

The City of Edinburgh Council

10am, Thursday, 12 March 2020

Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Process on the Proposal to relocate Newcraighall Primary School to a new building in the New Brunstane Development.

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| Item number | |
| Executive/routine | |
| Wards | 17 Portobello/Craigmillar |
| Council Commitments | |

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Approve that the proposal to relocate Newcraighall Primary School to a new building in the New Brunstane development is progressed.

Alistair Gaw

Executive Director of Communities and Families

Contact: Robbie Crockatt, School Estate Planning Manager

E-mail: robbie.crockatt@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3051

Outcomes of the Statutory Consultation Proposal to relocate Newcraighall Primary School to a new building in the New Brunstane Development.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 On 16 August 2019 the [Education, Children and Families Committee](#) approved that a [statutory consultation](#) be undertaken proposing the relocation of Newcraighall Primary School to a new building in the New Brunstane housing development area.
- 2.2 A statutory consultation was undertaken between 26 August 2019 and 7 October 2019. The purpose of this report is to advise on the outcome of the consultation.
- 2.3 A new school is proposed to accommodate the additional children expected from new homes which are to be built in the area.
- 2.4 Following the consultation, this report recommends that the proposal to relocate Newcraighall Primary School to a new building in the New Brunstane housing development area be progressed.

3. Background

- 3.1 Newcraighall Primary School was identified as facing potential accommodation pressures from August 2020 onwards in the “Future Statutory Consultation” report to [Education, Children and Families Committee](#) on 21 May 2019.
- 3.2 On 16 August 2019 the Education, Children and Families Committee approved that a consultation be undertaken regarding the proposed relocation of Newcraighall Primary School to a new building in the New Brunstane housing development area.
- 3.3 In summary, the statutory consultation paper proposed the following:
 - A new double stream (14 class) primary school would be established on the identified site in New Brunstane housing development area;
 - The new school would be built with an expansion strategy, allowing up to a further 8 classroom spaces to be built at a future stage if this should ultimately prove necessary;

- All staff and pupils from Newcraighall Primary School would relocate to the new school building on its completion;
- The new Newcraighall Primary School would include nursery classes;
- The existing Newcraighall Primary School site would be subject to the Council's standard disposal process and could be considered for Community Asset Transfer.

3.4 The new Newcraighall Primary School building would open in 2022/23 at the earliest. This is dependent on the site becoming available in time through finalisation of the legal agreement with the current landowner.

4. Main report

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

4.2 The statutory consultation period ran from Monday 26 August 2019 to Monday 7 October 2019. The full statutory consultation paper is available online and a summary paper is provided in Appendix 1. A copy of the full statutory consultation paper is also available in the Elected Members lounge for reference.

Questionnaire and Written Representations

4.3 Representations on the proposal were invited by letter, email or through a specifically designed online response questionnaire on the Council's consultation hub. 24 representations were received. The number of completed online questionnaires was 23, with one comment received by email.

4.4 The representations made were from parents, local residents and school staff.

4.5 Those who responded using the online questionnaire were asked whether they supported the proposal as described in the statutory consultation paper. 13 (57%) responded that they did support the proposal and 10 (43%) responded that they did not.

4.6 There were 23 online respondents to the consultation. The list under item 4.9 reflects the 21 respondents who left comments. Many respondents commented on multiple themes.

4.7 18 of the 23 respondents were from within the Newcraighall Primary catchment area, three were from the Niddrie Mill Primary catchment and the remaining two (both school staff) were from other parts of the city.

4.8 The comment received by email was in the form of a question and did not express an opinion on the proposal.

Key Themes and Issues and Council Responses

4.9 The comments in the responses reflected a range of themes. The list below shows the entire range of themes from the most common to the least:

- Can the existing school be retained and a new school be built for new development pupils only?
- Potential & existing transport issues
- Potential issues with bigger schools
- Potential loss of community
- Could catchments change? (Specifically, can the secondary catchment change?)
- School should be closer to the current site
- Opportunities for community use (including a GP surgery/natural environments/multigenerational use)
- Potential loss of the existing building
- Can lighting be improved?
- Can the timeframe be accelerated?
- CEC has allowed too much development in the area
- Potential loss of green space
- New school must be managed by CEC
- Can the school be rebuilt on the current site?
- The current school needs to be replaced

4.10 Further details about the key comments that were received, as well as the Council response on each issue are set out in Appendix 2.

Public Meeting

4.11 A public meeting was held during the consultation period at Newcraighall Primary School on 10 September 2019. The public meeting was independently chaired. Following a short presentation Council officials answered questions from attendees. A record of the meeting is included in Appendix 3.

Pupil Consultation

4.12 A consultation exercise with pupils from lower stages was carried out at Newcraighall Primary School by a Council Quality Improvement Education Officer. The exercise focused on what the pupils thought was important about Newcraighall Primary School and what the new primary school building could offer them. Appendix 4 contains a summary of each discussion.

Education Scotland

4.13 As required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, all the responses received during the public consultation were made available to Education Scotland for their consideration. Education Scotland visited Newcraighall Primary School and discussed the educational aspects with staff, parents and pupils before producing

their final report. A report from Education Scotland providing their response to the proposal was submitted in November 2019. This report is attached in Appendix 5.

- 4.14 The conclusion of Education Scotland is that the proposal has clear long term educational benefits. The report states that *“The council’s proposal provides a strong case for a new primary school and clearly outlines the associated educational benefits.”* and *“The council’s proposal, should it proceed, should see increasing numbers of children and young people in the area benefit from well-designed building equipped to meet the needs of 21st century learners. This will result in a much improved environment for the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence and potentially improved outcomes for learners.”*
- 4.15 With regard to engagement with the school community, the report states that *“Almost all children, parents and school staff who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal. “*
- 4.16 Education Scotland did comment that in taking the proposal forward, *“the council would benefit from involving the wider community, school staff, parents and pupils in the final design and layout of the new school. This includes sharing details of its plans and timescales for transition to the new school. It should address stakeholders’ legitimate concerns regarding additional support for transition, road safety and safe walking routes to the proposed new school”*

Response to Education Scotland

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

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| Issue Raised | As plans progress, it is important that the community and wider stakeholders are engaged in discussions regarding the design and future use of indoor and outdoor space. |
| Council Response | The Council plans to have thorough engagement with the local community, the school and especially the pupils who will transfer to the new school. Working groups will be set up to use the stakeholders’ ideas and opinions to feed into the design of the indoor and outdoor spaces, so that the school is grown by and owned by the community. |
| Issue Raised | Parents raised concerns regarding the proposed location of the school and safer routes to school. As plans progress, the council will need to address safe routes to school |

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| Council Response | <p>As part of these proposals the Council will work with its Road Safety team to update the School Travel Plans for the area to reflect the new school location and the different routes pupils will take. These plans would aim to encourage sustainable means of transport to and from school.</p> <p>The Council will also engage with the developer of the wider New Brunstane site to ensure that safer routes from all urban area, new and existing, are available.</p> |
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Conclusions

- 4.18 Having considered the responses received to the consultation, it is the recommendation of this report that, as concluded by Education Scotland, the proposals in the consultation paper would be of long term benefit. Accordingly, it is recommended that the proposals in the consultation paper now be implemented.
- 4.19 The consultation process has highlighted that fully and meaningful consultation with the community and specifically the direct stakeholders should be paramount in moving forward.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If the recommendations set out in this paper are approved by Council, a working group will be established at Newcraighall Primary School to lead on the establishment of the new school building, the transfer of pupils and staff and to consider the future of the existing building.
- 5.2 Council Officers will provide support to community groups wishing to consider community ownership of the existing Newcraighall Primary School building through the Community Asset Transfer process.
- 5.3 If approved, the intention is to progress immediately. This will begin with the transfer of ownership of the proposed school site to the Council in order to undertake the necessary survey works.
- 5.4 It is noted that the provision of temporary classrooms on the Newcraighall Primary School site may be required from August 2022 until such time as the new building becomes operational.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 A capital budget for construction of the school has been included in the Council's Capital Investment Programme.
- 6.2 A new school would lead to an increase in revenue costs. In addition to the additional teaching and support staff, there would be a requirement to create and fill all the management and non-teaching staff positions associated with running a

separate primary school. The creation of a new school building would also result in additional building running, maintenance and repair costs for the school estate.

- 6.3 A business case outlining the additional revenue costs has been developed and revenue provision will be included in the necessary future budgets.

Funding

- 6.4 The financial implications on future capital and revenue budgets of the adopted LDP Action Programme, which includes the proposed new school, were reported to the Finance and Resources Committee on 1 February 2019. This report identifies the risks associated with securing developer's contributions for LDP education infrastructure and requested that the initial budgets required to progress this new school project are established in the Capital Investment Programme through the Council's budget setting process.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The statutory consultation to which this paper refers has been undertaken according to the requirements set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 7.2 Should the Council reject the recommendations in this paper the status quo will remain and a new solution would need to be found to address the increasing roll numbers in the Newcraighall area.
- 7.3 Should the Council wish to implement a significant variant of the proposal that has been the subject of this consultation process a new consultation process would, most likely, be required.
- 7.4 Whilst the recommendations would see the creation of a new building, the purpose is to create fit for purpose accommodation to meet demand, facilitate inclusion and community use and alleviate accommodation pressures at existing schools. The new school will be designed to meet the Passivhaus standard for building energy efficiency. Active Travel opportunities would be promoted to minimise the impact on carbon emission and energy consumption.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [Education, Children and Families Committee, 21 May 2019](#), Item 7.2 - Future Statutory Consultation Requirements
- 8.2 Education, Children and Families Committee, 16 August 2019, Item 13 - [Statutory Consultations Proposing to Establish a New Maybury Primary School, Replace Newcraighall Primary School and Undertake Catchment Changes at Edinburgh Park and Curriemuirend](#)

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 Summary of the Statutory Consultation Paper
- 9.2 Appendix 2 Minute of the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting

- 9.3 Appendix 3 Summary of Pupil Responses
- 9.4 Appendix 4 Education Scotland Report

APPENDIX 1 - Summary of Statutory Consultation Paper

Consultation on the Proposal to relocate Newcraighall Primary School to a new building in the New Brunstane Development

Summary Paper

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/newcraighallschool

What is being proposed?

The establishment of a new 14 class non-denominational primary school and nursery within the 'New Brunstane' housing development site.

Maps showing the proposed school location and development site have been included within this summary paper.

Where will the new Newcraighall primary school and nursery be located?

It is proposed that the new school will be built on a two hectare site within the 'New Brunstane' housing development site. This development site is located to the north of Newcraighall Road opposite the existing school.

Why do we need a new primary school in Newcraighall?

A large amount of new housing development is expected in the area. The existing primary school will not have sufficient spare capacity to accommodate the additional pupils.

What are the implications for existing secondary schools?

Once Newcraighall Primary School has been relocated it will continue to feed to Castlebrae High School.

Who will the changes affect?

The catchment area will not change. Addresses within the catchment area will continue to be served by Newcraighall Primary School in its new location.

When would the changes come into effect?

If the proposal is approved by the Council, the new school could open in August 2022 at the earliest.

Why are we consulting?

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

How will I know if my views have been considered?

All comments made during the statutory consultation period will be recorded and represented in a final 'Outcomes of the Consultation Report' that we expect to be considered by Council in March 2020. The report will be published three weeks in advance of the Council meeting and parents of pupils attending affected schools and anyone who has responded to the consultation will be notified of its publication.

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

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

We have also organised a public meeting which anyone can attend, as below:

| Venue | Date | Time |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Newcraighall Primary School | Tuesday, 10 September | 6.30pm – 8.30pm |

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

Please email newcraighallschool@edinburgh.gov.uk by Wednesday 4 September 2019 if you need translation services at the meeting.

Tell us your views: public consultation period closes Monday 7 October 2019

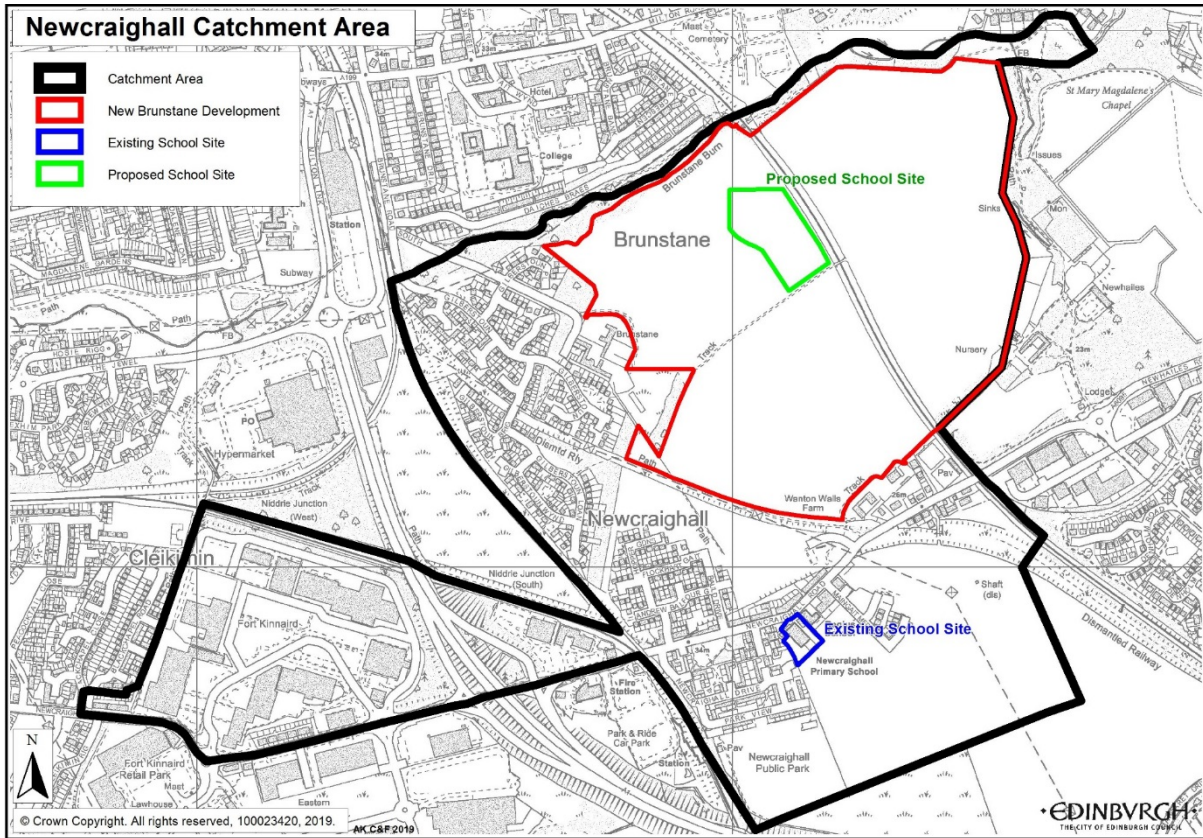
It would be helpful if you could take time to complete our short survey – you can find it easily online at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/newcraighallschool. If you don't have internet access then you can view the full consultation paper at Newcraighall Primary School or Craigmillar Library.

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

Alistair Gaw
Executive Director of Communities and Families
City of Edinburgh Council
Waverley Court
Level 1:3
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG

All comments should arrive by Monday 7 October 2019.

Existing & Proposed School Sites



Masterplan for the New Brunstane Development Area





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You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats if you ask us. We can also give information on community language translations. Please contact newcraighallschool@edinburgh.gov.uk.

APPENDIX 2 – Questionnaire and Written Representations

Issues Raised and Council Response

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| | Issue: New Primary School - Pupil Cohort | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new school within the Brunstane housing development area could be built exclusively for those pupils. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new catchment area could be created for the school, keeping the existing school open. |
| 1 | Council Response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The original Consultation Proposal and the Education Scotland report (see Appendix 5) have both outlined the educational benefits of a larger school environment. This includes a staff with a wider range of skills leading to more achievement opportunities for the pupils and a larger roll leading to increased exposure to varied social and cultural experiences. • There would be larger financial and logistical pressures in maintaining and populating two schools in the same area, especially with one of the schools being contained within an aging building. • Having two schools would involve a catchment change to the local area. Catchment area changes are often unpopular and divisive in communities and the Council would only recommend catchment change if absolutely necessary. |
| 2 | Issue: Access and Travel Routes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe walking and cycling routes would be required to and from the new primary school. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congestion and traffic management issues will be worse because of the new school. |
| | Council Response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential for any transport issues as a result of the new school will be assessed in detail when a planning application is submitted. • The new school will have a Travel Plan to encourage pupils to walk to school by identifying ways that routes could be made safer and prompting initiatives such as 'walking buses'. • There is an opportunity for City of Edinburgh Council to work with the developers of the New Brunstane Development to plan and influence the infrastructure required to ensure that safer routes to the new school from the existing urban area are made available. |
| 3 | Issue: Secondary School Catchment Areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could secondary school catchment areas be realigned? |
| | Council Response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation was on a single proposal that did not include the realignment of any catchment boundaries – primary or secondary. Such a proposal would require a separate consultation be undertaken. At present there is no intention to realign Newcraighall Primary School with a different secondary school and pupils attending the new Newcraighall Primary School will continue to feed to Castlebrae High School. |
| 4 | Issue: Moving to a Larger School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some respondents expressed concern about pupils moving from a small school to a far larger school and the impact on education of bigger schools generally. |

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| | Council Response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This can be responded to by Education Scotland (see Appendix 5 for more detail) who state that: <i>“A larger staff team, with a wider range of skills, has potential to offer increased professional learning opportunities and achievement opportunities for the pupils. A larger pupil roll means increased exposure to varied social and cultural experiences, as well as scope for increased participation through a wider range of consultative groups.”</i> |
| 5 | Issue: Loss of Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern around the loss of community from existing areas of Newcraighall. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern over potential loss of the existing building. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would there be a new GP facility? |
| | Council Response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new school would provide a significant number of additional community facilities such as sports facilities, meeting spaces and outdoor opportunities. The existing school building will be available for Community Asset Transfer if there is interest in this. There are currently no plans for a GP surgery but this would be considered as the project progresses. |
| 6 | Issue: Distance to School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could the school be closer to the current site? |
| | Council Response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The masterplan for the New Brunstane development site has been approved, so there is no possibility at this time of moving the two hectare site earmarked for the new primary school to another location. The new school site will be less than half a mile from the existing school. |

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| 7 | Issue: Lighting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can lighting be improved in the area? |
| | Council Response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new school and new roads in the New Brunstane development would be fitted with appropriate lighting. |
| 8 | Issue: Timeframe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the timeframe of the project be accelerated? |
| | Council Response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time constraints for the project include: how quickly the site is developed; planning applications and securing budgets. It is very unlikely the timeframe could be accelerated. |
| 9 | Issue: Over Development & Loss of Green Space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Edinburgh Council has allowed too much housing development in the area. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is the potential loss of green space. |
| | Council Response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This statutory consultation does not propose any new housing, there is a separate statutory planning process which determines where new housing can be built. • An opportunity to object to the loss of green space caused by the building of the new school could be submitted during the planning application stage of the process. |
| 10 | Issue: School Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new school must be managed by City of Edinburgh Council. |

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| | Council Response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school will be run by City of Edinburgh Council and will represent an asset for the local community. |
| | Issue: Rebuild on Current Site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can the school be rebuilt on the current site? |
| 11 | Council Response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The footprint of the existing school is not large enough to accommodate a double stream school with a nursery. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing main building is listed and its character should be maintained which would make any expansion difficult. |

Record of Meeting

Proposal to relocate Newcraighall Primary School in the New Brunstane Housing Development

Public Consultation Meeting held at 6.30 pm, Tuesday 10 September 2019, Newcraighall Primary School, Edinburgh

Present: Approximately 25 members of the public

In Attendance: Tom Wood (Independent Chair), Councillor Ian Perry (Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee), Councillor Mary Campbell, Robbie Crockatt (Learning Estate Planning Manager), Alex Kerridge (School Estate Planning Officer), Jan Paterson (Headteacher) and Gavin King (Democracy, Governance and Resilience Senior Manager)

10. 1. Introduction

Tom Wood introduced himself and advised that he had been invited by the City of Edinburgh Council as an independent person to chair the public consultation meeting. Mr Wood thanked everyone for coming along and explained his role as well as introducing the key officers in attendance. It was explained that the consultation would continue until the 19 October 2019 and the public had the opportunity to feed in comments until then.

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to conduct a public consultation ahead of a report on the proposals going to the City of Edinburgh Council for consideration in March 2020. The public consultation would provide people with the opportunity to express their views and feed directly into the consultation process.

11. 2. Presentation/Proposal

Alex Kerridge delivered a presentation that provided the rationale for and the implications of relocating Newcraighall Primary School to a new site in the New Brunstane housing development.

Requirement for Change

Newcraighall Primary School has been identified in the 2018 school roll projections as a school potentially facing accommodation pressures from August 2020 onwards. Development of the New Brunstane housing site could potentially double the number of pupils by 2030, with the current school not having sufficient capacity to support such growth.

Proposal

In August 2019 the Council agreed to consult on relocating Newcraighall Primary School to a new school building in the New Brunstane Development. The new building would have the capacity for 14 primary classes and 80 nursery places.

There would also be the potential for the school to be expanded by seven classes. The new school building would be expected to open by August 2022 and all classes at Newcraighall Primary School would be relocated. There would be no changes to the existing catchment areas and no change to the existing secondary feeder arrangements.

The statutory consultation would be in place until Monday 7 October 2019 and the outcome of the consultation report would ultimately be considered by the Council in March 2020.

12. 3. Questions/Comments

Question 1 – What was the process and rationale for selecting the location of the school in the new estate?

Answer – The developer comes forward with a possible location and this is discussed and taken forward as part of the planning process. The Communities and Families directorate would feed their requirements for any school site into this process.

Follow-up Question– What was the location on the map and where would there be road access?

Follow-up Answer – A map of the site was highlighted and there would be access from the north and south but detailed planning had not yet been developed and agreed.

Question 2 Are there any fears that this could become a rat run? Has this been taken into consideration?

Answer – This would have been considered by Planning in the Council when looking at the development. The detail was not available at the meeting but a more comprehensive answer could be provided later if an email address was left.

Follow-up Question/Comment – There are considerable transport issues around the new site which would be exacerbated by more housing. It could be quite chaotic.

Answer – A study of traffic movements would have been carried out as part of the outline planning process and this could be provided after the meeting. No matter what routes were in the development, a key requirement would be that there was a safe route to school and that active travel had been taken into consideration.

Question 4 – What provision would there be for safe routes when some of the area would be a building site when the school was opened?

Answer – The school would not be opened until there were safe routes to school identified. The building phases would be discussed with the developer and although the school should be an early phase of the development, identifying safe routes to school were fundamental and essential.

Question 5 – Would there be a requirement for new crossings to get into the new site?

Answer – A study of the current infrastructure would be undertaken to identify what was required to be added, there may also be a need to relocate some crossings. This would be worked on with the developers.

Question 6 – What is meant by safe routes and active travel?

Answer – An example would be a non-vehicular route to the school which would be open to pedestrians and cyclists. Pedestrians routes would be explored, and scooter and cycle racks would be provided at the school. Crossings and the location of drop kerbs would also be considered. Work would be undertaken with school crossing patrol guides to identify the best locations for crossing roads and this would be developed over time with the developer. The school would not be created just to serve the new development, it would need to be safe for the current catchment area as well.

Question 7 – 2022 seemed like a tight deadline.

Answer – This was an ambitious deadline that would require all aspects of the development to be on schedule to be met. It was more likely the school would open in 2023 but a 2022 date would be targeted.

Question 8 – Who was the developer?

Answer – Different parts of the site would be owned by different developers once the masterplan was completed.

Question 9 – Not everyone could walk or cycle, what about public transport provision?

Answer – Discussions on public transport would take place with Lothian Buses but a more comprehensive answer could be provided after the meeting.

Follow-up question – How far away was the current school from the proposed new school?

Follow-up answer – About a mile.

Question 10 – The crunch point in term of capacity appeared to be 2020 but the school build would not be completed until 2022 or even 2023, how would this be dealt with?

Comment – The Headteacher commented that the current catchment pupils totalled 93 and the non-catchment pupils 90 with a capacity of 217.

Answer – The expectation would be that non-catchment pupils would be reduced to cope with the increase in catchment pupils

Follow up question - What about siblings of people coming into the catchment?

Follow up answer – This would be accommodated if possible. There may also have to be additional temporary units provided to the current school if necessary.

Question 11 – The current school is at the heart of Newcraighall. The proposed site would be at the northern periphery of the site. Would it be possible if the new school was further south?

Answer – This is a point that needs to be taken on board as an essential part of the consultation process. This would be negotiated with the developer if this was the feedback from the consultation.

Question 12 – It is appalling if the current school is sold to the developer for the derisory sum of £350,000. This building should be retained as a community asset.

Answer – The current school does not require to be sold to build the new school, so it would be a different discussion than this consultation. The Council though had significant budget pressures, so it is unlikely that it will be able to afford taking on a new community facility. However, there were alternatives such as community asset transfer where the property would be given to the community to run as a local facility.

Question 14 – Does the Council not feel an obligation to support the community?

Answer – The new primary school would provide community facilities and be open to the community. The Council does not have the money for a new community centre. Community asset transfers had been successful in the past and could be a very viable option.

Follow up from Tom Wood – There is no plan to sell the school to the developer?

Follow up answer – no

Question 15 – What facilities will be in the new school?

Answer – The new school would have a 4G all weather pitch, a nursery, multipurpose rooms and an outdoor area. Facilities such as allotments would be explored to identify if this was possible. A key process would be asking teachers, parents and children what facilities they would want, to make the school an integral part of designing the new facilities.

Question 16 – What is the status with the piece of land adjacent to the school, the developer is saying that the Council owns this land?

Answer – The Council was currently going through a legal process to acquire the piece of land. The land had not yet transferred to the Council. The land also had to be suitable for any expansion and the Council would have to have a commitment from the developer that the land was not contaminated.

Follow-up Question – What will happen with this land when the new school opens?

Answer – The land would become part of the current school and would be included in whatever happens to the current school building.

Question 17 – The traffic outside the current school was very heavy with 1740 vehicles passing through in an hour and a half. Yellow lines have been requested previously and have not been delivered.

Answer – This could be looked at as part of the safer routes to school work. The Council would consult on any speed mitigation with the local community but installing road humps for example had often proved unpopular with residents.

Follow up question – The level of traffic is really high and there is a concern about the air quality for our children as a result.

Follow up answer – The City is growing and in twenty years will be the biggest city in Scotland. The Council is trying to make a modal shift in the way people travel, getting people out of their cars and into public transport, or walking and cycling. This was essential to improving air quality amongst other benefits.

Question 18 – The new school is the North east of the catchment and seems to be a long way from the existing catchment area.

Answer – This would be discussed with the developer as part of the detailed planning application and as stated before, depending on the feedback from the consultation, could mean a discussion on the location of the school with the developer.

Question 19 – The New Brunstane development is one of many new developments in the near surrounding area. Is each development considered in isolation or in the context of other sites?

Answer – The Scottish Government outlines how much housing should be added in each local authority over the next 5-10 years. A masterplan is then produced for each local authority which takes account of all the developments in the area and associated transport.

Follow up question – One of the developments is in East Lothian – are developments discussed with East Lothian Council?

Answer – There are regional planning discussions where developments that border local authorities are discussed. The catchment areas though do tend to end at the Council boundaries but each Council would notify the other of the situation.

Question 20 – How many houses would require a new secondary school?

Answer – It would depend on the size of the secondary school and the surrounding areas but roughly 3-4 primary schools (2000-3000 houses each) would require a secondary school.

Question 21 – Is there a formula to estimate the number of children per property?

Answer – It varies but generally it would be 0.3 per house and 0.04 per flat.

Question 22 – Is there a statutory requirement for the size in playground as any temporary expansion will reduce the playground further?

Answer – No there was no statutory size for playgrounds, but the aim was to purchase this adjacent land to mitigate the impact of any temporary expansion.

Question 23 – The current school is a lovely small school. Any new school would be larger and undoubtedly change the feeling of the school. What support arrangements are put in place to support this transition?

Answer – Until recently there had been little support provided but the Council now involves staff and pupils into the design process for the new school, so they are more used to the layout and the look of the new school. The school would also grow organically over time, so it would not be at its maximum capacity from the outset.

Question 24 – Was there additional investment in management and administration as a result of the expansion/transition?

Answer – As the school increased in size then this would increase.

Question 25 – Would the developers pay for other facilities such as a community centre or a doctors' surgery as part of the agreement with the Council?

Answer – The developer legally only has to mitigate the effects of their development in regard to schools. There was no requirement for the developer to contribute to any other facility.

Question 26 – Could the current school stay as is and the new school just be for Brunstane?

Answer – If that is what people feel would be better then it will be considered as part of the consultation.

13. 4. Conclusion

Mr Wood brought questions to a close and thanked everyone for all their contributions which were extremely valuable. Mr Wood reminded everyone that they had until 7 October 2019 to make any further contributions.

Councillor Perry thanked everyone for coming and for their contributions. Councillor Perry stated that everything stated tonight would be fed into the consultation, and he asked everyone to keep their comments coming in until the consultation closed on 7 October 2019.

APPENDIX 4 – Summary of Pupil Consultation

Catchment Consultation - Newcraighall Primary School Pupils

What are the most important features about belonging to Newcraighall Primary School?

- Lots of history – 113 years old
- Quite a small school (180 pupils currently but this has grown quite a lot over past two years)
- School badge
- Mums, dads, aunties went to the school
- Special Key given to HT when the school opened
- Character in the building
- Knowing everyone in the school
- Values
- Unique
- New annex
- Lots of space in playground
- Pupils able to walk or cycle to school
- Good sense of community
- Good teachers

What opportunities/benefits do you see of having a new school?

- Brand new facilities – equipment, furniture
- Agile spaces
- Multi-purpose pitch
- Better equipment
- More space – music, art rooms, library
- Big halls for PE and for lunch
- New friends
- Big playground – more facilities
- Better technology
- Changing facilities
- Outdoor learning opportunities

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

- School might get too big – too many pupils
- Lose the history
- Might not know everyone
- Location might mean further to travel for some pupils – might not be able to walk
- Sad to leave old school
- Badge might change
- Might feel strange



Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The City of Edinburgh Council to relocate Newcraighall Primary School to a new building in the new Brunstane development.

November 2019

1. Introduction

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

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the school; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 10 September 2019 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the site of Newcraighall Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

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

2.2 The main proposal within the consultation is to relocate Newcraighall Primary School to a new building in the New Brunstane development.

2.3 The formal consultation ran from 26 August 2019 to 7 October 2019. Copies of the proposal were made available electronically on the council website. An online response form was set up on the consultation website. Paper copies were made available at Newcraighall Primary School and in Craigmillar Library. A public meeting was held at Newcraighall Primary School on 10 September 2019. Twenty-five members of the public attended the public

meeting. A pupil consultation event took place at Newcraighall Primary School.

2.4 The council received 23 responses via the online consultation. Of these, 13 were in support of the proposal. Ten did not support the proposal. Concerns raised related to the need for sufficient pedestrian crossing and an increasing school roll and potential negative impact on children, in adapting to growing class sizes and overall school numbers.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The council has set out a strong case for relocating Newcraighall Primary School to a new school building in the New Brunstane development area. The council identified Newcraighall Primary School in the 2018 school roll projections as a school facing potential accommodation pressures from August 2020 onwards. Short term pressures are evident from its existing and growing catchment population. Longer term pressures from the development of New Brunstane housing site, could potentially double the numbers of pupils in the school by 2030. Historically, the school roll has remained effectively static. However, in 2017 the school roll increased by 26% compared to the roll average of the previous 15 years and in 2018 it increased by 45% compared to that same average. Based on an increased capacity, the new school will be able to accommodate the forecast increase in the pupil roll. The council have highlighted no educational disbenefits and HM Inspectors endorse this view.

3.2 In the long term, providing a single school to accommodate the pupils in the area will reduce the costs associated with running and maintaining two smaller buildings and would avoid the need for a catchment area change. The council has indicated that a new double stream (14 class) Newcraighall Primary School would be built on the identified site. The new school would be built with an expansion strategy, allowing up to a further eight classroom spaces to be built at a future stage should they be required.

3.3 All staff and pupils from Newcraighall Primary School would relocate to the new school building. A larger staff team, with a wider range of skills, has potential to offer increased professional learning opportunities and achievement opportunities for the pupils. A larger pupil roll means increased exposure to varied social and cultural experiences, as well as scope for increased participation through a wider range of consultative groups.

3.4 There are no proposed changes to the Roman Catholic Primary or Roman Catholic Secondary School catchment areas and there are no implications for the provision of Gaelic Medium Education. There would be no change to existing secondary transfer arrangements. Primary and secondary catchment areas would be unchanged by these proposals. However, it should be noted that only a few children transitioned to the local catchment secondary school, Castlebrae High School in 2016-17 and 2017-18, with numbers increasing slightly in 2018/19. Others opted for placing requests to alternative schools such as Portobello High School and Holyrood High School. The proposed site for the new school will be closer to Portobello High School. The council should continue to monitor placing requests.

3.5 All of Newcraighall Primary School's existing primary classes and nursery classes would be co-located on a single site within a purpose built facility. The nursery provision will increase from 20 places to 80 places. This will help to address demand and meet childcare entitlement to 1140 hours per year by 2020. Children attending the new school would benefit from a modern, purpose designed learning environment with appropriate facilities. For example, access to indoor and outdoor learning and play facilities, which are flexible with access to state of the art information computing technology. Purpose-built physical education facilities would assist in improved learning and better health outcomes for children. The playing area would

present an opportunity for the school to deliver an enhanced sports curriculum. The availability of a gym hall and playing fields could also advantage the local community. Almost all parents and a few pupils raised concerns regarding the lack of community facilities in the local area for out of school activities. As plans progress, it is important that the community and wider stakeholders are engaged in discussions regarding the design and future use of indoor and outdoor space.

3.6 The council estimates a timescale for opening the proposed new school in August 2022. In taking forward the proposal, it is important that the council continues to work with key stakeholders including the Parent Council sharing details of the plans and associated timescales. A few parents raised concerns regarding the emotional support needs of children and young people during their transition from a small school to a larger school. It will be important that the council engages with parents and pupils regarding any additional transition requirements.

3.7 All children who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal. They recognised that the existing school was too small, that space was limited and that many areas had to serve dual purposes. The existing school has a limited outdoor play area and annexes used for additional classes. Children were positive about a larger school with more space indoors where classes could be together and increased outdoor space where young people could learn, play and feel safe.

3.8 All parents and staff agreed that the current school environment is not conducive to meeting the needs of learners. They recognise the advantages that a new school can bring. A larger, improved teaching environment and increased outdoor space to accommodate projected increase in roll numbers. Increased opportunities for play based and outdoor learning, more storage space for equipment and facilities including those for children with additional needs. Staff recognised increased professional learning opportunities through, for example, working with stage partners as the roll grows. Parents raised concerns regarding the proposed location of the school and safer routes to school. As plans progress, the council will need to address safe routes to school.

4. Summary

The council's proposal provides a strong case for a new primary school and clearly outlines the associated educational benefits. Almost all children, parents and school staff who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal. The council's proposal, should it proceed, should see increasing numbers of children and young people in the area benefit from well-designed building equipped to meet the needs of 21st century learners. This will result in a much improved environment for the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence and potentially improved outcomes for learners. Teacher staffing levels will be maintained. Early learning and childcare facilities will be increased and improved. The proposed new site will provide enhanced outdoor play spaces and physical education facilities with the potential for wider community use. In taking forward the proposal, the council would benefit from involving the wider community, school staff, parents and pupils in the final design and layout of the new school. This includes sharing details of its plans and timescales for transition to the new school. It should address stakeholders' legitimate concerns regarding additional support for transition, road safety and safe walking routes to the proposed new school.

**HM Inspectors
November 2019**