

Education, Children and Families Committee

10:00, Tuesday, 15 December 2020

Rising School Rolls Update

**Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments**

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Note the contents of the report;
 - 1.1.2 Agree that a further report with the updated school roll projections will be submitted to Committee for consideration in March 2021.

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Report

School Roll Projections and Rising School Rolls

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides an update on the rising rolls programme. There have been significant delays due to the implications of the COVID-19. The updated school roll projections will not be available until March 2021.
- 2.2 This report provides an update on all the schools where rising rolls projects are continuing to be progressed or may be a future requirement.

3. Background

- 3.1 Background information can be found in the [“School Roll Projections and Rising Rolls”](#), [“Future Statutory Consultation Requirements”](#) and [“The Growing City, School Roll Projections and Future Accommodation Requirements”](#) reports considered by the Education Children and Families Committee in March 2020, May 2019 and December 2018 respectively.

4. Main report

School Roll Projections

- 4.1 Annual roll projections for all primary and secondary schools have been published in a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee each December since 2017. However, this year, the impact of COVID-19 has delayed the availability of data required to allow finalised projections to be completed. Accordingly, the publication of school roll projections will be delayed until Education, Children and Families next meeting in March 2021. This will have the benefit of allowing projections and the accompanying report to reflect a fuller understanding of the impacts on the city’s education infrastructure of CityPlan 2030.
- 4.2 It is anticipated that the projections when they are published in March 2021 will begin to show a gradual reduction in primary school rolls at a city level as the birth rate in the city continues to fall. The latest data for the 2019/20 academic year shows that the birth rate in the city fell for the seventh consecutive year to its lowest point since the 2004/05 session. Additionally, census data for September 2020

shows that the P1 intake dropped by 7% on the previous year while the total primary roll fell marginally for the second successive year.

- 4.3 However, in the secondary sector a continuation of the sharp rise in demand following years of growth in the primary sector is expected. The impact of new housing in specific areas of the city will be key in ensuring that the Learning Estate remains appropriately responsive to new demand driven by development rather than birth rates.

Rising Roll and Capital Investment Project Updates

- 4.4 The impact of COVID-19 on Rising Rolls and other Capital Investment projects has varied dependent on the ability of contracted design teams and suppliers to maintain their service levels. In some cases design teams have been furloughed for long periods of time while restrictions have slowed progress on construction sites. The following sections provide an update on accommodation pressures reported in March 2020 and on Rising Rolls and Capital Investment projects that are underway and flags areas where actions to address immediate accommodation pressures are required.

Schools Requiring Working Group

- 4.5 The following table provides an update on potential accommodation pressures reported to Education, Children and Families Committee at its meeting on 3 March 2020 that may benefit from the establishment of a Working Group to review these pressures and consider options to address them.

School	Why Form Working Group	Progress
Craigroyston High School	The capacity at Craigroyston High School is 600 pupils. Projections in 2019 showed that the school will increase annually over the next 10 years to a roll of approximately 800 pupils.	<p>A Working Group to consider issues at Craigroyston HS had been due to convene prior to Easter 2020. However, due to the impact of Covid-19 this did not take place.</p> <p>In January 2020 the number of S1 registrations for the school suggested an S1 intake of 160 pupils may be required – far exceeding the optimum intake level of 120 pupils and the projected intake of which was also 120 pupils.</p> <p>As of the September census in 2020 the S1 was 134 pupils – exceeding the optimum intake limit and projections but not suggesting the same degree of pressure as early registrations suggested.</p> <p>However, the school continues to operate beyond its capacity and</p>

		discussions with the school's management team will be progressed to establish what support may be required in the longer-term.
Firhill High School	The capacity at Firhill High School is 1,150 pupils. The roll in 2019 exceeded 1,200 pupils. Projections in 2019 suggested that while it will not increase, the school will maintain this high level over the next 10 years.	<p>Initial conversations with School Management took place and a Working Group was due to be established. This did not take place due to the impact of Covid-19.</p> <p>The 2019 projections projected an S1 intake in August 2020 of 206 pupils – a considerable drop on the previous year. The September 2020 census shows that the actual S1 roll was 207 pupils.</p> <p>The 2019 projections do not show the roll rising at Firhill HS and there is nothing to suggest that the 2020 projections will differ in this respect.</p> <p>As with all schools, actions to address unexpected changes in number may be required, however, the impact of initiatives being developed through the Adaptation and Renewal Programme may help address this. No further action will be taken prior to the publication of 2020 based projections in March by which point more accurate S1 registration data for August 2021 will also be available.</p>
Gracemount High School	The capacity at Gracemount High School is 650 pupils. The 2019 Projections showed that the school will increase annually over the next 10 years to a roll of approximately 830 pupils.	<p>A Working Group to consider issues at Gracemount HS had been proposed in March 2020. However, due to the impact of Covid-19 this did not take place.</p> <p>The projected S1 intake in August 2020 was 140 pupils and the September census shows an actual S1 roll of 139 pupils.</p> <p>An intake of 139 pupils represents a significant increase in demand for S1 places and a working group will be convened to consider options to provide extra capacity for Gracemount High School. This will be considered alongside other required investment including Early Years and St Catherine's RC Primary School.</p>

Schools Identified as Requiring Investigative Work

- 4.6 The following table identifies the school's where, following the publication of the 2019 projections and the availability of early registration data, investigative work was undertaken.

School	Why Investigate	Conclusions / Recommendations
Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pairce	School capacity is 462 pupils and the roll at the time of the census in September 2020 was 418 pupils. The 2019 Projections suggest that the roll will grow to 500 pupils by 2023.	The 2019 projections suggested a P1 intake in August 2020 of 74 pupils. The census data from September 2020 shows an actual intake of 60 which is inline with the school's capacity. Projecting GME uptake is very difficult and the school's roll will continue to be monitored closely. Future development of GME will be coordinated through the GME Education Group.
Balerno High School	School capacity is 850 pupils and the roll in 2019 was 752 pupils. Projections suggest that the roll will grow to 1091 pupils over the next 10 years.	The 2019 projection for Balerno High School is nearly 200 pupils higher than the 2018 projections. It is expected that out of catchment places will fill the S1 to its 160 capacity until 2023. Beyond 2023 the number of catchment pupils retained will exceed 160 pupils. In the longer term Balerno is part of the WAVE4 programme. It is recommended that this intake be monitored.

Live Projects

- 4.7 There were a number of schools listed in the projections published in December 2019 that were listed as being 'Live' projects. Progress on all these projects has been delayed due to the implications of COVID-19. An update on all the projects is provided in appendix 1.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 This report provides a status update and does not in itself make recommendations that have a direct financial consequence for the Council.
- 5.2 Any new infrastructure project requires a business case, including details of the capital and revenue financial implications, to be submitted to the Asset Management Board before being considered by the Council as part of an appropriate budget setting process.

6. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 6.1 Where necessary Working Groups consisting of Learning Estate Planning Officers, School Management and Parent Representatives will be formed to consider the right solution for the accommodation pressures the projections may suggest.
- 6.2 Where required any statutory consultations will be conducted in line with the procedures set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

7. Background reading/external references

- 7.1 [Education, Children and Families Committee, 18 December 2018: “The Growing City, School Roll Projections and Future Accommodation Requirements”](#)
- 7.2 Education, Children and Families Committee, 21 May 2019: [“Future Statutory Consultation Requirements”](#)
- 7.3 Education, Children and Families Committee, 3 March 2020: [“School Roll Projections and Rising Rolls”](#)

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Update on rising rolls projects.

Appendix 1 – Update on rising rolls projects.

Castleview Primary School

- 1.1. The Local Development Plan identifies a requirement for 3 additional classroom spaces and a dining hall extension to meet projected demand for places from pupils generated by the significant amount of new housing in the area.
- 1.2. A desktop study and a visit to the school to assess requirements by Learning Estate Planning Officers in early 2020 suggested that the requirement for this was not imminent. This remains the position and the intake in 2021 will be closely monitored with the appropriate solution identified and progressed at the appropriate time.

Maybury Primary School (affecting Corstorphine, Cramond and Hillwood Primary Schools)

- 1.3. In the 2019 projections Corstorphine, Cramond and Hillwood Primary Schools continued to show significant growth in later years due to the Maybury and Cammo developments which are located within their catchment areas. This will remain the case in the 2020 projections. However, following Council approval in March 2020 to establish a new Maybury Primary School incorporating sections of the Corstorphine, Cramond and Hillwood Primary School catchment areas, the accommodation pressures indicated by projections at Corstorphine, Cramond and Hillwood Primary Schools should disappear.
- 1.4. The design and development work for the new Maybury Primary School was delayed between April 2020 and October 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, since October design work has progressed well and the school is on course for delivery by August 2023.
- 1.5. The new Passivhaus school will initially be double stream but it is anticipated will expand to three stream once the Maybury and surrounding developments complete. A nursery and GP surgery will also be accommodated with the school to offer greater service provision from a single site.
- 1.6. The new school has been designed with significant input from teachers and educationalists across the Council and reflects the need for more inclusive and agile learning and teaching spaces.

Deanpark Primary School

- 1.7. Following the Council's approval in March 2019 of the recommendation arising from the statutory consultation proposing to realign the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School, work began to identify how Deanpark Primary School could best be extended.
- 1.8. A working group consisting of officers from the Council's Learning Estate Planning Team, school management and parent representatives met with an architect in December 2019 to consider a number of options allowing the delivery of additional classroom space by August 2021. A further meeting in February 2020 allowed

these options to be refined. However, since then, Covid-19 has created difficulties receiving information from suppliers to allow options to be costed and explored further.

- 1.9. As access to supplier input increases re-engagement with the Working Group will begin in December 2020 ahead of wider engagement with the parent forum and local community in the new year. The delay will mean that new classroom space will now not be ready until August 2022 (subject to any further restrictions).

Echline and Queensferry Primary Schools

- 1.10. The roll projections for Echline and Queensferry Primary Schools show that both schools will exceed their capacity as a result of pupils generated from the high number of significant housing developments within their catchment areas.
- 1.11. The most significant of these is the Builyeon Road development which is located within Echline's catchment area. A statutory consultation proposing the establishment of a new Builyeon Road Primary School will be progressed once a masterplan for the new development is finalised.
- 1.12. A statutory consultation proposing the realignment of the catchment areas of Queensferry Primary School and Echline Primary School concluded in November 2019. Should this proposal progress it would ease pressure on Queensferry Primary School, which is currently under pressure from new housing in the Scotstoun area, and require that Echline Primary School be extended from 12 to 14 classes. The recommended outcomes of this consultation were due to be considered by full Council at its meeting on Thursday 12 March 2020 but this was put back and subsequently delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The outcomes paper will now be considered by full Council at its meeting in January 2021.
- 1.13. Should additional classrooms at Echline be required the intention would be to combine the requirement for the new classrooms with expansion of Early Years provision at Echline Primary. This will drive efficiencies and allow a more holistic approach to the design development.

Fox Covert Primary School and St Andrew's Fox Covert RC Primary School

- 1.14. Rising rolls at Fox Covert Primary School have previously required the construction of a 4 classroom extension, completed in August 2017. As part of this development a second phase was planned allowing the delivery of a further 2 classrooms at a later date.
- 1.15. This phase 1 extension is now full. While the roll at Fox Covert has now stabilised, projections continue to show some growth. Additionally, the LDP identifies a requirement for additional classroom space at the adjoining St Andrew's Fox Covert RC Primary to support demand for Roman Catholic places from the Maybury and Cammo housing developments.
- 1.16. Work on the phase 2 extension began in March 2020 and was due to be completed in August 2020. The interruption to works caused by the Covid-19 pandemic mean

that this completion date could not be achieved. The extension will now complete in December 2020.

Frogston Primary School (affecting Gilmerton and Gracemount Primary Schools)

- 1.17. The projections for Gilmerton and Gracemount Primary Schools in 2019 showed considerable growth. However, it is likely that the 2020 projections to be published in March 2021 will show significant reductions in the pressure on these schools due to the completion of the new Frogston Primary School in April 2021. This new school, which incorporates sections of the catchment areas of both Gracemount and Gilmerton, was due to be completed in August 2020 but was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Kirkliston Primary School

- 1.18. A statutory consultation proposing the establishment of a P1 and P2 annexe of Kirkliston Primary School at Kirkliston Leisure Centre concluded in June 2020 when the Council's Policy and Sustainability Committee approved the proposal. Design work on the new annexe which also incorporates a nursery to replace the existing nursery space within Kirkliston Community Centre has progressed well. A virtual information event for parents was held in October 2020 and a Planning Application was submitted in November 2020. The new building is scheduled to be completed for August 2022.
- 1.19. Until such time as the new Early Stages Hub is complete, the 4 classroom temporary unit delivered in August 2019 will remain in place.

Newcraighall Primary School

- 1.20. The New Brunstane housing development is within the catchment area of Newcraighall Primary School. Estimated pupil generation from this development has pushed the school roll projection for Newcraighall Primary School beyond the school's available capacity. Accordingly, a statutory consultation proposing the relocation of Newcraighall Primary School to a new, larger site and building within the new development was undertaken. The relocation of the school was subsequently approved by full Council on 12 March 2020.
- 1.21. The design team undertaking the design of Maybury Primary School will also develop a Passivhaus school building for the relocated Newcraighall Primary School. This work will progress in the new year.

Canaan Lane Primary School (affecting South Morningside Primary School and James Gillespie's Primary School)

- 1.22. The work to construct a new primary school on Canaan Lane has been delayed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The new school, which will take pressure off both South Morningside Primary School and James Gillespie's Primary School was due to open in August 2021. The new school will now not open until August 2022.
- 1.23. Critical to the opening of the new school is the transition of South Morningside Primary School pupils from the Deanbank and Canaan Lane sites to the South

Morningside Primary School main site on Comiston Road. The gradual transition of classes to the main site will take a number of years and will require careful control of intakes at both South Morningside Primary and the new Canaan Lane Primary once it opens. Officers from the Schools and Lifelong Learning and the Learning Estate Planning Team are working with school management to ensure that this transition avoids unnecessary disruption.

St Catherine's RC Primary School

- 1.24. St Catherine's RC Primary School will be rebuilt following the findings that it would no longer be economically prudent to continue investing in the fabric of the existing building. An initial engagement meeting with St Catherine's RC Primary School parents took place in January 2020 to let them know that an architect has been commissioned to produce a masterplan for the design that takes account of the feedback received during the "My Gracemount" consultation in 2019.
- 1.25. Work on the feasibility work has been delayed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic but resumed in October 2020. Further engagement with parents from St Catherine's RC Primary School, with neighbouring schools and with the wider community will take place following the conclusion of the masterplanning work being undertaken.

St David's RC Primary School

- 1.26. Rising rolls at St David's RC Primary School have previously required the construction of a 4 classroom extension, completed in August 2015. As part of this development a second phase was planned allowing the delivery of further classrooms at a later date.
- 1.27. Work on the delivery of the second phase has been delayed as a result of Covid-19 and legal issues concerning construction on a PPP site. Discussions between the Council's legal team and the contractors legal team remain in progress.
- 1.28. St David's RC Primary School will require new classroom space in August 2021 and delivery of the second phase of the extension build for that date remains the target.

Victoria Primary School

- 1.29. The new Victoria Primary School building is currently under construction on a site in the Western Harbour. The school had been scheduled for completion in Easter 2021, however, due to Covid-19 delays the school will now open in August 2021.

Boroughmuir High School

- 1.30. The process of appointing a contractor to complete the extension of Boroughmuir High School is reaching a conclusion. Subject to approval by the Finance and Resources Committee on 3 December 2020, the successful contractor will be appointed in December with a full programme of works agreed thereafter. The target completion date for the extension remains August 2022.
- 1.31. In March 2020 the "School Roll Projections and Rising Rolls" report highlighted that, even with the extension, projections suggest that Boroughmuir will not have

sufficient capacity to accommodate demand and that a catchment review may be necessary. Further consideration of this requirement will be set out in the report to Education, Children and Families Committee in March 2021 with the publication of the new roll projections.

Castlebrae

- 1.32. The replacement Castlebrae High School is due to open in January 2022.

Craigmount High School

- 1.33. Craigmount High School shows significant growth in later years due to the Maybury development being located within its catchment area. A statutory consultation proposing the establishment of a new Maybury Primary School was concluded in March 2020 when a meeting of the full Council approved the proposal. This proposal included aligning the new Maybury Primary School with Craigmount High School.
- 1.34. Also, as reported to Education, Children and Families Committee in March 2020, proposals for the development of a new West Edinburgh/Kirkliston High School, (which depending on its location could ultimately be the cluster secondary school for the new Maybury Primary School), will be considered as part of the City Plan 2030. In the meantime, it is necessary to develop an expansion strategy for Craigmount High School which, if the West Edinburgh High School option cannot be delivered in a suitable location, will be required to expand from its current 1,400 pupil capacity to around 1,800 pupils. A feasibility study was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, this will now be restarted and a Working Group established.

James Gillespie's High School

- 1.35. The 2019 projections for James Gillespie's High School demonstrate that it no longer has the capacity to support a growing Gaelic Medium Education (GME) intake and growth within its non-GME catchment population.
- 1.36. Design work on proposals for the new accommodation at Darroch was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Darroch was previously used as an annexe of James Gillespie's High School when the new school building was being constructed. The use of this building by GME pupils will provide an immersive environment and take pressure of facilities on the main James Gillespie's High School site. The works at Darroch are scheduled for completion in Easter 2022.
- 1.37. In the long-term, proposals are being developed to create a dedicated GME secondary school and an informal consultation process considering four options is underway. The realignment of GME pupils with a new GME school will significantly reduce the pressure on James Gillespie's High School.

Liberton High School

- 1.38. Liberton High School is a part of the WAVE4 programme and an application has been made to the Scottish Government for funding to allow its replacement. A detailed design process was due to begin in February 2020 but was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- 1.39. In the short-term, the Rising Rolls at Liberton High School will be met through the provision of modular accommodation. Six new classrooms were due to be delivered for August 2020 to provide capacity for the 2020/21 session but were delayed due to Covid-19. These will now open in January 2021 and will remain at the school until they are surplus to requirement.
- 1.40. The December 2019 projections projected an S1 intake of 160 pupils. However the actual intake was 181. The projections published in March 2021 should reflect this difference and it is anticipated that the long-term roll projection for Liberton High School will increase over those published in 2019.

Portobello High School

- 1.41. Minor works to reconfigure some classroom spaces were due to be undertaken in Summer 2020 but were delayed due to Covid-19. This work will now take place in Summer 2021 and will provide the school with sufficient capacity to address the rising rolls.

Queensferry High School

- 1.42. The new Queensferry High School opened in August 2020. The school includes within its projections the development site at Builyeon Road which will be served by a new primary school.
- 1.43. Queensferry's catchment area also includes Kirkliston. Queensferry's capacity cannot support both Kirkliston and a developing Builyeon Road Primary School. As reported to Education, Children and Families Committee in March 2020, a solution is required to provide Kirkliston with a permanent and sustainable catchment secondary school. The solution will only be determined as part of the education infrastructure appraisal produced as a supporting document for the City Plan 2030.

The Royal High School

- 1.44. Plans are being progressed for an extension of The Royal High School which will allow it to accommodate projected demand. The new extension was programmed for delivery in August 2021 however, due to the Covid-19 delays the extension will now not be delivered until at least August 2022.
- 1.45. In the short-term, to address the accommodation pressures the school faces temporary classrooms have been established at the front of the school.
- 1.46. Dining is also a significant issue for the school with the present small dining facility struggling to accommodate growing demand. A feasibility study to explore how the dining room could be physically extended into an adjacent internal courtyard was delayed due to Covid-19. However, this piece of work will now be progressed with a view to assessing the viability of this and other options.

Trinity Academy

- 1.47. Trinity Academy is part of the WAVE4 programme. Funding has been provided to allow the construction of new PE facilities for the school on the Bangholm playing fields site. This new provision now also has planning approval.

1.48. The scope and brief for a second, more extensive phase of works is in development with involvement of school management and a Parent Working group. Detailed wider public consultation will follow as plans develop.