

# Education, Children and Families Committee

10:00, Tuesday, 12 October 2021

## West Edinburgh High School

Executive/routine                      Executive  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
  - 1.1.1 Note the content of this report.

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# Report

## West Edinburgh High School

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report outlines the current situation with delivery of a new West Edinburgh High School following the recent approval of the proposed [City Plan 2030](#) by the Planning Committee on 29 September 2021.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 At the Education Children and Families Committee on 24 August 2021 the following motion was approved

Committee notes:

1. the decision of 12 December 2017 Education Committee, to explore options for a West Edinburgh High School in/around Kirkliston, following a consultation on the future feeder status of Kirkliston Primary School;
2. the interim informal updates issued by officers on work to identify a potential site, most recently at the March 2021 committee, where school roll projections identified Queensferry High School as breaching capacity from 2024 thus requiring a new West Edinburgh High School from that point;
3. that Council Officers advised the outcome of the new Local Development Plan (LDP) would inform the next steps and identify any potential site options; and
4. that given delays to the publication of the LDP, there is now a shortening time period before a new high school will be required, and recognises the concern and uncertainty facing parents and future pupils in Kirkliston around future high school provision.

Committee therefore agrees that a report be brought to the first Education Committee following the Planning Committee's first review of the draft LDP, which should outline the next steps for identifying a site for West Edinburgh High School, and set out a timetable and key milestones up to and including an expected building completion and intake of pupils.

- 3.2 On the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018 the Education, Children and Families Committee considered a [report](#) on the informal consultation for schools in west and south-west Edinburgh. The Committee agreed that determination of locations for new school infrastructure in west Edinburgh (Kirkliston, Hillwood, Maybury and Cammo areas) would be

progressed through development of a West Edinburgh spatial strategy to be prepared as part of the new Local Development Plan process and that statutory consultations would be progressed when the spatial framework has been completed.

- 3.3 The proposed [City Plan 2030](#) was considered by the Planning Committee on 29 September 2021 and the accompanying Education Appraisal gave further consideration to the issues of education infrastructure requirements in west Edinburgh. The motion above focuses on capacity available at Queensferry High School. The most up to date baseline projections for Queensferry High School are those included in the proposed City Plan 2030 Education Appraisal as shown in the following table:

Secondary School	Notional Capacity	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Queensferry High School	1200	1022	1059	1115	1196	1260	1308	1346	1436	1538	1606

- 3.4 The following extract about Queensferry High School is also taken from the proposed City Plan 2030 Education Appraisal:

**Queensferry High School**

*Queensferry High School’s baseline projection (see Table 71 above) suggests that it will be required to operate over capacity before the impact of new housing is considered. Accordingly, contributions are sought for the 274 pupils estimated to be generated by new developments in the Queensferry catchment area. These contributions may be allocated against a new high school in the West of the city or Kirkliston area to realign Kirkliston Primary School with alternative secondary provision, creating space at Queensferry High School to accommodate pupils generated by new housing in the Queensferry area. Further informal consultation and, if necessary, a statutory consultation process will require to be undertaken before a decision about how these contributions are allocated is reached. Accordingly, flexibility to allocate the contributions received will be required.*

<b>Table 72: Breakdown of secondary school contributions for Queensferry High School – additional 274 ND SS pupils Plan</b>	<b>Pupil Generation Attributable</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
LDP 2016	96% (264 pupils)	£13,888,776
City Plan	4% (10 pupils)	£526,090

- 3.5 For any project which requires to be progressed the proposed City Plan commits that the Council will carry out extensive informal engagement and consultation prior to initiating the statutory process and this will involve three key stages:

- 1) initial presentations, discussions and information gathering;
- 2) informal consultation on draft proposals and;

3) where necessary, progression of Statutory Consultations.

3.6 This process allows the views of the communities from the schools affected to be considered in the development of a proposal prior to it being taken through a formal process. While informal consultation has been carried out previously with the Kirkliston community, the delays caused by the pandemic, the knowledge of what housing allocations are now in the proposed City Plan 2030 and the ongoing issues with the construction sector require a new informal consultation process to be progressed in the Kirkliston community.

## 4. Main report

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4.1 The proposed City Plan 2030 does not include any new housing in Kirkliston and therefore securing a site for education infrastructure through working in partnership with the landowners who were seeking housing allocations is now less feasible. However, the landowners can still be approached to see if they would be willing to negotiate in relation to the Council securing a site for education infrastructure.

4.2 The proposed City Plan 2030 does propose significant new housing in West Edinburgh along the A8 corridor. It is feasible that pupils from Kirkliston could attend a secondary school in this area in the future. However, irrespective of whether pupils from Kirkliston attended a West Edinburgh High School the significant number of new pupils generated by the sites in the proposed City Plan 2030 will require a site to be secured for a secondary school and discussions with developers will be progressed.

4.3 The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in delay to the publication of the proposed City Plan 2030. It has also delayed the implementation of the education infrastructure projects in the Council's Capital Investment Programme (CIP) and all the construction projects on site continue to face delays due to the shortage of materials and labour in the construction sector. Further to this, the cost of projects continues to increase to unprecedented levels resulting in ongoing review of the CIP in relation to affordability. Contingency measures have therefore been required in order to ensure statutory provision of education capacity.

4.4 Based on the current situation it is proposed that detailed work on options, including contingency plans given the ongoing pandemic related issues in the construction sector, is progressed during the remainder of 2021. In 2022 informal and statutory consultation on feasible options could then be progressed.

4.5 As a result, an indicative timeline for the steps towards construction of a new school would be as follows:

4.5.1 Informal consultation on options – beginning January 2022

4.5.2 Engagement with landowners – ongoing through to March 2022

4.5.3 Update Reports to Committee – December 2021 and May 2022

4.5.6 Decision on preferred option to be progressed – target May 2022 Education, Children and Families Committee

4.5.7 Statutory consultation – May 2022 – January 2023

4.5.8 Design, approvals and procurement by summer 2024

4.5.9 Construction begins summer 2024 and complete by summer 2026

4.6 Due to the delays caused by the pandemic, the earliest a new school could now realistically be delivered is by summer 2026. There is also the possibility that the new housing in Queensferry will be delayed and the expected point that Queensferry High School breaches its capacity could be later than shown in the table above. However, in order to mitigate any delay in the provision of new education infrastructure contingency arrangements will be developed and considered as part of the informal consultation period. The school roll projections are also updated on an annual basis and will act as a strategic guide as to whether any contingency plans require to be implemented.

## **5. Next Steps**

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5.1 A further report to Committee will be submitted in December 2021 which will focus on the outcome of the detailed work on options with a view to an informal consultation process beginning early in 2022.

## **6. Financial impact**

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6.1 There are no additional or new financial implications.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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7.1 Detailed engagement with all relevant stakeholders is progressed for ever learning estate investment project. Any statutory consultation required for changes to the school estate will be undertaken according to the procedures set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

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

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## **9. Appendices**

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