

School Catchment Area Review – Penicuik Primary Schools**Report by Don Ledingham, Director, Education and Children's Services****1 Purpose of Report**

This report seeks approval from members to consult on a review of the catchment boundaries of the non-denominational primary schools in Penicuik.

2 Background

In 2009/10 Midlothian Council embarked on a programme of catchment reviews to address the mismatch between our schools' capacities and the demand for pupil places and to ensure that our school infrastructure would support the implementation of Midlothian's Local Plan.

The programme commenced in 2009/10 with a preliminary community consultation covering all school areas across Midlothian. In 2010/11 catchment boundary changes were made to King's Park and Woodburn Primary Schools, Gorebridge and Stobhill Primary Schools and Bonnyrigg, Hopefield, Hawthornden and Lasswade Primary Schools. These changes established a better balance between school capacities and demand for places in Dalkeith, Gorebridge and Bonnyrigg and established the catchment area for the new build Burnbrae Primary School, which opened in October 2012.

The 2009/10 initial consultation raised issues, which remain outstanding, in respect of the school catchment boundaries of all the non-denominational primary schools in the Penicuik area i.e. Glencorse, Mauricewood, Cuiken, Cornbank St James and Strathesk primary schools.

Across Midlothian, the school which is under most pressure, in terms of demand for places exceeding available capacity, is Cuiken Primary School. So it is proposed to review and redraw the catchment boundaries of the non-denominational primary schools in Penicuik to achieve a better balance between available capacity and demand for school places.

3 Proposals**Penicuik Primary Schools**

The baseline projection of pupil numbers estimates the number of catchment pupils for the coming 5 to 10 years assuming no further completions of new housing.

School	Current Built Capacity	Current Pupil Capacity	Pupil Census 2012	Baseline Projection
Glencorse Primary School	4 classes	100	19	35
Mauricewood Primary School	16 classes	462	353	360
Cuiken Primary School	9 classes	231	224	224
Cornbank Primary School	12 classes	329	232	245
Strathesk Primary School	14 classes	371	321	358
TOTAL(S)		1,493	1,149	1,222

Cuiken Primary School is already at capacity and it has proven difficult in the past two years to find places at the school for all primary 1 catchment pupils. The situation has been managed by granting placing requests wherever possible to the other Penicuik primary schools, predominantly Cornbank Primary School.

The other issue with the Penicuik primary school catchment areas is that we have spare capacity at a number of our schools but it is not always in the catchment area where development of new housing is planned. Much of the planned housing development for Penicuik is in the current catchment areas of Glencorse and Mauricewood Primary Schools with no planned development in the catchment of Cornbank Primary School, which has considerable spare capacity.

Housing Developments	Catchment	Site	Proposed Units	Primary Pupil Product
NW Penicuik (Belwood)	Glencorse	H16	163	46
NW Penicuik (Affordable)	Mauricewood	H16	160	45
NW Penicuik (Mauricewood)	Mauricewood	H16	66	18
NW Penicuik (Nursery)	Glencorse	H16	62	17
Greenlaw Mains	Mauricewood	C	458	128
Deanburn	Mauricewood	D	109	31
Dalmore Paper Mill	Glencorse	231	120	34
Mauricewood Mains Steading	Glencorse	242	10	3
Former Eastfield PS	Strathesk	273	30	8
			1,178	330

The projected roll includes estimates of pupils from all planned housing detailed in the current Housing Land Audit. The proposed capacity includes an extension to Cuiken to bring the school's capacity up to 14 classes. This extension would be funded from developer contributions.

School Projections Current Catchment Areas	Class Capacity	Proposed Capacity	Projected Roll
Glencorse	4 classes	100	134
Mauricewood	16 classes	462	582
Cuiken	14 classes	371	224
Cornbank	12 classes	329	245
Strathesk	14 classes	371	367
		1,633	1,552

The table demonstrates that there would be sufficient capacity in the current Penicuik schools, once Cuiken is extended, to accommodate pupils from new housing if the catchment boundaries can be redefined. The redefinition of the boundaries would need to transfer some 700 dwellings from the catchment area of Mauricewood to the catchment area of Cuiken and some 950 dwellings from the catchment area of Cuiken to the catchment area of Cornbank. If this can be achieved, no further extension would be required.

The revised catchment boundaries for the primary schools would make the following transfers of current housing stock:

- Rural areas west of the A701 from Cuiken to Cornbank, 144 dwellings, approximately 16 pupils;
- The residential area bounded by Carlops Road, John Street and Bridge Street from Cuiken to Cornbank, 812 dwellings, approximately 80 pupils resident, 43 of which currently attend Cuiken;
- The Cuikenburn and Deanburn areas from Mauricewood to Cuiken, 727 dwellings, approximately 153 pupils resident, 74 of which currently attend Mauricewood.

The catchment review would also transfer the following areas of planned housing development:

- North West Penicuik (Belwood) part of site H16, 163 proposed units, to Mauricewood Primary School;
- Remainder of site H16 North West Penicuik, 288 proposed units, to Cuiken Primary School;
- Deanburn, 109 proposed units, to Cuiken Primary School;

School Projections Revised Catchment Areas	Class Capacity	Proposed Capacity	Projected Roll
Glencorse	4 classes	100	70
Mauricewood	16 classes	462	460
Cuiken	14 classes	371	350
Cornbank	12 classes	329	305
Strathesk	14 classes	371	367
		1,633	1,552

It is therefore proposed to commence the process of formal consultation to the catchment boundaries of the five non-denominational primary schools in Penicuik. Outline consultation programme is attached as Appendix 1.

4.1 Resource

The purpose of the proposals set out in this report are to ensure that best use is made of existing school capacity and to undertake sufficient forward planning to ensure that school infrastructure supports the delivery of Midlothian's Local Plans and delivers best value in these respects.

4.2 Risk

Assessing future provision is complex given the scale of potential developments within the local plans. However, not doing anything is a risk to the Council in terms of the impact on statutory duties such as education provision and the ability to provide best value services. Progressing the catchment review programme will reduce the level of these risks.

4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☒ Sustainable growth
- ☒ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

4.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The re-alignment of the catchment boundaries of the non denominational primary schools in Penicuik will support the delivery of the Single Midlothian Plan. It will contribute to sustainable growth, getting it right for every child and delivering positive outcomes for the people of Midlothian.

4.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The principles underpinning the Single Midlothian Plan are embedded in the Education & Children's Services Division and the programme of school catchment reviews.

4.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The proposals in this report build on the preliminary consultations undertaken with local communities in 2009/10. The report seeks approval to commence the process of statutory consultation, in compliance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, to redraw the catchment boundaries of the non-denominational primary schools in Penicuik.

4.7 Ensuring Equalities

The principles underpinning the Single Midlothian Plan are embedded in the Education & Children's Services Division and the programme of school catchment reviews.

4.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The principles underpinning the Single Midlothian Plan are embedded in the Education & Children's Services Division and the programme of school catchment reviews.

4.9 IT Issues

There are no implications for IT.

4 Recommendations

Council is invited to:

- a) agree to officers commencing the process of formal consultation on the revision to the catchment boundaries of the five non-denominational primary schools in Penicuik, namely Cornbank St James, Cuiken, Glencorse, Mauricewood and Strathesk Primary Schools; and
- b) note that the outcome of the consultation will be reported to Council in due course to inform Council's decision on implementation of the proposed changes.

10th June 2013

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Background Papers:

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2010/2/pdfs/asp_20100002_en.pdf

Outline Consultation Programme – Penicuik Primary Schools (Appendix 1)

Appendix 1

Penicuik Non Denominational Primary Schools

Consultation Steps & Timelines	Duration	Start	Finish
Draft Proposal Consultation Paper		June '13	
Consult with officers & elected members on Proposal Consultation Paper		June '13	Aug '13
Consultation period (minimum 6 weeks term time)	6 weeks	Sept '13	Oct '13
Hold Public Meeting(s)		Sept '13	Oct '13
Time for HMIE to produce their report (Minimum of 1 week in term time)	3 weeks	Nov '13	Nov '13
Publish Consultation Report		Nov '13	
Time for Further Consideration (3 week min)	3 weeks	Dec '13	Dec '13
Council meeting & decision		Jan '14	

Declaration Box

Instructions: *This box must be completed by the author of the report. The box will be copied and saved by the Council Secretariat who will delete it from the report prior to photocopying the agenda.*

Title of Report: School Catchment Area Review

Meeting Presented to: Council meeting of 25 June

Author of Report: Sandra Banks

I confirm that I have undertaken the following actions before submitting this report to the Council Secretariat (Check boxes to confirm):-

- ☒ *All resource implications have been addressed. Any financial and HR implications have been approved by the Head of Finance and Human Resources.*
- ☒ *All risk implications have been addressed.*
- ☒ *All other report implications have been addressed.*
- ☒ *My Director has endorsed the report for submission to the Council Secretariat.*

For Cabinet reports, please advise the Council Secretariat if the report has an education interest. This will allow the report to be located on the Cabinet agenda among the items in which the Religious Representatives are entitled to participate.

Likewise, please advise the Council Secretariat if any report for Midlothian Council has an education interest. The Religious Representatives are currently entitled to attend meetings of the Council in a non-voting observer capacity, but with the right to speak (but not vote) on any education matter under consideration, subject always to observing the authority of the Chair.