	Building Capacity	Staffing Capacity	Numbers of Children Currently Attending		Forecast Demand for the full academic session 2013/2014
Granton PS	120 children 60am/60pm	6 FTE	52	35	114
Holy Cross RC PS	80 children (40am/40pm)	4 FTE	38	32	96
Total	200 children	10 FTE	90	67	210

- 3.7 The total number of FTE places made available with the allocation of staffing resources across the area is 100 FTE. This will allow capacity for 200 children. The forecast demand for the total year is 210 although we cannot be sure that all of these children will require the provision until the start of the summer term in April 2014.

Proposed Nursery Capacity and Proposed Staffing Allocation

- 3.8 The proposed capacity of Wardie Nursery Class is 40 full time places (or 80 part-time places). The proposed staffing allocation made for 2015/16 is in line with current or future staffing models and in line with the Care Inspectorate regulations.

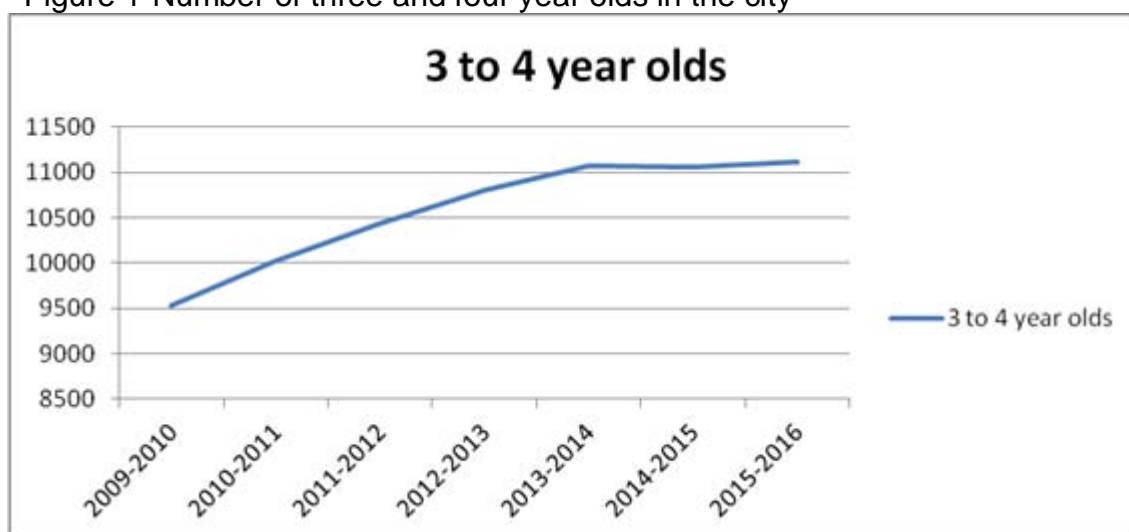
4 Educational Benefits Statement

4.1 This section considers the implications of the establishment of a nursery class at Wardie Primary School and the educational benefits that would flow from the proposal.

Demographic Trends

4.2 The proposed nursery will help address an increase demand in nursery provision In the City of Edinburgh Council area, births have averaged over 5,500 per annum in the five years from 2008-2012. In the five years previous to this, the average was approximately 4,700. This is resulting in a predicted 11,000 three-four year olds from 2013-14 onwards compared to 9,400 in 2009/10 (a 17% increase). Figure 1 shows the existing and predicted number of 3 and 4 year olds.

Figure 1-Number of three and four year olds in the city



4.3 This increase is stretching capacity across the city and extra provision is needed to cater for demand. Wherever possible, the number of local authority nursery places has been increased to meet this demand. There are however restrictions in the capacity of some nursery buildings, limiting the option of increasing nursery places. Overall, the number of places has increased by approximately 10% over 2012-13

Scottish Government Strategy for Early Years Provision

4.4 The proposals in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill sets out a requirement to expand free nursery provision from 475 hours to 600 hours a year in August 2014 for all three and four-year-olds and for 2 year olds who are, or have been at any time since turning 2, looked after or subject to a kinship care order this may add to pressure on the provision of nursery places in the city

The City of Edinburgh Council Early Years Strategy

4.5 The City of Edinburgh Council Early Years Strategy that was launched in January 2010 sets out a vision and long term commitment to improve the life chances for children, supporting the coalition agreement to ensure every child has the best start in life.

- 4.6 One of the aims of the strategy is to develop integrated, flexible services to provide effective learning and childcare for all children and families. To help deliver this aim the Council stated ambition is to ensure that each neighbourhood, community or cluster has access to integrated flexible early years services.

Wardie/Granton/Newhaven Area

- 4.7 In order to realise this vision resources have been re-aligned and includes the proposal to provide a new nursery in this area where demand for additional provision is particularly high. The proposed nursery will provide improved access to early years provision for parents and children living in the vicinity of Wardie.
- 4.8 Wardie Primary School was last inspected by Education Scotland in October 2010. The published report (December 2010) generally evaluated the school as being very good (see Table 3).

Table 4: Evaluation of Wardie Primary School by Education Scotland

Area being Evaluated	Evaluation
Improvements in performance	very good
earners' experiences	very good
Meeting learning needs	very good
The curriculum	good
Improvement through self-evaluation	very good

- 4.9 Taking account of the inspections at Wardie Primary School, it is considered that nursery class provision would be well served by being located at the school.

Community Considerations

- 4.10 Wardie Primary School building has an out of school club but the proposed nursery class should not affect this provision.

How the Council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects

- 4.11 Should the proposal be taken forward there may some disruption during site preparation and construction. It is proposed that the nursery will be located in standalone building rather than extend the school and this should help reduce the impact during construction.
- 4.12 The proposed site for the nursery as identified in the feasibility study encroaches on the school playing field. It is proposed that a football pitch will be located to the south of the nursery. Further planning by the school to develop the outdoor learning and play area will take place to improve the school grounds.
- 4.13 The nearest partner provider nursery is Wardie Nursery, which lies some 150 metres to the north. The nursery is a registered charity and is run by a management committee. It caters for pre-school children aged three to five years and is registered for 35 children. The nursery will continue to operate and provide the families in the area with a choice of services.

5 Accommodation Considerations

- 5.1 Wardie Primary School occupies a large site of 2.1 hectares, with the main school building lying to the west with areas of hard standing to the north and south. A playing field occupies the eastern part of the site. Land to the south of the main school has been used or is proposed to cater for future growth.
- 5.2 Wardie Primary School is now a 17 class organisation with a capacity of 476 pupils. The school was extended by 3 classes for the start of the 2013-14 school year to cater for increased demand due to increased births in the city resulting in higher P1 intakes. A further area of land is identified for a further extension if required. Map 2 provides a plan of the school and shows the area for extending the school and the area under consideration for the new nursery class. The current school roll is 435 (see Table 5) and the school is operating at over 90% occupancy.

Table 5: Wardie Primary School Roll for 2013-14

School	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total
Wardie Primary School	80	80	59	58	59	51	48	435

- 5.3 A condition survey carried out in 2012 rated the primary school as performing adequately but showing minor deterioration consistent with its construction date and use (B condition). In terms of suitability the building has been rated 'good' (B rated).
- 5.4 Based on the findings of the feasibility study, the proposed location of the nursery is on the playing field to the east of the main school buildings as shown on Map 2.

6 Financial Considerations

Cost of Proposed Works

- 6.1 A brief was produced by Children and Families for a 40/40 nursery at Wardie Primary School with associated outdoor area to comply with all necessary requirements, including the School Premises Regulations and the Care Commission.
- 6.2 A feasibility study has been undertaken to inform the location, design, costs and timescales for the project and its proposals have been mentioned elsewhere in the consultation paper.
- 6.3 The capital funding of an estimated £774,000 required to deliver the new nursery was approved by Council on 2 May 2013 and is included within the Children and Families Capital Investment Programme.

Staffing Costs

- 6.4 The staffing cost of the new nursery class will be funded from the additional allocation to the General Revenue budget from the Scottish Government for the implementation of the increased entitlement of early learning and childcare.

- 6.5 The nursery class will be managed by the existing Headteacher of Wardie Primary School. Additional funding provision for staffing will be in line with Care Inspectorate regulations.

7 Rationale for the Establishment of a Nursery Class at Wardie Primary School

- **The proposal is in line with the approved City of Edinburgh Early Years Strategy and with the Scottish Government proposals to expand free nursery education;**
- **Higher births across the city is generating greater demand for uptake of nursery places;**
- **The surrounding local authority run nurseries and partner provider nurseries are operating at capacity;**
- **A nursery with 80 places within the Wardie area will provide additional choice in an area where council nursery provision is currently limited but where demand is high;**
- **A nursery class at Wardie will provide opportunities for improved learning experiences for children across the early level of Curriculum for Excellence;**
- **Provision of a full early level within the primary school provides more opportunity for building meaningful relationships between children, parents and staff from an earlier stage**
- **Wardie Primary School has a B rated building condition**
- **Education Scotland generally rated the performance of Wardie Primary School as being very good**
- **The Headteacher will manage the proposed nursery class which will help deliver best value and make efficient use of existing staff resources**
- **Parents will still retain the option of applying for preschool education anywhere in the city;**

8 Public Consultation Process

- 8.1 It is proposed that Wardie Nursery Class will be operational for the start of the 2015-16 school year term in August 2015

8.2 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 sets out the statutory consultation requirements for the establishment of nursery at Wardie Primary School and the statutory consultees include the following:

1. Education Scotland
2. the Parent Council or combined Parent Council of any affected primary school;
3. the parents of the pupils at any affected nursery school or class;
4. the parents of any children expected to attend any of the affected nurseries;
5. the staff at any affected school and trade union representatives; and
6. affected community councils.

Consultation will also take place with children attending Wardie Primary School.

8.3 The affected primary school is Wardie Primary School and there may be some reduction in demand for Granton Primary School and at Holy Cross RC Primary school through making additional local provision.

8.4 The consultation period for the proposals paper will run for over eight weeks from Monday 16 December 2013 to Wednesday 12 February 2014 and the paper will be made available electronically and in paper format.

8.5 A public meeting will be held in respect of the proposals at the venue listed below. Free childcare and/or translation services can be provided at the public meeting if requests for these services are made to **(0131) 529 2103** no later than 13th January 2014.

Venue	Date	Time
Wardie Primary School	27 January 2014	6pm – 7.30pm

8.6 Copies of the consultation paper will be issued directly to parents and others involved. Copies of the consultation paper are also available for inspection at Wardie Primary School, Granton School, Holy Cross RC Primary School, Granton Library and at the Council offices at Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street.

8.7 At the end of the consultation period, the Council will send Education Scotland (formerly Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education) relevant documentation on the consultation process. Thereafter Education Scotland will prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal which the Council must take into account in preparing the final consultation report.

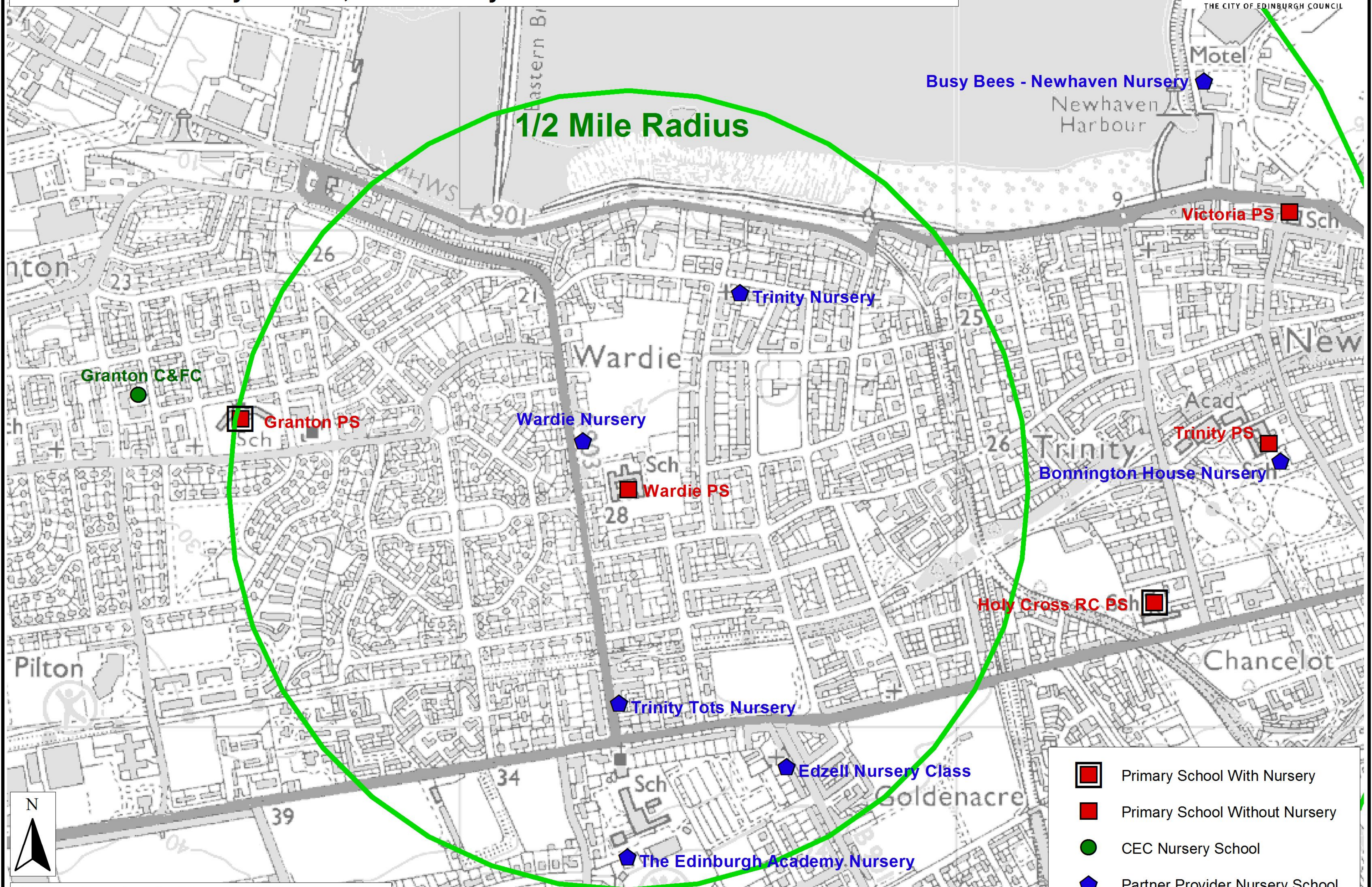
8.8 The consultation report will be made publicly available and notification will be given to those individuals or groups that have made representations during the consultation period. The report will include a summary of written representations received during the consultation period and representations made at the public meeting along with the Council response to representations made.

8.9 The Council must wait three weeks from date of publication of the consultation report before making a decision on whether to approve the proposals. It is anticipated that the consultation report will be presented to the Full Council meeting on 1 May 2014 setting out recommendations and seeking approval for the proposals.

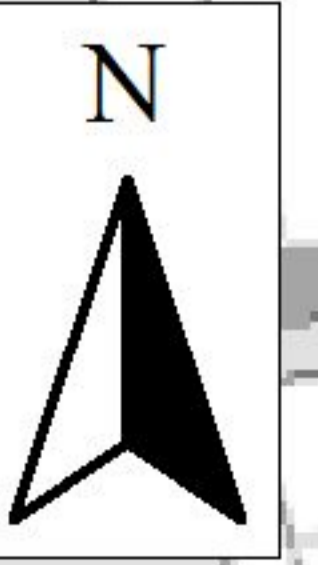
8.10 The Council website, www.edinburgh.gov.uk/educationconsultations will contain information on the consultation. During the consultation period, any views on this proposal should be sent in writing to the address given below. Responses can also be made by e-mail to earlyyears@edinburgh.gov.uk. All responses to the consultation paper should be received by Wednesday 12 March 2014 and addressed to the Director of Children and Families at the address below.

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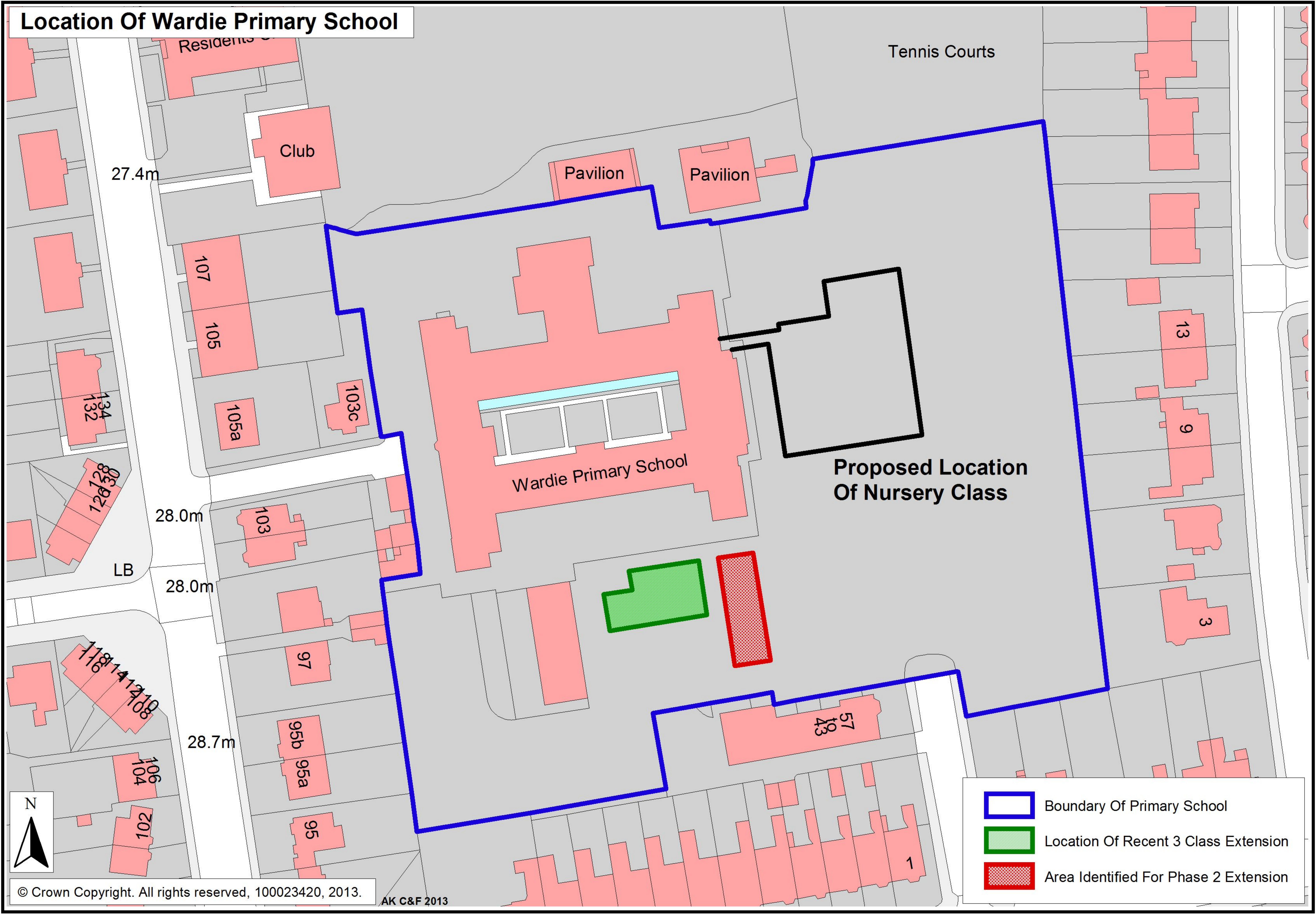
Location Of Primary Schools, CEC Nursery Provision & Partner Provider Nurseries



- Primary School With Nursery
- Primary School Without Nursery
- CEC Nursery School
- Partner Provider Nursery School



Location Of Wardie Primary School



Tennis Courts

Club

Pavilion

Pavilion

27.4m

107

105

105a

103c

Wardie Primary School

Proposed Location Of Nursery Class

13

9

28.0m

103

LB

28.0m

97

28.7m

95b

95a

95

57

43




3

106

201

1



-  Boundary Of Primary School
-  Location Of Recent 3 Class Extension
-  Area Identified For Phase 2 Extension