

Replacement Beeslack Consultation

Report by Executive Director Children, Young People & Partnerships

Report for Decision

1 Recommendations

Council is recommended to approve the following:

- i. Beeslack Community High School will be relocated from its current site to land adjacent to Easter Bush from August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- ii. A new additional support needs (ASN) stage will be established at Beeslack Community High School when the school opens in August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter;;
- iii. The catchment area of Beeslack Community High School will be realigned to include the catchment areas of Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools;
- iv. The catchment area of the closed Glencorse Primary School will be realigned to the Mauricewood Primary School catchment area;
- v. The catchment area of Penicuik High School will be realigned to include the catchment areas of Mauricewood and the closed Glencorse Primary Schools;
- vi. A new ASN stage will be established at Penicuik High School.

2 Purpose of Report

This report advises on the outcome of the statutory consultation on the proposal to relocate Beeslack Community High School and realign the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools, and seeks approval for the recommendations outlined above.

This report summarises the statutory consultation on the proposal undertaken in the period from Monday 19 February to Tuesday 16 April 2024. The statutory report on the outcome of the consultation was published on 3 June 2024 and provides full details of the process undertaken, representations made and Education Scotland's report on the proposal.

Date: 31 May 2024

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3 Background

1. The *Education (Scotland) Act 1980* places a legislative duty on the Council to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across its area. This duty applies in respect of both the current school population and anticipated pattern of demand.
2. Section 3D of the *Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000* (as inserted by Section 2 of the *Education (Scotland) 2016 Act*) introduces a requirement on education authorities to carry out their duty to ensure the delivery of improvement in the quality of school education which is provided in the schools they manage, with a view to achieving the strategic priorities of the National Improvement Framework. It is, therefore, the duty of the education authority to ensure that the education it provides is directed to the development of the personality, talents and the mental and physical abilities of the children to their fullest potential.
3. In addition, Councils have a statutory duty to secure best value in terms of the *Local Government in Scotland Act 2003* by continuous improvement in performance of the local authority's functions, while maintaining an appropriate balance between quality and cost and having regard to economy, efficiency, effectiveness, equal opportunities and the achievement of sustainable development.
4. As part of Midlothian's Learning Estate Strategy 2017-2047, it was identified that a new/replacement secondary school would be required to address capacity pressures across the A701 corridor and Penicuik.
5. At a meeting of Midlothian Council on 15 December 2015 approval was granted for officers to consult communities on options for secondary schools to serve the A701 Corridor and Penicuik and to subsequently bring a paper to Council outlining the preferred approach.
6. Subsequently an informal consultation exercise was undertaken on the options for secondary schools to serve the A701 corridor and Penicuik. This consultation posited five options, of which the preferred option was the replacement of Beeslack Community High School, the extension of Lasswade High School and the refurbishment and extension of Penicuik High School to serve the Penicuik area, including Mauricewood.
7. At a meeting of Midlothian Council on 20 December 2016 councillors approved the recommendation for officers to move forward with identifying a potential site in Midlothian West Ward for the proposed replacement Beeslack school building. As well as the recommendation that officers would provide a further report for approval of a statutory consultation on the provision of secondary school education in the A701 corridor.

8. On 11 May 2021, full council approved recommendations to delegate authority to the Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships to undertake the statutory consultations required for the implementation of the Learning Estate Strategy with the exception of projects involving potential school closures.
9. Subsequently, on 14th December 2021, Council approved the Strategic Business Case for the replacement of Beeslack Community High School on the proposed site within the Easter Bush campus.
10. The statutory consultation on the proposal was undertaken in the period from Monday 19 February to Sunday 16 April 2024. The statutory report on the outcome of the consultation was published on 3 June 2024, and provides full details of the process undertaken, representations made and Education Scotland's report on the proposal. The report is available on the Council's Citizen Space Consultation page:
<https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/replacement-beeslack-consultation>
11. The Education Service held two Public Meetings at Beeslack Community High School on Wednesday 20th March 2024 and Lasswade High School on Monday 25th March 2024. 16 members of the public attended the first public meeting and 9 attended the second.
12. A total of 388 responses to the consultation were received during the period of the statutory consultation.
13. 246 responses to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to relocate Beeslack Community High School from its current site to land adjacent to Easter Bush, 105 were not in favour and 37 had no opinion.
14. 222 responses to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to realign the Beeslack Community High School catchment area to include the catchment areas of Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools, 98 were not in favour and 68 had no opinion.
15. 124 responses to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to realign the catchment areas of the closed Glencorse Primary School and Mauricewood Primary School from the Beeslack Community High School catchment area to the Penicuik High School catchment area, 115 were not in favour and 149 had no opinion.
16. 152 responses to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to realign the catchment area of the closed Glencorse Primary School to the Mauricewood Primary School catchment area, 58 were not in favour and 178 had no opinion.
17. 269 responses to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to establish a new ASN stage at Beeslack Community High School, 24 were not in favour and 95 had no opinion.

18. 230 responses to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to establish a new ASN stage at Penicuik High School, 19 were not in favour and 139 had no opinion.

19. Education Scotland's Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) prepare a report 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 Midlothian Council's proposal (Appendix B).

20. The Education Scotland report summary states:

"HM Inspectors agree that this proposal has clear educational benefits. The proposed catchment changes and a new school building will help to address current and future capacity issues across the school estate. The majority of stakeholders are supportive of the proposals to relocate Beeslack Community High School and establishing new ASN stages at Beeslack Community High School and Penicuik High School. There are varied views in regard to rezoning of the school catchments. Should the proposal be agreed, there will be a need to continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure that their questions and concerns are considered and addressed. This should include, providing reassurance to parents around safe routes to school. During the design phase for the new school building, the council should continue to ensure that the ASN facility takes appropriate account of the requirements of learners with severe and complex medical needs."

21. The statutory consultation report was published on 3 June 2024 leaving the required period of at least three weeks for further representations to be made prior to Council's consideration of the report and its decision regarding the recommendations:

1. Beeslack Community High School will be relocated from its current site to land adjacent to Easter Bush from August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter;
2. A new additional support needs (ASN) stage to be established at Beeslack Community High School when the school opens in August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter;
3. The catchment area of Beeslack Community High School to be realigned to include the catchment areas of Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools;
4. The catchment area of the closed Glencorse Primary School to be realigned to the Mauricewood Primary School catchment area;
The catchment area of Penicuik High School to be realigned to include the catchment areas of Mauricewood and the closed Glencorse Primary Schools;
5. A new ASN stage to be established at Penicuik High School.

22. The recommendation of the statutory consultation report is for Council to approve the relocation of Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools as outlined above.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

The total approved capital expenditure budget for the Beeslack CHS Replacement project is £115.811 million. This is for the provision of a 1,600 pupil High School, along with Swimming Pool and Community Facilities.

The cost of the provision will be met by the Council, partially off-set by Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP) Funding from the Scottish Government and Developer Contributions. LEIP funding provides for 50% of the like for like facilities in the replacement school. Developers have a legal obligation to pay their proportionate share of costs of the new Education facility directly related to the impact of the additional housing being built.

Staff at Beeslack CHS would transfer to the new school site when it opens and staffing at Beeslack CHS will be in line with the Devolved School Management (DSM) formula. Teaching and support staff at the current Beeslack Annexe, will move into the new Beeslack CHS or be offered any other vacancies that are available subject to discussion with individuals. Facilities management staff at the current Beeslack Annexe will be offered redeployment to the new Beeslack School or offered any other vacancies that are available subject to discussion with individuals.

4.2 Digital

None

4.3 Risk

If the recommendations are not approved there is a risk that the capacity pressures on some of the directly affected schools as a result of planned house build in the affected catchment areas will impact on the quality of education provision.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)

An Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out and published: https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/5239/integrated_impact_assessment_replacement_beeslack_consultation_june_2024 .

4.4 Additional Report Implications

See Appendix A.

Appendices

Appendix A – Additional Report Implications

Appendix B – Education Scotland Report

Background links

[Consultation Report, June 2024](#)

[Integrated Impact Assessment](#)

[Consultation Proposal Paper, February 2024](#)

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Not applicable

A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- Holistic Working
- Hub and Spoke
- Modern
- Sustainable
- Transformational
- Preventative
- Asset-based
- Continuous Improvement
- One size fits one
- None of the above

A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- One Council Working with you, for you
- Preventative and Sustainable
- Efficient and Modern
- Innovative and Ambitious
- None of the above

A.4 Delivering Best Value

The implementation of the recommendation of this report will enhance best value in the delivery of Council services.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

This report provides details of the statutory consultation undertaken with communities and all stakeholders regarding the proposal to relocate Beeslack Community High School and realign the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The report does not directly impact on Midlothian Council's performance and outcomes.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable