

# The City of Edinburgh Council

10am, Thursday, 12 March 2020

## Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Process on the Proposal to Establish a New Non-Denominational Primary School and Implement Catchment Changes to Address School Capacity and Accommodation Pressures in West Edinburgh

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Approve that the proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school in West Edinburgh is progressed and the school catchment changes outlined in the statutory consultation paper are implemented in the November prior to the new school opening.
- 1.2 Approve that a P1 place at Corstorphine Primary School be guaranteed (if they wish to take it) for six years after the new school opens for children who:
  - live within the catchment area of the new primary school; and
  - are in a residence that existed in March 2020; and
  - will have an older sibling in Corstorphine Primary School at the time they would attend the school.

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## **Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Process on the Proposal to Establish a New Non-Denominational Primary School and Implement Catchment Changes to Address School Capacity and Accommodation Pressures in West Edinburgh**

### **2. Executive Summary**

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- 2.1 On 16 August 2019 the Education, Children and Families Committee approved that a statutory consultation should be undertaken on the proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school in West Edinburgh, with associated changes to the catchment areas of existing primary and secondary schools. A new school is proposed to accommodate the additional children expected from new homes which are to be built in the area. Following the consultation, this report recommends that the proposal as set out in the statutory consultation paper is progressed.
- 2.2 This report also recommends that a ‘sibling guarantee’ is offered to families who live within the catchment area of the new primary school, and in a home that existed in March 2020. The ‘sibling guarantee’ would apply to siblings of pupils at Corstorphine Primary School and would be in place for six years after the new school opens. It would mean that the siblings of pupils currently living in the new catchment area or moving into the catchment area prior to the first P1 registration period for the new school would be guaranteed a place at Corstorphine Primary School.
- 2.3 There is a requirement to identify a long-term solution to address accommodation pressures at Craigmount High School because of new housing development in the area. The Council will meet the Parent Council to discuss accommodation issues at the school, including the potential for it to be expanded. The potential for a new West Edinburgh High School will also be considered as part of the preparation of the Council’s City Plan 2030.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 On 16 August 2019 the Education, Children and Families Committee approved that a statutory consultation should be undertaken on the proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school and catchment area in West Edinburgh, with associated changes to the catchment areas of existing primary and secondary schools: Corstorphine Primary School; Cramond Primary School; Hillwood Primary School; Craigmount High School and The Royal High School.
- 3.2 In summary, the statutory consultation paper proposed the following:
- Establish a new 21 class non-denominational primary school and nursery within the ‘Maybury’ housing development site;
  - The catchment area for the new school will incorporate parts of the existing catchment areas for Corstorphine, Cramond, and Hillwood Primary Schools;
  - The catchment changes required to create the new school’s catchment area to be implemented from the November prior to the new school opening;
  - Establish the new primary school as a feeder school to Craigmount High School;
  - Realign the catchment area boundary between Craigmount High School and The Royal High School so that all of the new primary school’s catchment area is within the catchment area of Craigmount High School;
  - The proposed secondary school catchment changes to be implemented from the November prior to the new school opening.
- 3.3 A new primary school is required to accommodate the children expected from new homes to be built in the area, mainly on the ‘Maybury’ and ‘Cammo’ housing development sites which were allocated for new housing in the Council’s Local Development Plan (LDP).
- 3.4 The new school could open in August 2022 at the earliest. All catchment changes would only apply to new P1 and S1 pupils. There would be no mandatory transfer of pupils already attending another school; however pupils in P2-P7 within the catchment of the new primary school will have the opportunity to apply to the new school should they wish to do so.
- 3.5 The new ‘Maybury’ primary school would feed to Craigmount High School as it has capacity to support some growth in pupil numbers in the short term. This will reduce accommodation pressures at The Royal High School. However, the impact of new housing in the area means that it is expected that additional secondary school capacity will be required from 2024. Although it has not yet been determined how this will be delivered and it did not form part

of this statutory consultation, the main options are extending existing provision or construction of a new West Edinburgh High School. The potential for a new West Edinburgh High School will be considered as part of the preparation of the Council's City Plan 2030.

- 3.6 The proposal does not include any changes to Roman Catholic Primary or Roman Catholic Secondary school catchment areas.

## 4. Main report

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- 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.
- 4.3 The consultation included an online questionnaire, a public meeting and a discussion with pupils at some of the affected schools.

### **Questionnaire and Written Representations**

- 4.4 Respondents were encouraged to use a response questionnaire which was available online using the Council's consultation hub. Responses to the consultation could also be submitted by email or letter. Twenty-one representations were received, 17 which were submitted via the online consultation hub and four which were submitted via email. The tables in Appendix 2 provide a summary of the issues that were raised. The full submissions are available in the Elected Members lounge for reference.
- 4.5 The majority of the submissions were from individual parents or local residents. Craigmount High School Parent Council and Corstorphine Community Council also submitted representations. Two submissions were on behalf of developers who have an interest in the local area.
- 4.6 Those who responded using the online questionnaire on the consultation hub were asked whether they support the proposal. Of the 17, seven responded that they did support the proposal and ten responded that they did not.

### *Key Issues and Council Response*

- 4.7 The main themes and issues that were raised by the online questionnaire or written representations include:
- The delivery of the new primary school: timescales may be unrealistic and a phased approach to delivery may not be necessary;

- The proposed catchment area for the new primary school is too large as it covers additional areas for new housing development;
- A sibling guarantee should be in place to prevent parents from having to have children at different schools;
- The number of pupils generated by new housing may not be accurate;
- There is a need to identify a solution to address secondary school accommodation pressures at Craigmount High School;
- Access, congestion and safer routes to school.

4.8 Concerns were also raised about the suitability of Craigmount High School to accommodate its current roll and the impact of new housing in the area, however these matters are not directly related to this statutory consultation.

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

#### *Sibling Guarantee*

4.10 During the consultation there was one representation which raised a concern that children currently living in the area directly affected by the proposal could have a different catchment primary school to an older sibling at Corstorphine Primary School, which could mean that parents and carers are forced to have siblings at different schools.

4.11 This issue would be addressed through the provision of a 'sibling guarantee' which guarantees a P1 place at Corstorphine Primary School (if they wish to take it) to children who:

- live within the catchment area of the new primary school; and
- are in a residence that existed in March 2020; and
- will have an older sibling in Corstorphine Primary School at the time they would attend the school.

4.12 A similar arrangement is in place elsewhere in the city where it is deemed that there will be enough capacity in the existing primary schools to do so.

4.13 The Council has considered the impact of a 'sibling guarantee' on Corstorphine Primary School and recommends that it is offered for the following reasons:

- it is not expected to have a detrimental impact as the number of homes that could benefit from a 'sibling guarantee' will be limited and the P1 intakes at the existing primary schools are expected to fall when the new school becomes operational;
- the affected properties are a considerable distance from their existing primary school and would have lower priority for an out of catchment

place than other properties (as set out in the Council's Placing in School Procedures).

- 4.14 The 'sibling guarantee' would only apply to siblings of pupils at Corstorphine Primary School and would be in place for six years after the new school opens.
- 4.15 As there are no existing homes within the part of the Cramond Primary School catchment area that will form part of the new school catchment area a 'sibling guarantee' is not required for this school. There are only eight homes within the Hillwood Primary School catchment area that will be directly affected by the proposal and none of them are occupied by primary school pupils at present, therefore the provision of a 'sibling guarantee' for these properties is not deemed to be necessary.
- 4.16 The secondary school catchment changes outlined in this paper do not affect any existing properties. Any future change to secondary school catchment areas because of a new West Edinburgh High School will be subject to its own statutory consultation process and the issue of whether a 'sibling guarantee' should be offered between Craigmount High School and the new school can be considered then.

### **Public Meeting**

- 4.17 A public meeting was held on Wednesday 11 September 2019 at Craigmount High School which approximately 10 members of the public attended. Council officials answered questions following a short presentation. A minute of the meeting is provided in Appendix 3, setting out the issues that were raised and the Council response.
- 4.18 Issues that were discussed include: school roll projections; the suitability of Craigmount High School; secondary school catchment areas; pupil transfers and sibling guarantee; safer routes to school; and community access.

### **Pupil Consultation**

- 4.19 A consultation exercise with pupils at Cramond Primary School and Corstorphine Primary School was carried out by a Council Quality Improvement Officer (QIO).
- 4.20 The QIO spoke with two groups of children from Cramond Primary School and Corstorphine Primary School about the proposal. Appendix 4 has a summary of each discussion.
- 4.21 The pupil groups commented that the proposal would mean new facilities in the local area and it would stop the existing primary schools getting too big. However, pupils also commented on the environmental impact of new development, including the new housing. In terms of the environmental impact of the new school, it will be designed to meet the Passivhaus standard for energy efficiency and promote Active Travel opportunities to minimise the

impact on carbon emission and energy consumption. There is a separate statutory planning process which determines what housing can be built.

- 4.22 One of the pupil groups commented that the new school will only have a small number of pupils. As the new catchment areas will only apply to new P1 pupils the new school could initially have a small roll. However, the new school is being designed so that it could be built in phases and, subject to reasonable levels of interest, the Council will consider offering existing pupils the opportunity to apply for a place at the new school.
- 4.23 Going forward, the Council will consider how to involve pupils from neighbouring schools in developing a design for the new primary school.

### **Education Scotland**

- 4.24 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 all the schools directly affected by the statutory consultation and discussed the educational aspects with staff, parents and pupils before producing their final report. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of the proposal. The report was submitted in October 2019 and is attached in Appendix 5.
- 4.25 The conclusion of Education Scotland is that the proposal has clear educational benefits. The report states that *'the proposal addresses school capacity and accommodation pressures as a result of planned housing developments in the West Edinburgh area'* and that *'children attending the new Maybury Primary School will benefit from a modern, state of the art learning environment which encourages health and wellbeing and supports outdoor learning'*.
- 4.26 All parents, staff and children from Corstorphine Primary School, Cramond Primary School, Hillwood Primary School and The Royal High School who met with Education Scotland were supportive of the proposals.
- 4.27 Parents, staff and young people from Craigmount High School, who met with HM Inspectors agreed that there was a strong case for a new non-denominational primary school and nursery on the Maybury site and that Craigmount High School has the classroom capacity to accommodate additional numbers.
- 4.28 However, concerns were expressed that the additional demand on the existing social area, dining facility and delivery of physical education may not be able to cope without additional improvements. Concerns were also raised about ensuring the local infrastructure were suitable, with safer routes to school put in place.

- 4.29 Education Scotland also states that in taking forward the proposal, the Council should revisit its forecasted numbers of additional children and the timescale for completing the new primary school to ensure accuracy.
- 4.30 The Act requires that the Council's Outcome of Consultation report include 'a statement of the authority's response to Education Scotland's report'. In summary, four key issues were identified. The Council's response to each is set out in the following table.

Issue 1	The Council should work closely with Craigmount High School parents, staff and young people to agree solutions relating to safe routes to Craigmount High School from the Maybury site.
Council Response 1	<p>Council officers will work with Craigmount High School to update its Active Travel Plan to reflect its revised catchment area and identify ways to encourage pupils to walk to school from the new housing developments.</p> <p>This will take account of pedestrian and cycle improvements required as part of the planning permission for the new housing which will link the new housing area and primary school to the wider community.</p>
Issue 2	The Council should work closely with Craigmount High School parents, staff and young people to agree solutions relating to the effective management of social and common areas in accommodating increased numbers of young people.
Council Response 2	<p>There will be a feasibility study conducted to determine how Craigmount High School can be expanded to accommodate 1,800 pupils. This won't just include classrooms but include social spaces and consider the impact on outdoor spaces.</p> <p>A working group will be set up that includes the school management team and representatives from the Parent Council. Contributions from developers would go towards an expansion if this was required to accommodate pupils from the new housing.</p>
Issue 3	The Council should revisit its forecasted numbers of additional children to ensure accuracy.

Council Response 3	<p>The Council agreed to use updated pupil generation rates for this statutory consultation in May 2019 as the rates that were previously used had been found to produce artificially low pupil numbers.</p> <p>Pupil generation rates are an average that could underestimate or overestimate the number of pupils that are generated by new housing. The number of new homes that are delivered in the area could also be higher or lower than was assumed in the statutory consultation paper. Therefore, the school will have a flexible design that could be built in phases and expanded if necessary.</p>
Issue 4	<p>The Council should revisit its timescale for completing the new primary school to ensure accuracy.</p>
Council Response 4	<p>The Council intends to deliver the new primary school as soon as possible, a design team is already in place. The new school could open in August 2022 at the earliest, however if the new school opens in a later year the Council will manage the impact of any additional pupils that will have to attend the existing catchment schools.</p>

## Conclusions

- 4.31 It is recommended that the Council proceeds with the proposed new primary school and nursery and the catchment changes as set out in the statutory consultation paper.
- 4.32 It is also recommended that a 'sibling guarantee' is offered to families who live within the catchment area of the new primary school, and in a home that existed in March 2020. The 'sibling guarantee' would apply to siblings of pupils at Corstorphine Primary School and would be in place for six years after the new school opens. It would mean that the siblings of pupils currently living in the new catchment area or moving into the catchment area prior to the first P1 registration period for the new school would be guaranteed a place at Corstorphine Primary School.
- 4.33 The requirement to find an appropriate solution to address secondary school accommodation pressures will be taken forward as a separate stream of work. Council officers will meet the Parent Council at Craigmount High School to discuss accommodation issues at the school, including the potential for it to be expanded. The potential for a new West Edinburgh High School will also be considered as part of the preparation of the Council's City Plan 2030.

## 5. Next Steps

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- 5.1 If the recommendations set out in this paper are approved by the Council then catchment boundary changes will be implemented in time for the P1 registration process in the November prior to the new school opening. A design team for the new primary school is already in place. The new school could open in August 2022 at the earliest, which would mean the catchment changes would be in place in November 2021.
- 5.2 The provision of the sibling guarantee will be administered through the regular P1 intakes process.

## 6. Financial impact

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- 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

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- 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 Although concerns were raised about the amount of new housing in the area, there is support within the wider community for the new primary school and the proposed primary school catchment changes.

- 7.3 Whilst the recommendation 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 energy efficiency in a building and promote Active Travel opportunities to minimise the impact on carbon emission and energy consumption.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 Education, Children and Families Committee, 16 August 2019, '[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**

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- 9.1 Appendix 1 Summary of the Statutory Consultation Paper  
9.2 Appendix 2 Questionnaire and Written Representations - Issues Raised and Council Response  
9.3 Appendix 3 Minute of the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting  
9.4 Appendix 4 Summary of Pupil Responses  
9.5 Appendix 5 Education Scotland Report

## **APPENDIX 1 - Summary of Statutory Consultation Paper**

### **Consultation on Proposal to Establish a New Non-Denominational Primary School and Implement Catchment Changes to Address School Capacity and Accommodation Pressures in West Edinburgh (Maybury)**

#### **Summary Paper**

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/newmayburyschool](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/newmayburyschool)

#### **What is being proposed?**

- The establishment of a new 21 class non-denominational primary school and nursery within the 'Maybury' housing development site;
- That a catchment area for the new school be formed incorporating parts of the existing catchment areas for Corstorphine, Cramond, and Hillwood Primary Schools;
- That the new primary school be established as a feeder school to Craigmount High School;
- The realignment of the catchment area boundary between Craigmount High School and The Royal High School so that all of the new primary school's catchment area is within the catchment area of Craigmount High School.

Maps showing the existing and proposed catchment areas have been included within this summary paper.

#### **Where will the new West Edinburgh primary school and nursery be located?**

It is proposed that the new school will be built on a two hectare site within the 'Maybury' housing development site. This housing site is to the west of Maybury Road and south of Craigs Road.

#### **Why do we need a new primary school in West Edinburgh?**

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

#### **What are the implications for existing secondary schools?**

When the new primary school opens it will be a feeder school for Craigmount High School. This requires the catchment boundary between Craigmount High School and The Royal High School to be realigned. No existing housing will be affected by the secondary school changes.

The benefit of having the primary school feeding only to Craigmount High School is that the management of pupil transition can be focused on one secondary school.

Given the large amount of new housing development expected in the area, additional secondary school capacity in West Edinburgh will be required in the longer term. Options to address demand for secondary places in West Edinburgh will be the subject of a separate consultation process at the appropriate time.

### **Who will the changes affect?**

The addresses of existing properties which will be directly affected by the proposal are listed at the back of this summary paper.

The catchment changes will only apply to new P1 and S1 pupils. There would be no mandatory transfer for pupils already attending another school; however pupils in P2-P7 within the catchment of the new primary school will have the opportunity to apply to the new school should they wish to do so.

### **When would the changes come into effect?**

If the proposal is approved by the Council, the date from when the proposed catchment area for the new primary school will effective is the November prior to the new primary school opening, in time for the P1 and S1 registration process. The new school could open in August 2022 at the earliest.

The secondary school catchment boundary change will also happen in the November prior to the new primary school opening.

### **Why are we consulting?**

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

### **How will I know if my views have been considered?**

All comments made during the statutory consultation period will be recorded and represented in a final 'Outcomes of the Consultation Report' that we expect to be considered by Council in 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 proposals or make my views heard?**

If you want more information you can find the full consultation paper and other supporting information at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/newmayburyschool](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/newmayburyschool).

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

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Craigmount High School	Wednesday 11 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 [newmayburyschool@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:newmayburyschool@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**

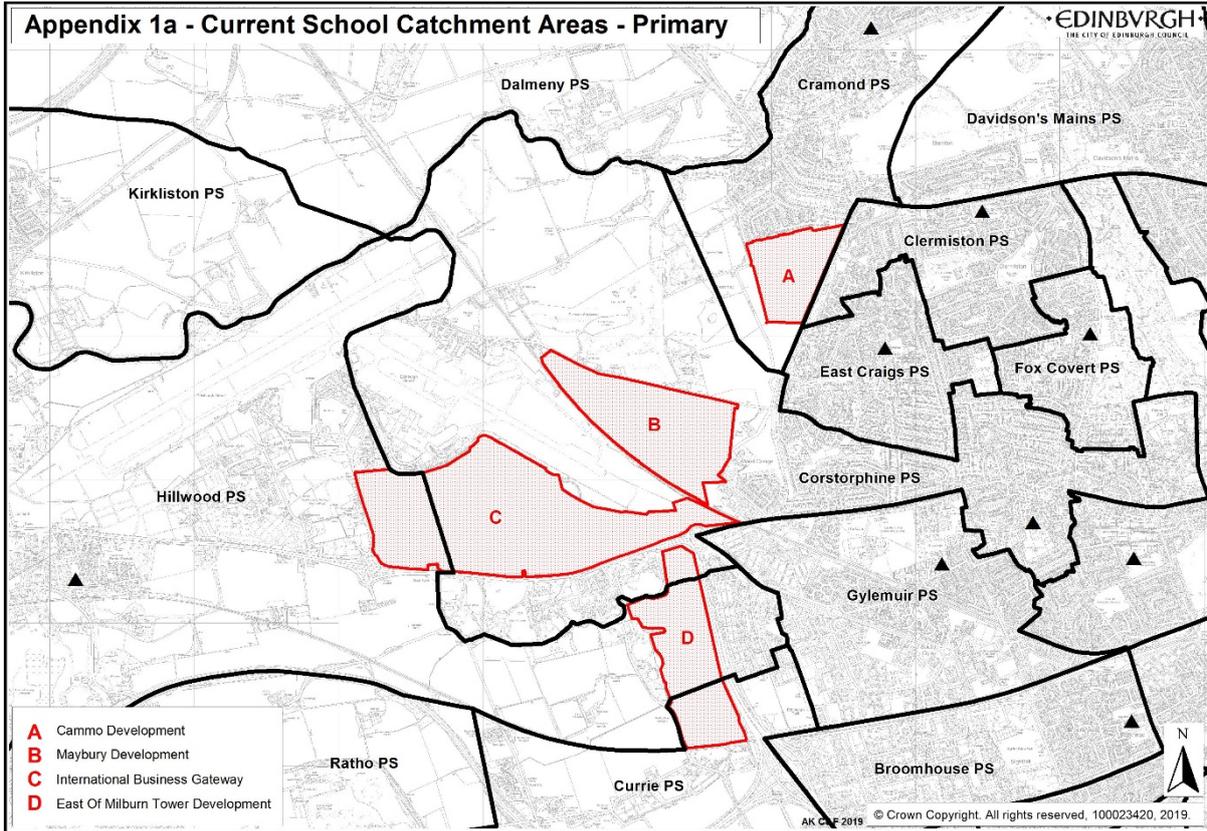
It would be helpful if you could take time to complete our short survey – you can find it easily online at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/newmayburyschool](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/newmayburyschool). If you don't have internet access then you can view the full consultation paper at one of the affected schools or at Corstorphine Library or Drumbrae Library Hub.

You can also email comments to us directly at [newmayburyschool@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:newmayburyschool@edinburgh.gov.uk) or if you prefer they can be posted to:

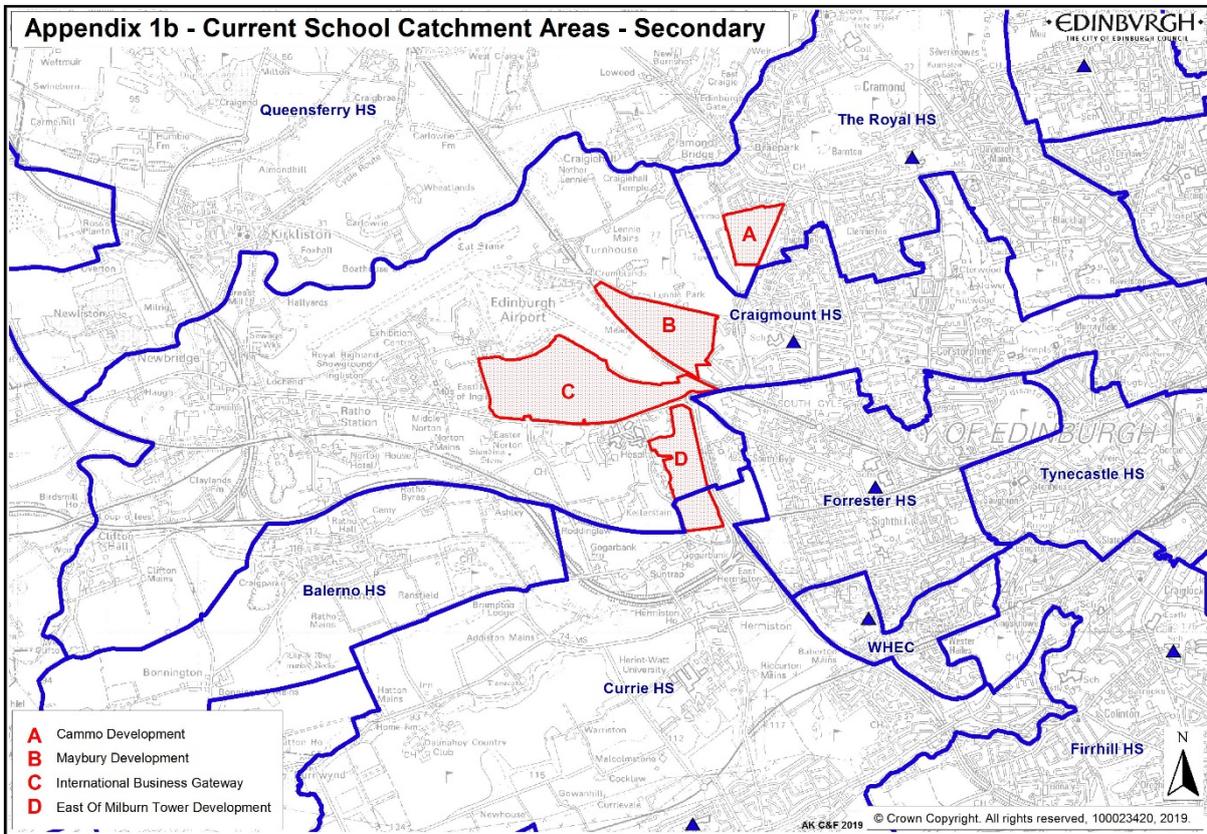
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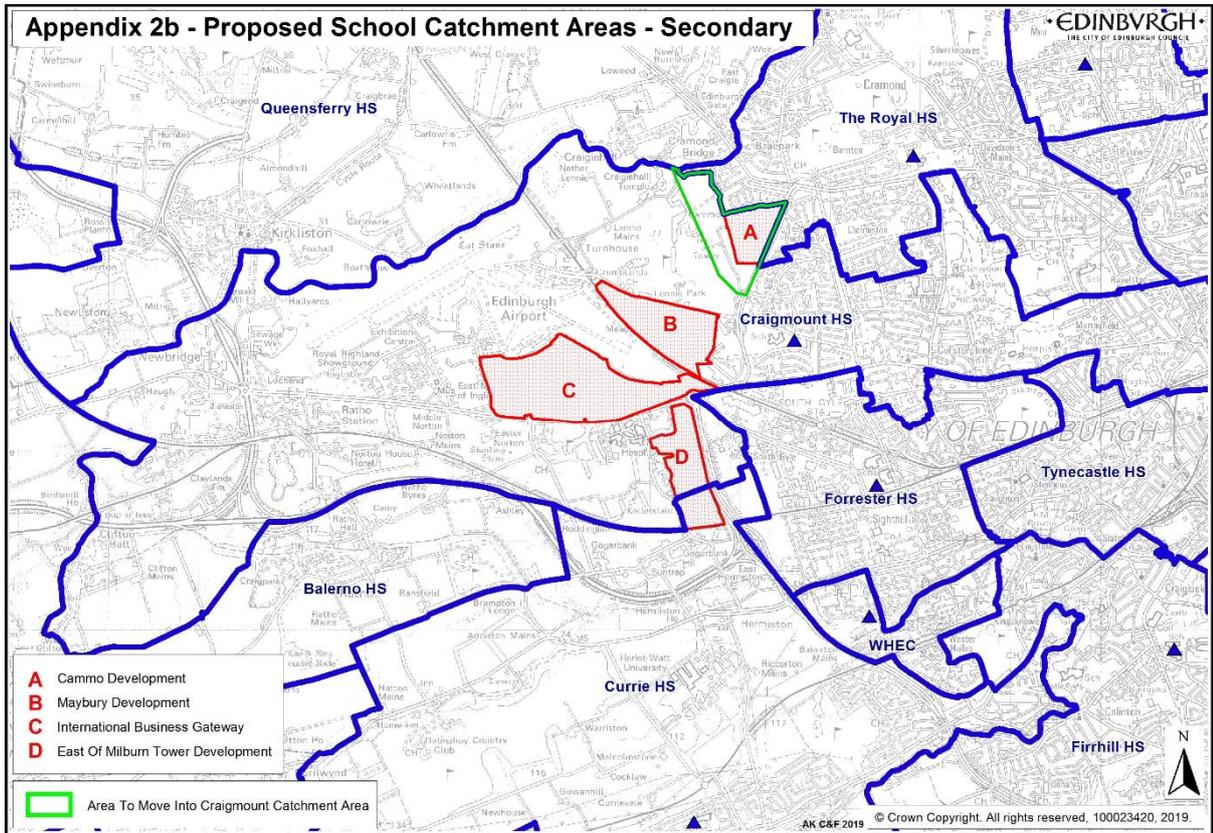
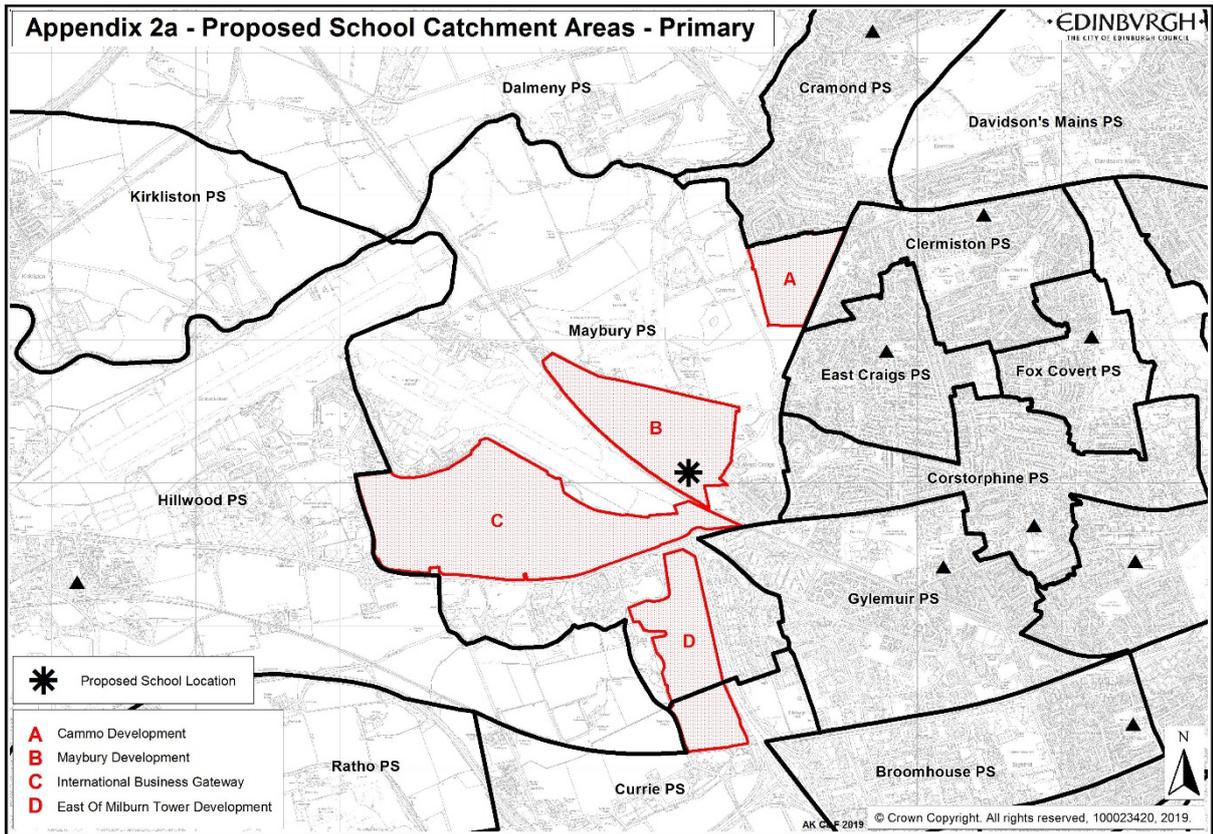
All comments should arrive by Monday 7 October 2019.

### Appendix 1a - Current School Catchment Areas - Primary



### Appendix 1b - Current School Catchment Areas - Secondary





## APPENDIX 2 – Questionnaire and Written Representations

### Issues Raised and Council Response

1	<b>Issue: New Primary School - Delivery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new school should be open before new housing is occupied.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering the new school for August 2022 may not be achievable which will impact on existing schools as they will have to accommodate pupils from the new development in the interim.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given the pace of development, phased delivery of the new school may be unnecessary. Development of the school as a single project may produce significant cost savings.</li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The timescale to deliver new homes is not within the Council's control. The Council's school roll projections use the latest Housing Land Audit as a guide.</li> <li>The Council intends to deliver the new primary school as soon as possible and a design team is already in place. The new school could open in August 2022 at the earliest, however the delivery date is dependent on many factors including the requirement to get planning permission.</li> <li>The number of pupils from early phases of the new housing development that will have to be accommodated within existing schools will be dependent on how quickly new homes are occupied and when the new school opens. The Council will manage the impact of any pupils that will have to attend the existing catchment schools.</li> <li>As the new housing may take several years to be completed and as the new catchment areas will only apply to new P1s it is anticipated that it could take several years for the school to reach capacity. Therefore, the school will be designed in a way that would allow it to be delivered either in a phased manner or as a single project.</li> </ul>

	<b>Issue: New Primary School - Catchment Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusion of part of the potential 'East of Milburn Tower' housing site and the International Business gateway in the new primary school catchment area is not supported. There is concern that there will not be enough space in the new primary school and that safer routes to school are inadequate.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The inclusion of existing homes within the new catchment area should not prejudice new residential development.</li> </ul>
2	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council is 'minded to grant' planning permission for new housing on the 'East of Milburn Tower' site, however the decision whether to grant planning permission is for Scottish Ministers. It is not known when Scottish Ministers will determine if planning permission should be granted. The proposal means that pupils from early phases of this development could attend the new 'Maybury' primary school as catchment pupils. However, if planning permission was granted, it is expected that an additional new primary school would be required within the area. A statutory consultation would be required to establish its location and catchment area.</li> <li>Routes to school from any new housing that is delivered at the International Business Gateway will be better than the status quo.</li> <li>The new school will have a flexible design which the Council anticipates will be able to accommodate pupils from the existing housing as well as the proposed new housing developments. Further information is set out in section 4 of the main statutory consultation paper.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Issue: Siblings and Placement Guarantee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal could result in having one child at Corstorphine Primary School and one at the new primary school, this would be difficult at pick-up time.</li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council recommends that a 'sibling guarantee' for Corstorphine Primary School should be in place to address this issue (see 4.10-4.15 of the Main Report).</li> </ul>

4	<b>Issue: Pupil Generation and School Roll Projections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The pupil generation ratios that have been used are higher than the ratios used in the Council's Local Development Plan Education Appraisal and therefore could overestimate the number of pupils in the area.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The consultation paper underestimates the number of new homes that could be delivered within the proposed Maybury housing development.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The consultation paper overestimates the number of pupils that will be produced by some of the housing sites.</li> </ul>
	<b>Council Response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council agreed to use updated pupil generation rates for this statutory consultation in May 2019 as the rates that were previously used had been found to produce artificially low pupil numbers.</li> <li>Pupil generation rates are an average that could underestimate or overestimate the number of pupils that are generated by new housing. The number of new homes in the area that are delivered in the area could also be higher or lower than was assumed in the statutory consultation paper. Therefore, the school will have a flexible design that could be built in phases and expanded if necessary.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Issue: Secondary School Catchment Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no capacity at The Royal High School for the 'Cammo' housing development so moving it into a different catchment is supported.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Craigmount High School cannot cope with more pupils. The new primary school should feed into a new West Edinburgh High School rather than Craigmount HS.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is not enough social space at Craigmount HS to cope with its existing roll and the corridors are narrow. Any increase in the school roll would put more pressure on these spaces as well as existing dining and sport facilities.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any extension at Craigmount would mean a loss of valuable outdoor space.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A catchment review should consider if parts of Craigmount’s current catchment could move to the catchment area of Tynecastle HS or WHEC as there is existing capacity at these schools.</li> </ul>
	<p>Council Response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Craigmount High School has capacity to support growth in the number of catchment pupils from initial phases of new housing development.</li> <li>• However, a long-term solution to providing significant additional secondary school capacity in West Edinburgh is required. One option is to deliver a new West Edinburgh High School. Consideration will also be given to how Craigmount High School could be permanently extended.</li> <li>• There will be a feasibility study conducted to determine how Craigmount High School can be expanded to accommodate 1800 pupils. This won’t just include classrooms but include social spaces and consider the impact on outdoor spaces. A working group will be set up that includes the school management team and representatives from the Parent Council. Contributions from developers would go towards an expansion if this was required to accommodate pupils from the new housing.</li> <li>• Council officers will also discuss the suitability of the existing Craigmount building with the working group, however there is currently no budget set within the capital programme to expand the amount of social spaces.</li> <li>• Consideration will be given to whether the new Maybury primary school should feed into a new West Edinburgh High School at the time of any statutory consultation to define its location and catchment area.</li> <li>• Any opportunities to undertake further catchment changes will be considered at this time. A statutory consultation would be required if a proposal was to be progressed.</li> </ul>
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Issue: Access and Travel Routes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe walking and cycling routes are needed from the new housing developments to Craigmount HS. A bridge over Maybury Road should be considered.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congestion and traffic management issues will be worse because of the new school, particularly due to potential 'drop offs'</li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council policy is to promote sustainable forms of travel which means that the creation of drop-off areas specifically for parents is not something which would be included as part of a new educational facility.</li> <li>• The potential for any transport issues as a result of the new school will be assessed in detail when a planning application is submitted.</li> <li>• 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'.</li> <li>• The Council will work with Craigmount High School to update its Travel Plan to reflect its revised catchment area and encourage pupils to walk to school from the new housing developments. This will take account of pedestrian and cycle improvements required as part of the planning permission for the new housing which will link the new housing area and primary school to the wider community.</li> </ul>
7	<b>Issue: New Housing Developments and Environmental Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opposition to new housing development due to lack of infrastructure, environmental impact, loss of greenspace, congestion and increased air pollution.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local people should have more of a say about what is built.</li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This statutory consultation does not propose any new housing, there is a separate statutory planning process which determines where new housing can be built.</li> <li>• The new school is necessary to accommodate pupils from the new housing, it will be designed to meet the Passivhaus standard for energy efficiency in a building and promote Active Travel opportunities to minimise the impact on carbon emission and energy consumption.</li> </ul>

## Record of Meeting

### **Proposal to Establish a New ND Primary School and Implement Catchment Changes to Address School Capacity and Accommodation Pressures in West Edinburgh**

#### **10. Public Consultation Meeting held at 6.30 pm, Wednesday 11 September 2019, Craigmount High School, Edinburgh**

**Present: Approximately 10 members of the public**

**In Attendance:**

Tom Wood (Independent Chair);

Councillor Ian Perry (Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee);

City of Edinburgh Council Officers: Crawford McGhie (Senior Manager Estates and Operational Support), Ian Tame (Learning Estate Planning Officer), Lynn Paterson (Senior Education Manager), Darren McKinnon (Quality Improvement Manager) and Chris Peggie (Governance Officer to record the meeting).

#### **1. Introduction**

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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 7 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. The public consultation would provide people with the opportunity to express their views and feed directly into the consultation process.

## 2. Presentation/Proposal

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The event started with a presentation that provided some background information on the reasons behind the proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school and implement catchment changes to address school capacity and accommodation pressures in West Edinburgh.

### **Why are we here?**

A large amount of new housing development is expected in the West Edinburgh area. The existing primary schools in the area will not have sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional pupils. There are currently planning applications for 650 homes at the Cammo site and 1650 homes at the Maybury site. These sites are allocated within the Council's Local Development Plan that identifies how the city will grow.

### **Proposal**

The proposal is to establish a new 21 class three stream non-denominational primary school for 630 pupils and nursery within the 'Maybury' housing development site. There is the possibility of a lot of natural play space and an all-weather pitch to support health and wellbeing.

A catchment area for the new school will be formed incorporating new housing developments and parts of the existing catchment areas for Corstorphine and Cramond primary schools. The new school's location will be closer than the existing school's which will hopefully encourage people to walk. Safer Routes to School will be in place.

The proposal is that the school will feed into Craigmount HS which has a current capacity of 1400 pupils and currently has a school roll of 1161. This will help to relieve the pressure on the capacity of The Royal High School. The Council acknowledges that there could be future accommodation issues arising at Craigmount HS by 2024 and ways to resolve this are being considered. This could mean a new West Edinburgh HS or extending facilities at Craigmount HS.

The new primary school catchment area will be effective from the November prior to the new primary school opening, 2021 at the earliest, in time for the P1 registration. There would be no mandatory transfers of pupils already attending to a school to the new school within the proposed catchment area.

### **Next Steps**

The six-week statutory consultation comes to an end on the 7 October. Any comments that the Council receives will have to be considered and responded to in an Outcome of Statutory Consultation Report which will be put to the full Council most likely in March 2020. Once the public consultation phase has finished, details of the representations received would be issued to Education Scotland for their consideration. Education Scotland would issue a report on their findings which would be included in the final Council report on the consultation.

Councillor Perry thanked those who had attended and asked for any questions or comments.

### 3. Questions/Comments

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**Question / Comment 1** – Will you share the presentation slides with individuals and local community councils?

**Answer 1** – Yes, they will be added to the consultation webpage.

**Question / Comment 2** – Following the closure of Drum Brae Primary School I am sceptical of guesswork in the presentation and concerned about the projected pupil numbers for P1 pupils and S1 pupils in 2024. How do you produce these figures?

(Tom Wood) – How do you do your estimates?

**Answer 2** – (Council Officer) - The projections methodology is published on the website. It looks at birth rates, pupils that will be generated by new housing, trends of intakes over a three-year period and drop-off rates as pupils move through school years and into secondary school. It is quite comprehensive. Our methodology has been reviewed by experts at the Edinburgh University Statistics department who are impressed with the level of sophistication in the methodology.

Regarding Craigmount HS capacity, current projections indicate that it could be breached in 2024. As the school fills up then less out of catchment pupils will get into the school.

The proposed school catchment areas will only apply to new P1 and S1 pupils. If you are in the catchment area before February when you will start in P1 then you are guaranteed a place. We want to fill the new school as quickly as possible but it could take 6-7 years to fill all the year groups.

**Question / Comment 3** – What has changed between previous meetings I attended where the proposal was the creation of a new High School for Maybury PS and this meeting where the intention is to increase the catchment of Craigmount HS? We were previously told Craigmount HS was full and couldn't accept additional pupils.

**Answer 3** – (Council Officer) - Projections are updated annually based on the latest information. The main change is that the expected housing developments aren't coming forward as quickly as expected. Current projections for Craigmount HS indicate that its capacity won't be breached until 2024.

A new West Edinburgh High School is still the preferred strategic solution especially when considering that there could be further development in this area. However, there is not an identified site at the present. We need to bring forward the statutory consultation for Maybury PS now and therefore at the present time the proposal is that it will feed into Craigmount HS.

Another option is to extend Craigmount HS, but we would have to do a detailed feasibility study to work out how it could happen. Craigmount HS is already one of the largest capacity schools at 1400 pupils.

(Tom Wood) – So to be clear in the next 4-5 years this scenario will change, and the catchments could change again? Some pupils who we talk about going to Craigmount HS will go to a new school in the West?

(Council Officer) - If a new West Edinburgh High School was to be delivered a statutory consultation would be conducted to establish the catchment for it. In the meantime, the proposal is for the pupils to go to Craigmount HS.

The Maybury PS is strategical designed to cope with the pupils from the Cammo and Maybury housing sites. The Maybury PS catchment area could change if a further new primary school was delivered in the East of Milburn Tower potential housing site.

**Question / Comment 4** – If a further HS was created would this split their children attending the same High School.

**Answer 4** – (Council Officer) - A further statutory consultation would be required for a new high school and this would identify a catchment area and which primary schools feed into it and will need to consider any sibling guarantees.

(Tom Wood) – You always tend to favour sibling guarantees where possible?

(Council Officer) – We look to see if it is possible.

(Council Officer) – We have already received a comment regarding sibling guarantee so it is something that we will have to consider and address in March as part of the Outcomes paper for this statutory consultation. If it is something that you want, then submit that as part of the consultation process.

(Cllr Ian Perry) – We had the same problem at Currie HS and we gave a sibling guarantee.

(Tom Wood) – There is a difficulty that the further out you get there are more uncertainties?

(Cllr Ian Perry) – The current difficulty is that not all housing plans are approved, and further plans are being developed. A new plan is about to be brought out that will set out where the next areas for development will be. We may need two new secondary schools in this area.

Follow-up Comment – I agree that a new high school is needed but I stay five minutes from the current high school and my children should be able to walk and play with their friends and they will struggle to do that if they had to go to a new school.

(Council Officer) – It's the point when we do a statutory consultation for a new high school when we will set out if sibling guarantees will be offered.

**Question / Comment 5** – How will transfers to the Maybury PS work? As I already have children in Corstorphine PS.

**Answer 5** – (Council Officer) There will be no mandatory transfer of pupils already attending another school. Everyone in the catchment areas will be encouraged to attend the new school, but the catchment changes will only apply to new P1 pupils. It is our intention to create a community before the school opens by setting up Parent Councils and employing the Headteacher.

(Council Officer) - We are due to open a new primary school in south east Edinburgh next year. We want to create a new community and it is important that we have parental involvement and engagement in the process. Part of the learning process is how many parents will want their children to attend the new school. It will be a good learning opportunity for when the new school at Maybury comes forward.

**Question / Comment 6** – Where will the money come from for two new schools? For the different developments coming together what will come first, the school or the development? How can you determine the capacity of the school before the capacity of the housing is determined?

**Answer 6** – (Council Officer) - The intention is to create a three-stream school of 21 classes. The new school in south east Edinburgh is being constructed as a two-stream school with a plan for an extension if required. Maybury PS can follow that operational approach.

(Cllr Ian Perry) – In relation to where we will get the money from, the Council has a statutory responsibility to provide education. That is our priority, so we need to future proof our provision. It is built into our process now that there is the ability to expand a new school if required.

**Question / Comment 7** – Thank you for the consultation and engaging the neighbouring communities before the developments happen. There will be lots of changes that will have impacts on the economy and thank you for future proofing and looking to build two high schools. I have three questions. Firstly, in the plans for the Maybury housing development I am concerned that there is no green space in the north west and no natural playing spaces which would feed into community building. Will the Council allow community access to the as there will be no community spaces elsewhere in the development? Will there be enough sound-proofing in the classrooms as the school is directly under the flight path to the airport?

**Answer 7** – (Council Officer) - The plan is currently indicative. The developer is still to work up a master plan and the slide does not represent an approved plan. The application needs to go through planning and green space will be considered then. There will be space in the school for community use. Noise impact considerations will be part of the planning process for the proposed Maybury PS. If it was found to be an issue during the planning process appropriate sound-proofing would need to be put in place.

(Council Officer) – On the community aspect the Scottish Government just published it's Learning Estate Strategy. This establishes that new infrastructure that is provided needs to have the flexibility to be used by community as much as possible and the Council will need to liaise with partners to determine if public sector services can be provided from schools which are community hubs.

**Question / Comment 8** – The Council does listen. I made a deputation to the Council in 2018 regarding linkages and sibling guarantees. The desire was to link the school with Craigmount HS and this is what has happened up until 2024. The Consultative Committee with Parents has seen presentations from Council officials regarding integrated services at schools. It might be beneficial to share these presentations if possible to show what is

possible. As a Craigmount parent, and as the Maybury PS Parent Council does not exist yet, the Maybury Road crossing would need to be addressed to ensure a Safer Route to School as filtering all the pupils across the crossing at the Maybury casino doesn't seem right.

One thing that could be considered in the future is that the Craigmount HS catchment is very wide and extends into central Edinburgh. Could this be reviewed for 2024 and beyond?

**Answer 8** – (Council Officer) - An option of realigning catchment areas so that Roseburn Primary School was linked to Tynecastle HS rather than Craigmount HS formed part of a wider consultation last year but is not going forward. It was not popular with the parents of Roseburn PS and based on the numbers it was not something we currently need to do but will continue to monitor.

Follow-up Comment - The issue is limited access to Tynecastle HS and the pupils would need to walk through an industrial estate. That is not appropriate.

(Council Officer) – There are limited ways through the railway. We have to ensure there are Safer Routes for that catchment. In terms of pupils going from Maybury PS to Craigmount HS we will look at all the routes and liaise with road safety colleagues in the Council.

**Question / Comment 9** – There is concern about the capacity of Craigmount HS as it was built in the first wave as there is no social space here. There is only the area we are in. There are no other social areas in the school. We are talking about increasing the population of the school, however there a Parent Council concern that it will be very difficult to increase our population without increasing our social spaces. Waiting to do so until 2024 when we have a population of 1400 will be a recipe for disaster. The school was built on a lower specification and we experience real problems with space. It is not possible to have a full meeting of all parents or all school pupils. You need to rethink this and start considering how the school could be extended now.

**Answer 9** – (Council Officer) - For expansion to occur there will be a feasibility study conducted to determine how the school can be expanded. This won't just include classrooms but include social spaces. For all feasibility studies regarding an increasing roll we don't just include the school's senior management team but we set up a working group that includes representatives from the Parent Council. To expand this school to 1800 will require classrooms and social space. We won't wait until 2024 to start this process.

Follow-up Question / Comment – The current building can be a scary place for S1 pupils. I understood you said the school would be fine until 2024 but the school can't keep on taking on pupils due to the lack of social spaces and stress they are experiencing. When would the feasibility study start?

(Council Officer) – There are two issues. Firstly, we have the current capacity as 1400 but whether this is appropriate is a separate issue from development and expansion of the school. We would be happy to discuss this with you separately, although there is currently

no budget set within the Council's capital programme to expand the amount of social spaces.

An extension so that it could accommodate additional pupils from new housing development would be paid for by developer's contributions. If we are to expand the school to take account of the new pupils then we would take the feasibility study forward as soon as possible with the Parent Council. We will look at the ways of expanding this school to 1800 and that will include social space.

(Cllr Ian Perry) – A school's suitability for its current roll is considered separately from the need to provide additional capacity to support new development. We are more than willing to discuss the issues that you have just now.

**Question / Comment 10** – Have you considered an ability to restructure or rebuild the existing schools for the same reasons as pointed out in the previous question? East Craigs, Clermiston and Fox Covert primary schools have all had their playgrounds taken up by additional classrooms being placed in them. The environmental/social space for all of these schools is reduced. If building a new school should we not seek to give these schools their playgrounds back?

**Answer 10** – (Council Officer) - All the buildings you have referred to are permanent buildings at East Craigs, Clermiston and Fox Covert.

Follow-up Question / Comment – That took away the playgrounds.

(Council Officer) – Yes at the time they were built on playgrounds. They went through the same process that we have discussed. All options were considered by working groups including catchment changes and construction of additional facilities. In one of the instances a playground has been improved and it may be possible that a temporary unit at Cramond PS may be removed following the alteration of the Cammo catchment area. This would provide more social space.

**Question / Comment 11** – What is being done to address transport and infrastructure? This is the biggest issue. Is this joined up approach with the Localities and neighbourhood Networks? Has the Local Development Plan changed? What is being done to address Active Travel? People will need to decide to walk down Cammo Walk or going up the Maybury Road? What is happening about the crossing at Craigs Road at a very busy junction? Have we benchmarked and collated any transport impacts on our communities? Do we have evidence from previous benchmarks from the schools we recently built?

**Answer 11** – (Council Officer) - Behind the scenes there is joined up approach through the City Plan Board, chaired by the Director of Place, I give the educational input into that and the equivalent transport senior manager sits on the board and property officers sit on the board. This is where joined up thinking takes place. In a recent presentation I made to the board regarding guiding principles for the education infrastructure I emphasised that it's not just about the schools and putting additional services into the schools it is about the travel routes to the schools.

The zero carbon target of 2030 has been signed up to by the Council. We will be looking to establish zero carbon schools and that is not simply about building the school but also

the running and travel to it. Safer routes to schools have always been important and becomes more so if we are trying to encourage walking and cycling to the school. Over the next 10 years we hope to see a huge step change away from the use of the private car and we need to design our infrastructure in that joined up manner.

**Question / Comment 12** – What is the approach to addressing airport cargo trucks on West Craigs road not observing speed limits? What possible solutions are there if the Maybury PS is there?

(Tom Wood) – There's a general question here about traffic planning and calming in and about the area of schools.

**Answer 12** - (Cllr Ian Perry) – There has been a lot of discussion about resolving this issue and the airport is looking at alternative solutions. Unfortunately, reducing traffic is not simple.

(Council Officer) – There will be lots of discussions before the masterplan for the housing development is finalised. Planners will deal with these things and consult with their road transport colleagues before plans are finalised. We will note your question in the minutes and address it in the report.

(Council Officer) – We will also have to apply for planning permission for the new school and as part of the application Planning will consider traffic and road safety issues.

## **5. Conclusion**

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

Cllr Ian Perry thanked everyone for coming and for their contributions.

## **APPENDIX 4 – Summary of Pupil Consultation**

A Quality Improvement Officer from Communities and Families visited Cramond Primary School and Corstorphine Primary School to talk to a group of children from different year groups about the proposal and gather their opinions. A summary of the discussion at each school is provided below.

### **Cramond Primary School Pupils (pupils from Primary 5-7)**

#### **What are the most important features about belonging to Cramond Primary School?**

- School motto – Cramond Cares;
- Community;
- Playground – large area, outdoor learning opportunities;
- Soft start, genius time;
- Pupils reps on various groups;
- After school clubs;
- Furniture – some flexible seating, cubby holes;
- Cloud Room – calming, relaxing, low lighting;
- Learning is fun;
- Pollution monitoring.

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

- More people;
- More business for the area;
- Better for the economy;
- If there was no new school Cramond PS would get too big and crowded;
- Good sense of community.

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

- Reduction of green spaces in community;
- Cramond is a small village – we don't want it to get too big;
- Cammo is very peaceful – a new housing development and school could change that;
- New development will mean that the area will be much busier with more traffic and much more housing;
- Royal High Secondary School might become too big;
- Wildlife will lose their homes;
- It might add to Climate Crisis removal of green space.

## **Corstorphine Primary School Pupils (pupils from Primary 4 and 7)**

### **What are the most important features about belonging to Corstorphine Primary School?**

- Lots of history – school opened in 1646 started as a cottage with 10 pupils now has over 600 pupils;
- Lots of trips;
- Everyone has a back-up team;
- Great teachers, someone always ready to help;
- Welcoming;
- Good resources – new ICT equipment, new library;
- Outdoor resources;
- Established – “This is how we do it here.”;
- No bullying – it will always be fixed;
- Everyone is nice to each other;
- Respect for everyone;
- 3 rules – Safe, Respectful, Ready to Learn;
- Values – Kind, Trustworthy, Honest, Inclusive – good behaviour;
- High aspirations – vision, song;
- Excellent football team;
- ‘Good’ people;
- Variety of clubs.

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

- More space for children to learn;
- Brand new resources, new equipment, furniture;
- Less traffic in Corstorphine (less pollution);
- Children will be able to walk to new school from new housing;
- Corstorphine PS will not get any bigger;
- New facilities will be great;
- More money coming into the area with new development.

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

- New school might only have a few pupils to begin with;
- Pollution increased around new development and new school;
- Traffic congestion in the area is already quite bad and this could get worse;
- Poor bus links at the moment;
- Reduction of green space – negative impact on wildlife habitats and eco systems;
- Climate Change;
- Deforestation;
- Corstorphine will get too busy;
- Community getting too big.



## **Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**

**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The City of Edinburgh Council to establish a new non-denominational primary school and implement catchment changes to address school capacity and accommodation pressures in West Edinburgh.**

October 2019

## 1.

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of The City of Edinburgh Council's proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school and implement catchment changes to address school capacity and

accommodation pressures in West Edinburgh. 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 and young people of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- 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 11 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 Corstorphine Primary School, Cramond Primary School, Hillwood Primary School, Craigmount High School and The Royal High School including discussion with relevant consultees.

## 2.

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

2.2 The formal consultation ran from 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 all the schools concerned and in local libraries. A public meeting was held at Craigmount High School on 11 September 2019. Ten members of the public attended the public meeting. The majority were supportive of the proposal. However, concern was expressed about the capacity of Craigmount High School to accommodate additional young people in relation to social space. Pupil consultation events were carried out at each of the affected schools.

2.3 The council received 21 responses. Of these, ten were in support of the proposal. A further ten did not support the proposal. The reasons for opposing related to traffic management, safety of children crossing Maybury Road and the lack of capacity of Craigmount High School to accommodate additional numbers within available social space and dining areas. In its written submission, Craigmount High School Parent Council, whilst supportive of the proposal raised concerns about the school's capacity to manage an increase in pupil numbers based solely on the number of classrooms. In their view, this did not take into account the possible impact on limited social space, dining facilities, corridor traffic and physical education facilities. Corstorphine

Community Council expressed a number of concerns about the proposal. The main concerns included adequacy of provision, road traffic crossings, traffic management and impact on air quality.

## 3.

3.1 The council estimates new housing developments in West Edinburgh could generate 600-700 additional primary pupils within the area. In addition, secondary school rolls are projected to increase. As a result, existing primary and secondary schools are expected to face increasing accommodation pressures as the proposed housing is built and demand for places rises. The council proposes to build a new primary school at Maybury to alleviate this pressure.

3.2 The council has set out a reasonable case for the proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school and implement catchment changes to address school capacity and accommodation pressures in West Edinburgh. The proposal recognises pressures as a result of planned housing developments in the West Edinburgh area. Children attending the new

Maybury Primary School will benefit from a modern, state of the art learning environment. The new school environment will promote creative and engaging teaching approaches and offer facilities that will encourage further health and wellbeing and outdoor learning.

3.3 The proposal addresses future sufficiency issues at Cramond Primary School and Corstorphine Primary School. This will enable the council to relieve pressure on facilities in these schools and allow it to continue to provide catchment schools for catchment children. All primary schools will have viable and sustainable rolls.

3.4 All parents, staff and children from Corstorphine Primary School, Cramond Primary School, Hillwood Primary School and The Royal High School who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposals. They were of the view that the existing primary schools do not have the capacity to accommodate the additional numbers that the Maybury and Cammo housing developments will generate. The Royal High School is already over capacity. The proposal relieves potential overcrowding and opens up opportunities for joint work across the Craigmount cluster. Children walking to the new Maybury school will potentially reduce car use. Corstorphine parents and children expressed concerns about the potential for overcrowding at Craigmount High School, in particular the demand on limited social space and common areas. Parents were positive about how the council has conducted the consultation exercise.

3.5 Parents, staff and young people from Craigmount High School, who met with HM Inspectors agreed that there was a strong case for a new non-denominational primary school and nursery on the Maybury site. This would help address capacity and accommodation issues at the existing cluster primary schools. Craigmount High School has the classroom capacity to accommodate additional numbers. However, concerns were expressed that the additional demand on the existing social area, dining facility and delivery of physical education may not be able to cope without additional improvements. Concerns were also raised about ensuring the local infrastructure was suitable. How young people will safely cross Maybury Road from the new development to Craigmount High School was a specific example.

## 4.

The City of Edinburgh Council's proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school and implement catchment changes has clear educational benefits. The proposal addresses school capacity and accommodation pressures as a result of planned housing developments in the West Edinburgh area. Children attending the new Maybury Primary School will benefit from a modern, state of the art learning environment which encourages health and wellbeing and supports outdoor learning. In taking forward the proposal, the council should revisit its forecasted numbers of additional children and also the timescale for completing the new primary school to ensure accuracy. It should also work closely with Craigmount High School parents, staff and young people to agree solutions relating to safe

routes to Craigmount High School from the Maybury site and the effective management of social and common areas in accommodating increased numbers of young people.

**HM Inspectors**  
**October 2019**