

# Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 22 May 2018

## Update on the Informal Consultation in West/South West Schools

Item number	7.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	<a href="#">28</a>

### Executive Summary

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Following an extensive informal consultation on the future of school infrastructure in the west and south west of Edinburgh this reports provides Committee with three options for consideration of which one should be progressed to a statutory consultation.

A detailed Outcomes of the Informal Consultation [report](#) was considered by a special Education, Children and Families Committee on 29 March 2018.

## Update on the Informal Consultation in West/South West Schools

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- 1.2 Consider the details of this report and agree which option should be taken forward to statutory consultation.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 At a meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee on 29 March 2018 a [report](#) on the Outcomes of the Informal Consultation in West and South West Edinburgh was considered. The report provided details of the informal consultation process, an assessment of the original proposal for school catchment and infrastructure changes published during the informal consultation and an assessment of three alternative options created as a response to the information received during the informal consultation.
- 2.2 The main focus of the committee meeting on 29 March 2018 was to allow elected members to listen to [deputations](#) from Parent Councils and other interested groups and ask any questions of those providing the deputations or Council officers. There were no decisions taken at this Committee about which option should be taken forward to statutory consultation.
- 2.3 Since the Committee on 29 March 2018 engagement with staff from the schools involved in the informal consultation has been progressed. A summary of the issues raised has been provided to the members on the Education, Children and Families Committee and will be made available on the informal consultation website. Further engagement has also taken place with some of the schools in the south west that did not provide a deputation to the Committee on 29 March 2018. The details of this further engagement are provided in appendix 1.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 Following consideration of the deputations on 29 March and the further engagement with staff and schools highlighted above, committee members are now asked to consider which of the three options presented in this report should be

taken forward to a statutory consultation. Plans of the three options are provided in appendix 2. These options are essentially the three alternative options presented on 29 March with the following changes:

- For all of the options while the proposed catchment areas for the new west of Edinburgh high school (or schools) and its/their feeder primary schools have been shown further assessment will now be undertaken in relation to potential school sites and necessary transport infrastructure improvements. This assessment will be aligned to the development of a West Edinburgh spatial strategy to be prepared as part of the new Local Development Plan process.
- For option 2 it is proposed that a large area of the Currie High School and Currie Primary School catchment area north of the railway line is reallocated to the catchment areas of the new high school and Sighthill Primary School. Any future statutory consultation paper proposing either of these changes would also confirm details of arrangements to allow any pupil currently living in this area and their siblings to attend current catchment schools.

3.2 A summary of the catchment changes and infrastructure requirements for each option is provided below:

**Option 1 – Status Quo. Refurbished Balerno High School and WHEC (existing community facilities retained). Replacement Currie High School. New high school/s in West Edinburgh.**

- No change to Forrester High School catchment or building capacity.
- No change to WHEC catchment or building capacity.
- Cherry Trees/Newmills area of Currie High School catchment is realigned with Balerno High School.
- Kinleith Mill area moves from Currie Primary School's catchment area to Nether Currie Primary School's catchment area.
- Balerno High School expands to 1,000 pupil capacity. Dean Park, Kirknewton and Ratho remain the feeder primary schools.
- Currie High School expands to 1,000 pupil capacity. Currie, Nether Currie and Juniper Green remain the feeder primary schools.
- Kirkliston Primary School, Hillwood Primary School and a new Maybury Primary School would feed to the new West Edinburgh School (or schools). Alternative sites for a new high school/s require further consideration before any statutory consultation is progressed.

**Option 2 – Refurbished Balerno High School. New High School for WHEC feeder primary schools and Juniper Green Primary School. Replacement Currie High School. New High School/s in West Edinburgh.**

- No change to Forrester High School catchment or building capacity.
- All WHEC feeders (Clovenstone, Canal View and Sighthill Primaries) would feed to a new South West Edinburgh School. The new school would have capacity for 900 pupils.
- Juniper Green Primary School would be realigned with a new South West Edinburgh School (it currently feeds to Currie HS). An area of the current Currie High School and Currie Primary School catchment area north of the railway line is reallocated to the catchment areas for the new high school and Sighthill Primary School.
- Cherry Trees/Newmills area would remain in Currie High School catchment.
- Kinleith Mill area moves from Currie Primary School's catchment area to Nether Currie Primary School's catchment area.
- Balerno High School expands to 900 pupil capacity. Dean Park, Kirknewton and Ratho continue to be feeder primary schools.
- Currie High School reduced to 800 pupil capacity. Currie and Nether Currie continue to be feeder primary schools.
- Kirkliston Primary School, Hillwood Primary School and a new Maybury Primary School would feed to the new West Edinburgh School (or schools). Alternative sites for a new high school/s require further consideration before any statutory consultation is progressed.

**Option 3 – Refurbished Balerno High School. New High School for Currie High School feeder primary schools, Clovenstone Primary School and Canal View High School. Sighthill primary school a feeder for Forrester High School. New High School/s in West Edinburgh**

- Secondary education would no longer be provided at WHEC but a community hub would be retained.
- Canal View and Clovenstone Primary Schools would feed to Currie High School (rebuilt/expanded on its existing site or if feasible an alternative site in a more central location within the catchment).
- Sighthill Primary School would be realigned with Forrester High School.
- Cherry Trees/Newmills area of Currie High School catchment is realigned with Balerno High School.
- Kinleith Mill area moves from Currie Primary School's catchment area to Nether Currie Primary School's catchment area.
- Currie High School expands to 1,600 pupil capacity. Two site options. Woodlands school relocated if site option 2 progressed.

- Balerno High School expands to 1,000 pupil capacity. Dean Park, Kirknewton and Ratho continue to be feeder primary schools.
- Kirkliston Primary School, Hillwood Primary School and a new Maybury Primary School would feed to the new West Edinburgh School (or schools). Alternative sites for a new high school/s require further consideration before any statutory consultation is progressed.

- 3.3 Further analysis has been carried out on the capital costs for the three options. In each option the assumption is that significant refurbishment works (e.g. upgrading of practical subject classrooms – e.g. science, home economics, craft and design) and the required extension would be provided at Balerno High School. It is also assumed that the community facilities at WHEC would be retained and be subject to the necessary maintenance to ensure the buildings would be a satisfactory condition. In options 2 and 3 there would be an opportunity for the community facilities at the existing WHEC building to be improved and enhanced once pupils have transferred into a new school at a different location.
- 3.4 In option 1 there would be requirement for significant refurbishment works at WHEC similar to those proposed for Balerno and certain parts of the school may need fully replaced. This would cause significant disruption to the school while the works were progressed including the possible requirement for on-site temporary decant accommodation. Due to the structural condition issues which have been identified at Currie High School the most cost effective solution in option 1 would be a full replacement of the school on its existing site. In option 2 a new school would also be required on the Currie High School site and the pupils at WHEC would move into the new school to be built on the Curriemuirend site once it was available.
- 3.5 The Muirwood Road option includes an estimate of the cost of relocating Woodlands School and therefore creates the opportunity through design for further integration of pupils from the two schools. This also provides an opportunity for further improvement of the special school estate as the existing Woodlands school building could be used to accommodate another school population more suited to a non-integrated learning environment.
- 3.6 The total estimated capital costs for each option are provided in the table below. All the new build costs assume a project start date in the second quarter of 2021 and a two year construction period.

	Estimated Capital Cost
Option1	£101.05m
Option 2	£118.29m
Option 3 (Currie High School Site)	£94.45m
Option 3 (Muirwood Road Site)	£108.13m

Further detail on the breakdown of the total costs in the above table and further financial implications are provided in section 5. Due to the further work which is required through the new Local Development Plan process to determine locations for a new high school or schools in West Edinburgh no estimate of the capital costs can be provided at this stage for the infrastructure requirements in this area.

- 3.7 While option 3 delivered on the existing Currie High School site represents best value in terms of capital expenditure the school would not be well located within its proposed catchment area with some pupils in the Canal View primary school catchment area living more than three miles from their new cluster school. The Option 3 Muirwood Road site is more centrally located within the catchment area although is more complex in terms of securing land ownership and planning permission due to the requirement for change of use. If this option is the preferred option going forward then it is recommended that before a statutory consultation is progressed, a detailed study is undertaken to address these issues.
- 3.8 While the cost of option1 and option 3 Muirwood Road are similar, the latter creates an opportunity for further overall improvement in the schools and lifelong learning estate if the existing Woodlands school is used as a relocation opportunity for another school. In such a scenario, the capital receipt for a site no longer required elsewhere in the city could be used as part of the financial business case for the new school.
- 3.9 A full statutory consultation paper which addresses the education benefit, travel to school and financial details for the preferred option (if one is decided on by this committee) will be prepared for consideration by a future committee.

## **4. Measures of success**

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- 4.1 Development of a strategic plan for the future of the schools and lifelong learning estate in the west and south west of Edinburgh.

## **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 The financial implications on future capital and revenue budgets associated with future schools infrastructure investment projects are considered in detail with colleagues in finance. Business cases require to be developed through the Communities and Families Asset Investment Group and presented to the Asset Management Board for consideration. Following this process the identification and approval of the required additional capital and revenue funding would be established by Council as part of future budget setting processes.
- 5.2 A more detailed breakdown of the costs in paragraph 3.6 of this report is provided in the following table. All costs are £m.

	Balerno High School (refurbish)	Currie High School	WHEC	New School (option 2)	WHEC Community Facilities	Total
Option 1	28.49	42.39	23.76	n/a	6.41	<b>101.05</b>
Option 2	27.07	38.15	n/a	46.66	6.41	<b>118.29</b>
Option 3 (Currie High School Site)	28.49	59.55	n/a	n/a	6.41	<b>94.45</b>
Option 3 (Muirwood Road Site)	28.49	73.23 (includes Woodlands and power diversion)	n/a	n/a	6.41	<b>108.13</b>

- 5.3 For all options there would be significant annual revenue implications for operation and maintenance of the buildings and a full assessment of these will be provided in the business case which would be developed for any option that is progressed.

## 6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

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- 6.1 Any future capital project resulting from the Strategic Review of the schools and lifelong learning estate and led by Communities and Families will be aligned to all the necessary Council risk, policy, compliance and governance requirements.
- 6.2 This report has been prepared without prejudice to any statutory development planning or development management decisions of the Council as planning authority.

## 7. Equalities impact

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- 7.1 Promoting inclusion, improving accessibility and provision for effective Additional Support for Learning are explicit objectives within these proposals.
- 7.2 Equalities impact assessments will be carried out for any statutory consultation or infrastructure project which emerges from the strategic review.

## 8. Sustainability impact

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- 8.1 Any Communities and Families assets which are improved or delivered as a result of this informal consultation and any subsequent statutory consultations will be fully integrated with the wider asset priorities of the Council and its partners to ensure a sustainable approach to future asset provision.

## 9. Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 Any statutory consultation which follows on from this informal consultation will be conducted in line with the procedures set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

## 10. Background reading/external references

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- 10.1 Education, Children and Families Committee on 29 March 2018 - [report](#) on the Outcomes of the Informal Consultation in West and South West Edinburgh

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## 11. Appendices

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- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Notes from the Engagement Workshop with Clovenstone and Canal View Primary Schools  
Appendix 2 – Plans of the 3 Options.



## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Informal Workshop and Elected Members Meeting with Parents of Clovenstone and Canal View Primary School**

Elected Members Present: Councillor Ian Perry (Convener), Councillor Alison Dickie (Vice Convener), Councillor Mary Campbell, Councillor Gavin Corbett, Councillor Callum Laidlaw.

Officers: Robbie Crockatt (Acting School Estate Planning Manager), Barry Donald-Hewitt (Deputy Head Teacher, Clovenstone Primary School), Arran Finlay (Quality Improvement Officer), Crawford McGhie (Acting Head of Operational Support), Laura Millar (Service and Policy Adviser)

At the Education, Children and Families Committee on 29 March 2018, members agreed that those schools who had not represented themselves as a deputation would be contacted to gauge their views on the South West Schools Review. As a result, the Convener and Vice Convener met with parent council representatives from both Canal View and Clovenstone Primary School who agreed to consult their wider parent community on the matter.

Following consultation at each school, it became clear that there was a lack of understanding from parents on the implications of the various options on the future schools for their children. The 2 parent councils therefore requested a joint workshop with officers to provide clarity on each option and allow the opportunity to ask any questions. Parents from each school were invited to attend and the following main points were raised:

- There was support for option 2 under the name “South West Edinburgh High School”
- Option 3 would be suitable provided this was on the Muir Wood road site. If this or a similar new site could not be secured, parents would not support a larger school on the existing CCHS grounds.
- There were concerns regarding Home to School Transport, low-income families being responsible for costs and a rise in truancy due to increased travel time. Currently families who live more than three miles from their secondary school receive travel support however there is no travel assistance provided to low-income families.
- The stigmatisation and bullying of children from Wester Hailes was discussed if option 3 on the existing CCHS was adopted. Parents stressed the need to have a new school on a new site with new branding and work underway at Primary School level to build links and friendships before secondary school.

Following the workshop, elected members from the Education, Children and Families Committee joined the group to listen to what they had to say regarding the proposals. The key discussion points were:

- Option 2 was the preferred option for parents to remove the stigma faced by pupils attending WHEC. A new combined school on the Curriemuirend site would provide

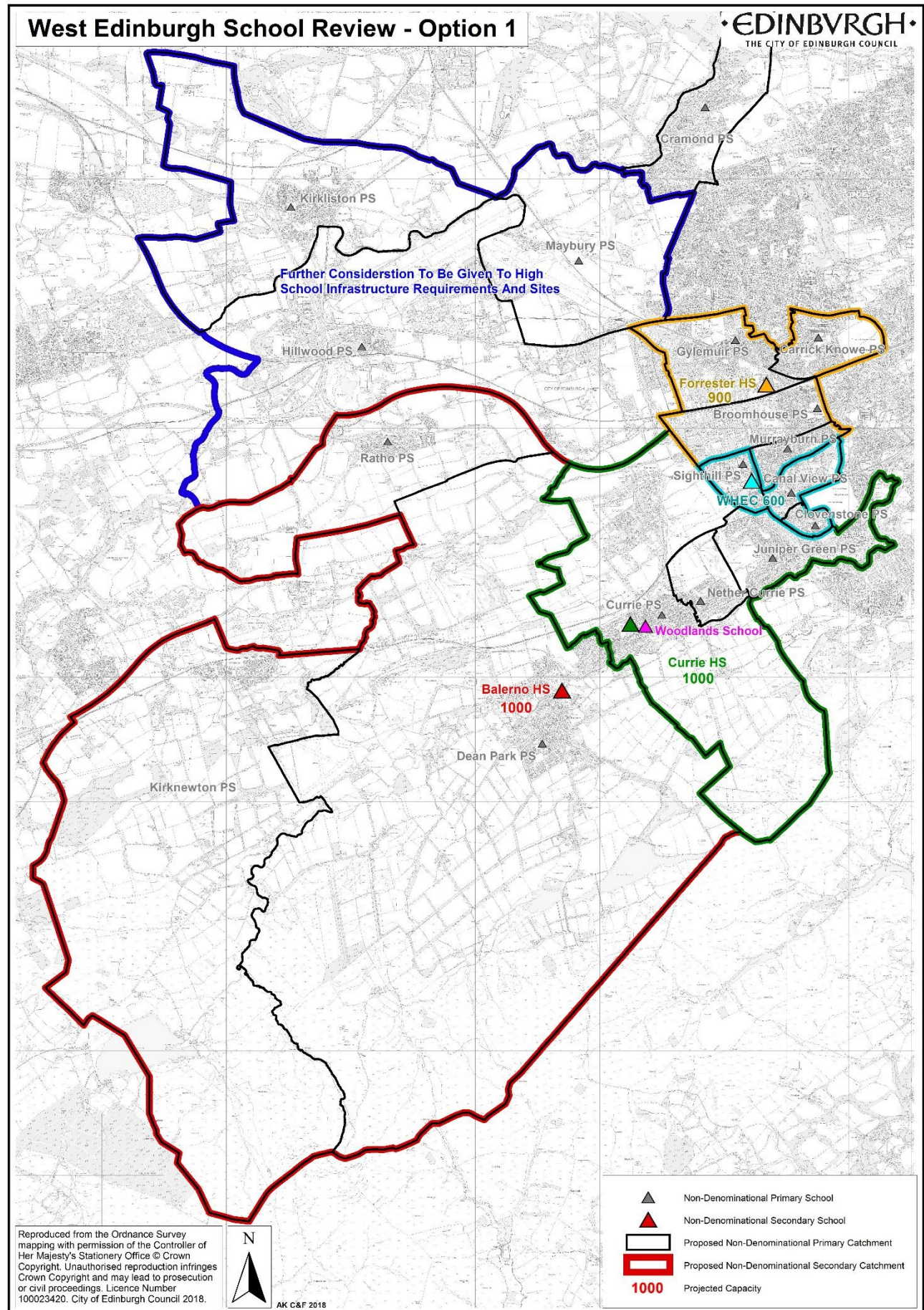
a better future and more opportunities for the children of Canal View and Clovenstone. A refurbishment of WHEC would not change the reputation of the school.

- Parents had discussed safe routes to schools and would be happy with additional pedestrian crossings and the installation of a bridge instead of an underpass.
- A larger school presented the opportunity for more specialised teachers/spaces for children with ASN. Children who could be included in mainstream could mix more in a larger school.
- Parent Councils had surveyed their parent communities who had largely indicated that if option 3 was adopted, they would not send their children to a new joint school on the existing CCHS site. Parents would prefer option 1 if a new site could not be secured.
- Parents were confident they could build links with Juniper Green under option 2. There was the understanding that CCHS is a good school however, as with WHEC, it did need investment therefore option 2 made the most sense.
- Some of the parents present had attended WHEC and had a good experience however there was an awareness that more choice of Highers level subjects could be offered in a larger school.
- Parents had focused on option 2 as there was uncertainty over option 3 since the Council does not own the Muir Wood road site. This would be a viable option if Curriemuirend or a similar neutral site was secured.
- There was the feeling that the WHEC community were focused on saving their school as this was familiar and there was a lack of information on the proposal and understanding that a refurbishment is more disruptive to pupils than moving into a new building.
- The decision to merge any school community would be supported by Primary Head Teachers building links from an early stage to ease transition.
- There was recognition of the difficulties in engaging the Canal View Parents and the Council would be happy to offer the help of a CLD worker as has been the case with previous consultations.

Elected Members thanked parents of the opportunity to listen to their views and provided reassurance that no decision had been made.

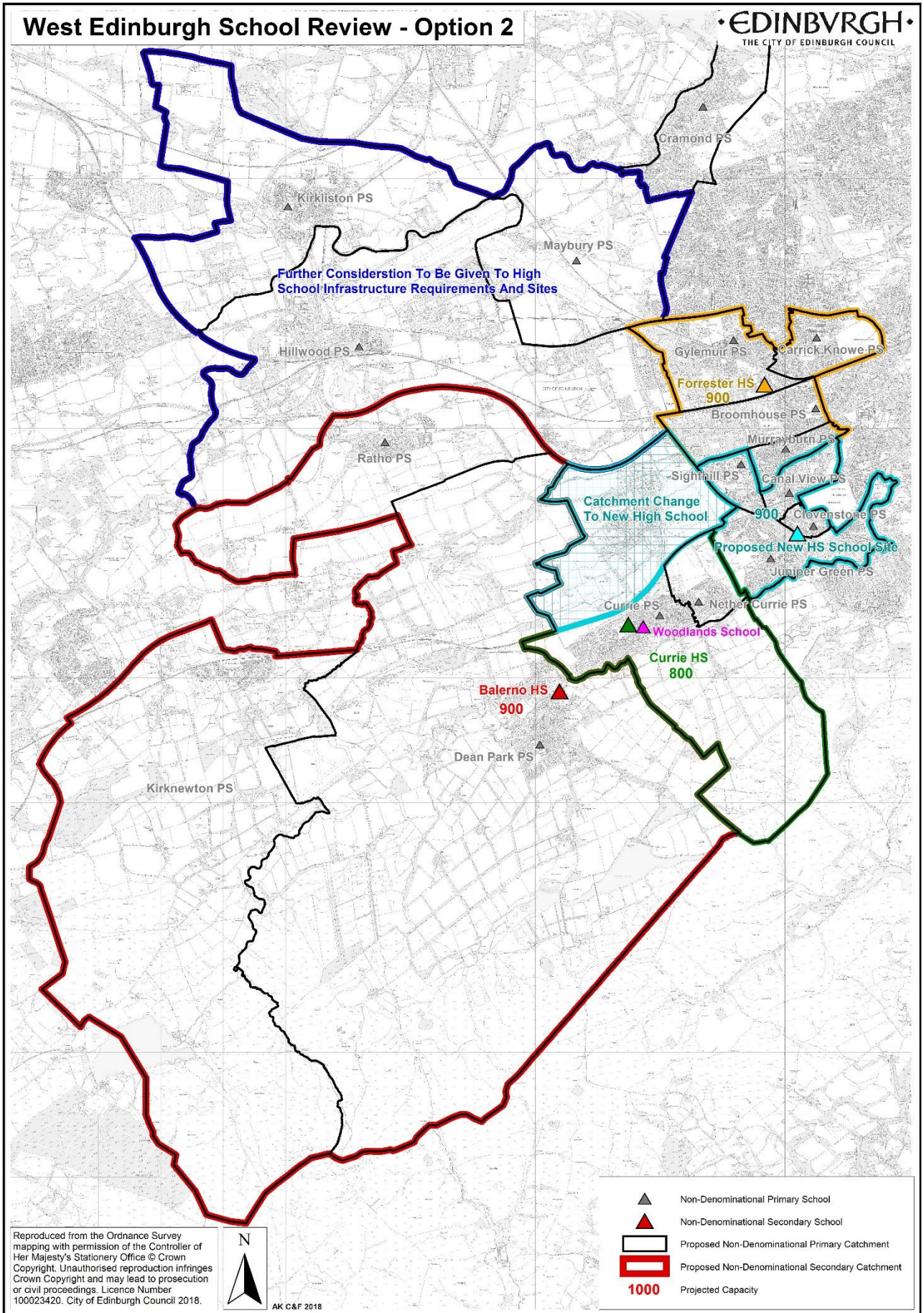
Parents informed elected members of their intention to submit a deputation to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 22 May 2018.

APPENDIX 2





# West Edinburgh School Review - Option 2





# West Edinburgh School Review - Option 3

