

Newtongrange Primary School Playground Upgrade (Ref: 2025/001)

Report by Saty Kaur, Chief Officer Corporate Solutions

Report for Decision

1 Recommendations

The Petitions Committee is recommended to:

- Consider the content of the petition and the information presented to the Petitions Committee in support of the petition from the Lead Petitioner
- Determine what action should be taken from the following options:
 - No action; or
 - Pass the petition to the relevant Director or other Council Committee to look into, with or without any specific recommendation.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

To present the petition from Newtongrange Primary School Parent Council in respect of a request to upgrade the playground at Newtongrange Primary School for the Petitions Committee's consideration.

Date Wednesday 19 March 2025

Report Contact:

Saty Kaur, Chief Officer Corporate Solutions

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3 Background/Main Body of Report

- 3.1 Newtongrange Primary School Parent Council submitted a petition (Appendix B) to Midlothian Council on 6 February 2025. The petition has been deemed valid by the Council's Monitoring Officer as per the Petitions Procedure and is therefore presented to Petitions Committee for consideration.
- 3.2 The petition states *'Newtongrange Primary School Parent Council calls for equality with other Midlothian schools. Our playground urgently needs an upgrade'*. The petition is supported by 463 signatures (as of the time of writing this report) via the online petition platform 'change.org'. The link to the online petition is [Petition · Upgrade the Newtongrange Primary School playground - United Kingdom · Change.org](#)
- 3.3 The petition seeks the following actions (as lifted from the petition):
- We ask for the school railings to be repaired and repainted.
 - We ask for some colourful or creative stencil decoration/ designs on the existing tarmac surface to allow the children to play imaginative games.
 - We would like to see an astro-turf or softer rubber type surface installed in a small section to avoid injuries when the children are playing football on tarmac.
 - We would like to see some larger engaging and inclusive play equipment installed, such as a Trim Trail, surface domes, playhouse, climbing wall, balance obstacles or similar. (A Trim Trail is a children's obstacle course consisting of different pieces of equipment that form a series of active and fun challenges.)
 - We would like to see an outside classroom area created for outdoor learning opportunities.

Considerations for the Petitions Committee

- 3.4 In terms of the Petitions Procedure, the Lead Petitioner is invited to make a statement (that lasts no longer than 10 minutes) to support their petition. The Procedure allows for one supporter to speak on behalf of the Lead Petitioner. The Lead Petitioner and/or their supporter should be prepared to answer questions from the Petitions Committee.
- 3.5 As per the Council's Scheme of Administration, the Petitions Committee can:
- Take no action; or
 - Pass the petition to the relevant Director or other Council Committee to look into, with or without any specific recommendation.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

To implement the actions requested in the petition would require financial resource at a figure to be determined.

4.2 Digital

No implications

4.3 Risk

Failure to make a decision on the petition puts the Council at risk of not discharging its requirements within its Standing Orders and governance procedures.

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

Implementation of actions may require an Integrated Impact Assessment.

4.4 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

See Appendix A

Appendices

Appendix A – Additional Report Implications

Appendix B – Petition - Newtongrange Primary School Playground (Ref: 2025/001) – Redacted

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

Not applicable

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The petition has been submitted by members of the community.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Not applicable

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable