

Capacity increase to Replacement Beeslack CHS

Report by Fiona Robertson, Director, Children, Young People & Partnerships

Report for Decision

1 Recommendations

1. The Council is recommended to approve the increase in capacity for the Replacement Beeslack Community High School from 1200 pupils to 1600 pupils.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

- 2.1 At full Council 28th June 2022, updated Heads of Terms were approved, with regards to securing the site, for the Replacement Beeslack CHS. If the replacement school is built to the current proposal of a 1200 capacity school our roll projections show that a further extension would be required within two years of the school opening. The current design of the 1200 pupil capacity school includes core accommodation - such as gym halls, dining and all social spaces - to accommodate 1600 pupils. A full business case with detailed financial costs will be brought back to December Council.
- 2.2 Approval is now being sought to increase the indicated capacity of the new school building from 1200 pupils to 1600 pupils

Date: 20 October 2022

Report Contact:

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3 Background

- 3.1 Midlothian Council successfully secured funding from the Scottish Government Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP) for the Replacement Beeslack CHS. LEIP projects were anticipated to be completed by 2024 but due to the impact of the pandemic Scottish Government (SG) has granted some flexibility on this completion date. To ensure the SG funding remains secure this project needs to be fully funded, agreed and commenced as soon as is practically possible. It is intended to bring a further report covering the financial costs to Council in December 2022.
- 3.2 As stated in the Council report of 28 June 2022, approval was given for the provision of a new high school for an increased roll of 1200 pupils, with future provision to 1600 pupils, in a location more central to a revised catchment area (subject to a Statutory Consultation exercise).
- 3.3 School roll projections were updated recently and indicate that a capacity of 1200 would be insufficient to accommodate all pupils from the catchment area proposed initially. It is prudent to only project to a maximum of 6 years and the latest housing completions from the Housing Land Audit inform our projections. Projections beyond this timeframe become less accurate and more volatile.
- 3.4 Several roll projection scenarios were explored and the breakdown of these can be seen in the figures below. The proposed Replacement Beeslack is scheduled to open in 2026 (shown in **blue**), any school capacity breaches are indicated in **red**.

Please note, Glencorse PS closed in 2021 however children from the catchment area can choose to attend either Mauricewood PS or Roslin PS and have been factored into the projections below.

Figure 1 displays the projected school rolls for each secondary school with the following primary school catchment areas:

- Beeslack CHS – Bilston, Roslin and Paradykes PS
- Lasswade HS - Bonnyrigg, Burnbrae, Hawthornden, Lasswade, Loanhead, Rosewell PS
- Penicuik HS - Cornbank, Cuiken, Mauricewood, Strathesk PS

	Capacity	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Beeslack	860	817	874	947	982	1046	1131
Lasswade	1600	1612	1654	1685	1670	1652	1624
Penicuik	945	656	679	679	774	837	911

Figure 1 Projected school rolls based on the inclusion of Paradykes PS to Beeslack CHS and Mauricewood PS to Penicuik HS

Figure 2 displays the projected school rolls for each secondary school with the following primary school catchment areas:

- Beeslack CHS – Bilston, Roslin, Loanhead and Paradykes PS
- Lasswade HS - Bonnyrigg, Burnbrae, Hawthornden, Lasswade, Rosewell PS
- Penicuik HS - Cornbank, Cuiken, Mauricewood, Strathesk PS

	Capacity	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	860						
Beeslack	Replacement 1200	817	874	947	1027	1134	1256
Lasswade	1600	1612	1654	1685	1642	1596	1545
Penicuik	945	656	679	679	774	837	911

Figure 2 Projected school rolls based on the inclusion of Loanhead and Paradykes PS to Beeslack CHS and Mauricewood PS to Penicuik HS

Figure 3 displays the projected school rolls for each secondary school with the following primary school catchment areas:

- Beeslack CHS – Bilston, Loanhead and Paradykes PS
- Lasswade HS - Bonnyrigg, Burnbrae, Hawthornden, Lasswade, Rosewell PS
- Penicuik HS - Cornbank, Cuiken, Mauricewood, Roslin, Strathesk PS

	Capacity	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Beeslack	860	817	874	947	954	963	989
Lasswade	1600	1612	1654	1685	1642	1596	1545
Penicuik	945	656	679	679	829	964	1109

Figure 3 Projected school rolls based on the inclusion of Loanhead and Paradykes PS to Beeslack CHS and Mauricewood, Roslin PS Penicuik HS

- 3.5 As shown in the scenarios above, the rationale for building the replacement Beeslack to a 1600 pupil capacity to include the primary school catchments of Bilston, Roslin, Loanhead and Paradykes will ensure that there is sufficient capacity for the future. In addition, other secondary schools are not projected to breach their stated capacity because of the increased size of the replacement Beeslack CHS. If Loanhead PS is included in the new catchment area this will reduce and stabilise the Lasswade HS roll, this school has experienced accommodation pressures for a number of years.
- 3.6 If the replacement school is built to the current proposal of a 1200 capacity school our roll projections show that a further extension would be required within two years of the school opening. The current design of the 1200 pupil capacity school includes core accommodation - such as gym halls, dining and all social spaces - to accommodate 1600 pupils. The only significant increase in floor area and costs will relate to the provision of additional classroom bases. If the school capacity is not increased and the school does breach it is likely that any appropriate community space will have to be utilised for school pupils as is currently the case at Lasswade CHS. A full business case with detailed financial costs will be brought back to December Council.
- 3.7 A school extension within a two year time frame would not only be costly, but also cause disruption to pupils, staff and the school community. The replacement Beeslack CHS is being designed to Midlothian Council's Net Zero Policy and we are advised that extending onto a building of a passivhaus specification would also be extremely challenging.

- 3.8 The proposal to create a 1600 pupil capacity Beeslack CHS will also alleviate ongoing capacity pressures at Lasswade High School. Due to site constraints the ability to extend Lasswade HS is problematic and would lead to a loss of community facilities such as sports pitches. The increase in capacity to 1600 pupils will also factor into Local Development Plan 2 with any potential housing development sites contributing towards education provision in the area.
- 3.9 If the increase in capacity is approved, a statutory school consultation will be undertaken with the proposal to move both Loanhead and Paradykes PS into the Beeslack CHS catchment area and Mauricewood to the Penicuik HS catchment area.
- 3.10 It is worth noting that any further delay to the existing project will have a detrimental affect on the existing Beeslack CHS, and plans to provide temporary additional capacity will be required. Further delays may also risk SG LEIP funding.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

The proposed increase in capacity will lead to an increased project cost. The current plan of the 1200 pupil capacity school includes core accommodation - such as gym halls, dining and all social spaces - to accommodate 1600 pupils.

4.2 Digital

None

4.3 Risk

If the proposed increase to a 1600 pupil capacity school is not approved, a new extension at the replacement Beeslack CHS is likely to be required within a few years of opening. Lasswade HS will also continue to breach capacity.

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

A statutory consultation will take place to engage with communities and other stakeholders.

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

APPENDIX B Background Papers/Resource Links (if applicable)