



Midlothian Council
Children, Young People and Partnerships
Directorate

Statutory Consultation Report

Report on the outcome of the consultation on the proposed establishment of a new primary school and its associated catchment area within the land at Easthouses and the realignment of the catchment areas of Dalkeith High School, Newbattle High School and Lasswade High School.

27 June 2023

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Midlothian Council

Children, Young People and Partnerships Directorate

This report has been prepared following a statutory consultation on the following proposal:

Proposed establishment of a new primary school and its associated catchment area within the land at Easthouses and the realignment of the catchment areas of Dalkeith High School, Newbattle High School and Lasswade High School.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation:

- A new primary school catchment area will be established for Easthouses and the catchment areas of King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Woodburn and Newtongrange Primary School will be realigned;
- A new primary school with early learning and childcare provision and specialist ASN provision will be established for the proposed Easthouses primary catchment area;
- The new primary school will open on its permanent site on the completion of the new building in August 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- A realignment of the Bonnyrigg Primary School Catchment Area and Lasswade High School Catchment Area from August 2023;
- A realignment of the catchment areas of Dalkeith High School and Newbattle High School.

The following schools are directly affected by this proposal:

- King's Park Primary School
- Lawfield Primary School
- Newtongrange Primary School
- Woodburn Primary School
- Mayfield Primary School
- Bonnyrigg Primary School
- Dalkeith High School
- Lasswade High School
- Newbattle High School

The following schools will be indirectly affected by the proposal:

- Gore Glen Primary School
- Gorebridge Primary School
- Moorfoot Primary School
- Stobhill Primary School
- Burnbrae Primary School
- Hawthornden Primary School
- Lasswade Primary School
- Loanhead Primary School
- Rosewell Primary School
- Danderhall Primary School
- Tynewater Primary School

Having had regard (in particular) to:

- a) Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period
- b) Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting held on 29 March 2023
- c) Any representations made to it by Parent Councils
- d) Oral representations made to it at the virtual public drop-in sessions on 14 and 23 March 2023
- e) Oral representations made to it at the virtual public parental focus group on 18 April 2023
- f) Oral representations made to it by pupils
- g) Education Scotland's report on the proposal

1 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of Midlothian's Learning Estate Strategy 2017-2047, it was identified that a new two stream primary school would be required to address capacity pressures across the Newbattle High School associated school group.
- 1.2 At a meeting of Midlothian Council on 8th May 2018 the Director of Education, Communities and Economy was instructed to undertake a consultation on the establishment of a new school and catchment area at Easthouses.
- 1.3 Following review of the possible sites for this new primary school it was proposed that part of the site of the former Newbattle High School be used as a suitable location for this new primary school. An initial feasibility drawing was developed to demonstrate that the site could accommodate a new primary school.
- 1.4 At a meeting of Midlothian Council on 12th February 2019 the Director of Education, Communities and Economy was instructed to undertake a statutory consultation on a primary school on the former Newbattle High School site and report back to council.
- 1.5 Subsequently a consultation was undertaken in spring 2023.
- 1.6 This is a Consultation Proposal prepared in compliance with the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* on the above proposal
- 1.7 The purpose of this report is to:
 - Provide a record of the total number of written responses made during the Statutory Consultation period;
 - Provide a summary of the written responses;
 - Provide a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting held on 29 March 2023;
 - Provide a statement of the Council's response to those written and oral representations;

- Provide the full text of Education Scotland's report and a statement of the Council's response to this report;
- State how the Council reviewed the above proposal following the representations received during the Statutory Consultation period and the report from Education Scotland;
- Provide details of any alleged omission from, or inaccuracy in, the Consultation Proposal Document and state how the Council acted upon it; and
- State how the Council has complied with Section 12 of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* when reviewing the above proposal.

2 Background

- 2.1 *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.
- 2.2 Section 3D of the *Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 (as inserted by Section 2 of the Education (Scotland) Act 2016)* 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The Council has a number of statutory duties relating to the provision of education in its area including the statutory consultation that must be undertaken when proposing a permanent change to any of their schools, including Nursery Schools, such as closure, relocation or change of catchment area. *The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* principal purpose is:
- “to provide strong, accountable statutory consultation practices and procedures that local authorities must apply to their handling of all proposals for school closures and other major changes to schools.”
- 2.5 The Proposal Document and this Final Report have been prepared in accordance with the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*, having regard to the statutory guidance published by the Scottish Government on 14 May 2015, both of which are available for reference at the following websites:

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2010/2/contents>

Statutory Guidance (14 May 2015):

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/05/4615>

The following information has also been used to prepare the report:

- Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period
- Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting held on 29 March 2023
- Any representations made to it by Parent Councils
- Oral representations made to it at the virtual public drop-in sessions on 14 and 23 March 2023
- Oral representations made to it at the virtual public parental focus group on 18 April 2023
- Oral representations made to it by pupils
- Education Scotland's report on the proposal

Midlothian's Vision for Education

2.6 The Council is ambitious for the future of Midlothian. By working together as a Community Planning Partnership, individuals and communities will be able to lead healthier, safer, greener and successful lives by 2030. No child or household need live in poverty. Midlothian will be a Great Green Place to Grow by achieving our net zero carbon ambitions

2.7 Our outcomes for the next 5 years are:

- Individuals and communities have improved health and learning outcomes
- No child or household living in poverty
- Significant progress is made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030

2.8 We continue to aspire to deliver a world-class education system through equity and excellence. Our vision is to provide the highest quality inclusive education, learning and employability service for all individuals and families in Midlothian. To realise this vision we will support the priorities set out in the Single Midlothian Plan, Getting it Right for Every Child and will:

- give all our children the best possible start in life, providing an inclusive learning environment that builds resilience;
- ensure that every young person has the opportunity to be a successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen and an effective contributor who is healthy and happy, especially those who are care experienced;
- work with our communities to promote high expectations which deliver the best educational outcomes for all learners; and
- Celebrate diversity, reduce inequalities and remove barriers to learning.

- 2.13 An update to Midlothian Council's Learning Estate Strategy was approved at full council December 2022 and also included the Council's strategy for the provision of specialist provisions and services across its estate.
- 2.14 The proposed new primary school will alleviate capacity pressures at schools in the Newbattle High School Associated School Group.
- 2.15 In the process of creating the proposed new Easthouses PS catchment area the historical catchment boundary issue surrounding the Cockpen area of Newtongrange was identified.
- 2.16 The proposal to realign the Cockpen area of Newtongrange from the Bonnyrigg PS catchment area to the Newtongrange PS catchment area will align this area with its settlement and ensure that the catchment boundary will not split streets in the area.

3 Considerations

- 3.1 The main considerations relating to the proposed establishment of a new primary school and its associated catchment area within the land at Easthouses and the realignment of the catchment areas of Dalkeith High School, Newbattle High School and Lasswade High School. These are fully explained in the Consultation Proposal Document. The main points are highlighted below:
- The responsibilities associated with the National Improvement Framework and the new duties imposed on Education Authorities by the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 as amended by the 2016 Act.
 - The agreed principles underpinning the development of an empowered school led system set out in the 'Education Bill Policy Ambition- Joint Agreement', June 2018 <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/06/8745/downloads>
 - The duties placed on local authorities in relation to the adequate and efficient provision of school education in their area
 - The duties placed on local authorities to secure best value in the delivery of services

4 The Consultation Process

- 4.1 The Council has met the requirements set out in the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* with regards to ensuring the views of the community were listened to and their views are included in this report. In order to ensure compliance with the Act, an independent consultant was engaged to chair all meetings to ensure impartiality.

The Council believes that this report accurately reflects the views of the community, which have been gathered through a range of engagement events and response mechanisms.

It is for members of Midlothian Council to decide to adopt the proposal, withdraw it or seek to consult on another proposal.

- 4.2 Notification of the consultation was given to all statutory consultees prior to the commencement of the consultation.
- 4.3 The Consultation Proposal Document was published on Midlothian Council's website and paper copies distributed on 27 February 2023 to:

- King's Park Primary School, 20 Croft Street, Dalkeith, EH22 3BA
- Lawfield Primary School, 26 Lawfield Road, Mayfield, Dalkeith, EH22 5BB
- Newtongrange Primary School, 43 Sixth Street, Newtongrange, Dalkeith, EH22 4LB
- Woodburn Primary School, 5 Cousland Road, Dalkeith, EH22 2PS
- Mayfield Primary School, Stone Avenue, Mayfield, Dalkeith, EH22 5PB
- Bonnyrigg Primary School, Sherwood Community Centre, 1 Cockpen Road, Bonnyrigg, EH19 3HR
- Dalkeith High School, 2 Cousland Road, Dalkeith, EH22 2PS
- Lasswade High School, 9A Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg, EH19 2LA
- Newbattle High School, Newbattle Community Campus, Newbattle Road, Easthouses, Dalkeith, EH22 4SX
- Midlothian House, 40 – 46 Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN

4.4 Copies of an information leaflet on the consultation were emailed to affected consultees (see list below) and schools and others such as child minders on 23 February 2023.

4.5 Affected consultees:

- The pupils attending Bonnyrigg, King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn Primary Schools
- The pupils attending Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools
- The Parent Councils and parents/carers of Bonnyrigg, King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn Primary Schools
- The Parent Councils and parents/carers of Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools
- The parents / carers of pupils and children expected to attend Bonnyrigg, King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn Primary Schools, as well as Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper
- The staff employed by the Council and based at Bonnyrigg, King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn Primary Schools
- The staff employed by the Council and based at Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools
- The Trade Union and Professional Associations Representatives of the above staff
- The Community Councils of Bonnyrigg and District, Dalkeith, Danderhall and District, Eskbank and Newbattle, Gorebridge, Mayfield and Easthouses, Moorfoot, Newtongrange, Rosewell, and Tynewater.
- The Community Planning Partnership

4.6 The consultation period commenced on Monday 27 February 2023 and lasted until Sunday 23 April 2023, being a period of eight weeks, which also included the statutory minimum 30 school days.

4.7 The proposal on which the consultation took place was:

- The proposed establishment of a new primary school and its associated catchment area within the land at Easthouses and the realignment of the catchment areas of Dalkeith High School, Newbattle High School and Lasswade High School.
- 4.8 The requirements for consulting on a relevant proposal relating to schools are set out in the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*.
- 4.9 An information leaflet setting out details about the proposal and consultation meetings was issued to the consultees listed in the Consultation Proposal Document. Advice on where the complete Consultation Proposal Document could be obtained was included and was published on Midlothian Council's Consultation Hub:
- [Easthouses Education Consultation - Midlothian Council - Citizen Space](#)
- 4.10 If requested, copies of the proposal would have been made available in alternative formats or translated for readers whose first language is not English.
- 4.11 A 'Frequently Asked Questions' document was also prepared which was available at the same location on the Midlothian Council's Consultation Hub.
- [Easthouses Education Consultation - Midlothian Council - Citizen Space](#)
- 4.12 In addition, the consultation was publicised and received engagement in the following ways:
- There were 11 Facebook reminders to complete the survey or join the online/public meetings. The top performing post reached 20,546 news feeds and 7,192 people engaged with the post in some way, such as clicking into it to find out more.
 - There were 11 Twitter reminders. The best performing achieved 2,475 impressions and 127 engagements.
 - An advertisement was placed in the Midlothian Advertiser week beginning Monday 6 March.
 - The consultation was pushed during Council news slots on a local radio station.
- 4.13 A generic email account was set up by the Council to receive representations and enquiries on the proposal.
- 4.14 The public meeting was held at Newbattle High School on Wednesday 29 March 2023 at 7 pm.
- 4.15 In addition to specific meetings with statutory consultees, a four virtual drop-in sessions via MS Teams were held on 14 and 23 March 2023, which members of the public and staff were welcome to attend.
- 4.16 A virtual parental focus group was also held on 18 April.
- 4.17 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following persons, including those indirectly affected, were consulted:
- The pupils attending Bonnyrigg, King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn Primary Schools
 - The pupils attending Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools

- The Parent Councils and parents/carers of Bonnyrigg, King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn Primary Schools
- The Parent Councils and parents/carers of Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools
- The parents / carers of pupils and children expected to attend Bonnyrigg, King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn Primary Schools, as well as Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper
- The staff employed by the Council and based at Bonnyrigg, King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn Primary Schools
- The staff employed by the Council and based at Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools
- The Trade Union and Professional Associations Representatives of the above staff
- The Community Councils of Bonnyrigg and District, Dalkeith, Danderhall and District, Eskbank and Newbattle, Gorebridge, Mayfield and Easthouses, Moorfoot, Newtongrange, Rosewell, and Tynewater.
- The Community Planning Partnership

4.18 The following schools are directly affected by the proposal:

- King's Park Primary School
- Lawfield Primary School
- Newtongrange Primary School
- Woodburn Primary School
- Mayfield Primary School
- Bonnyrigg Primary School
- Dalkeith High School
- Lasswade High School
- Newbattle High School

4.19 Representations were sought from statutory consultees and the wider public in the following ways:

- An online questionnaire on Midlothian Council's Citizen Space Consultation Page. The questionnaire asked specific questions and enabled general comments and views to be entered.
- Digital leaflets, in addition to the press advert and Council web and social media announcements linked to the Consultation Page. These detailed a specific Education Consultations email inbox, to which any queries could be submitted during the consultation period.
- The Head Teachers of Bonnyrigg, King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn Primary Schools and Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools used established methods of communication to engage/remind parents about the consultation.
- Meetings were held with pupils from Bonnyrigg, King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn Primary Schools and Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools.

- Meetings were offered to Bonnyrigg, King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn Primary Schools and Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools Parent Councils.

4.20 The Consultation Proposal is the Council's response to the points raised during the consultation period on the Consultation Proposal Document.

4.21 This Consultation Proposal will be published for a period of three weeks before a final decision is taken by Midlothian Council on 27 June 2023.

5 The Public Meeting

5.1 A public meeting was held in Newbattle High School on Wednesday 29 March 2023. Nine members of the public attended.

6 Responses to the Consultation Exercise

6.1 As part of the consultation process, the Council sought the views of a wide range of stakeholders. The Council provided stakeholders with a short online or paper questionnaire and also made arrangements for receiving additional written responses. The Council received 225 responses to its questionnaire during the consultation period. All representations that had been made during the consultation period were submitted to Education Scotland and any issues or concerns raised are also subject to the Council's response in this Consultation Proposal.

The questionnaire responses are summarised by category in the following tables:

Table 1 – Number of respondents by type of respondent

Type of Respondent	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Organisations	3	1.3
Individuals	221	98.2
Not Answered	1	0.4
Total Responses	225	100

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 2 – Number of respondents by category

Individual Respondent	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Parents	205	71.9
Staff	24	8.4
Member of Local Community	43	15.1
Other/Unknown	13	4.6
Total Responses	285	100

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.2 In addition, four responses to the consultation were received by email.
- 6.3 For the Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to establish a new primary school at Easthouses? The responses were as follows:

Table 3 – Number of Responses by Opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	86	38.2
Agree	78	34.7
No Opinion	39	17.3
Disagree	12	5.3
Strongly Disagree	7	3.1
Not Answered	3	1.3
Total Responses	225	100

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 4 - Number of respondents by category

	Agree/Strongly Agree		Disagree/Strongly Disagree		No opinion/Not answered		Total	
Respondents	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Parents	152	74.2	15	7.3	38	18.5	205	100
Staff	19	79.2	2	8.3	3	12.5	24	100
Member of Local Community	32	74.4	5	11.6	6	14	43	100
Other/Unknown	8	61.5	4	30.8	1	7.7	13	100
Total Responses	164	72.9	19	8.4	42	18.7	225	100

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.3 For the Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to create a new catchment area at Easthouses and remove this land from the current King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn PS catchment areas? The responses were as follows:

Table 5 – Number of Responses by Opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	39	17.3
Agree	69	30.7
No Opinion	62	27.6
Disagree	18	8
Strongly Disagree	34	15.1
Not Answered	3	1.3
Total Responses	225	100

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 6 - Number of respondents by category

	Agree/Strongly Agree		Disagree/Strongly Disagree		No opinion/Not answered		Total	
Respondents	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Parents	99	48.3	46	22.4	60	29.3	205	100
Staff	15	62.5	3	12.5	6	25	24	100
Member of Local Community	24	55.8	12	27.9	7	16.3	43	100
Other/Unknown	3	23	5	38.5	5	38.5	13	100
Total Responses	108	48	52	23.1	65	28.9	225	100

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.3 For the Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to remove the area of Cockpen east of the South Esk River from the Bonnyrigg PS catchment area into the Newtongrange PS catchment area? The responses were as follows:

Table 7 – Number of Responses by Opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	32	14.2
Agree	39	17.3
No Opinion	90	40
Disagree	27	12
Strongly Disagree	34	15.1
Not Answered	3	1.3
Total Responses	225	100

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 8 - Number of respondents by category

	Agree/Strongly Agree		Disagree/Strongly Disagree		No opinion/Not answered		Total	
Respondents	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Parents	64	31.2	53	25.9	88	42.9	205	100
Staff	10	41.6	8	33.4	6	25	24	100
Member of Local Community	14	32.6	17	39.5	12	27.9	43	100
Other/Unknown	3	23	5	38.5	5	38.5	13	100
Total Responses	71	31.6	61	27.1	93	41.3	225	100

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.3 For the Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to realign the catchment areas of Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools in light of these primary catchment changes? The responses were as follows:

Table 9 – Number of Responses by Opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	34	15.1
Agree	75	33.3
No Opinion	30	13.3
Disagree	19	8.4
Strongly Disagree	62	27.6
Not Answered	5	2.2
Total Responses	225	100

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 10 - Number of respondents by category

	Agree/Strongly Agree		Disagree/Strongly Disagree		No opinion/Not answered		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Respondents	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Parents	103	50.2	75	36.6	27	13.2	205	100
Staff	17	70.8	3	12.5	4	16.7	24	100
Member of Local Community	25	58.1	12	27.9	6	14	43	100
Other/Unknown	5	38.5	1	7.7	7	53.8	13	100
Total Responses	109	48.4	81	36	35	15.6	225	100

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.4 The comments made as part of the questionnaire submissions are included in Appendix 1, apart from submissions which consultees did not wish Midlothian Council to share publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the Education Authority's response as detailed in Section 10 of this report.

Response Analysis from Organisations

- 6.5 There were 3 responses from organisations, their responses have been included in tables 1 to 10. All groups did not wish their response to be shared publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the Education Authority's response as detailed in Section 10.

Public Meeting

- 6.6 A public meeting was arranged in Newbattle High School on 29 March 2023. There were 9 members of the public in attendance.
- 6.7 Additionally, virtual drop-in sessions were arranged for 14 and 23 March 2023, enabling any member of the public and staff to ask questions and discuss the proposal, the consultation process and how they could make representations. One member of the public attended these sessions.
- 6.8 A virtual parental focus group was also held on 18 April however there were no attendees.
- 6.9 Meetings were offered to all relevant parent councils however only one was requested.

Pupils and Staff

- 6.9 During the consultation period, Council officers facilitated meetings with pupils at Bonnyrigg, King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn Primary Schools and Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools to provide good opportunities for them to discuss their views.
- 6.10 A copy of the information leaflet and a link to the consultation page was sent to all staff, inviting them to respond to the consultation via the online survey and highlighting the consultation mailbox for any queries.

7 Support for the Proposal

- 7.1 72.9% of all questionnaire respondents (164 responses) to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to establish a new primary school at Easthouses.
- 7.2 48% of all questionnaire respondents (108 responses) to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to create a new catchment area at Easthouses and remove this land from the current King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn PS catchment areas.
- 7.3 31.6% of all questionnaire respondents (71 responses) to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to remove the area of Cockpen east of the South Esk River from the Bonnyrigg PS catchment area into the Newtongrange PS catchment area.
- 7.4 48.4% of all questionnaire respondents (109 responses) to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to realign the catchment areas of Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools in light of these primary catchment changes.

The full text of all responses received can be read in Appendix 1, apart from submissions which consultees did not wish Midlothian Council to share publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the Education Authority's response as detailed in Section 10 of this report.

- 7.5 A number of common points and questions emerged from the responses as follows:
- Will this new school cause issues for Newbattle HS capacity with the change in catchments?
 - A replacement building at Mayfield should take priority.
 - Children shouldn't be asked to move schools
 - Families should be able to pick which school they go to from any of the schools in Midlothian
 - Needs to include a space for after school clubs
 - Where are the teachers for the new school coming from?
 - There needs to be safe routes to the new school
 - What will the new school's name be?

8 Opposition to the Proposal

- 8.1 8.4% of all questionnaire respondents (19 responses) to the consultation were not in favour of the proposal to establish a new primary school at Easthouses.
- 8.2 23.1% of all questionnaire respondents (52 responses) to the consultation were not in favour of the proposal to create a new catchment area at Easthouses and remove this land from the current King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn PS catchment areas.
- 8.3 27.1% of all questionnaire respondents (61 responses) to the consultation were not in favour of the proposal to remove the area of Cockpen east of the South Esk River from the Bonnyrigg PS catchment area into the Newtongrange PS catchment area.
- 8.4 36% of all questionnaire respondents (81 responses) to the consultation were not in favour of the proposal to realign the catchment areas of Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools in light of these primary catchment changes?
- 8.5 During the consultation period, a misunderstanding occurred wherein parents in the Bonnyrigg PS catchment area mistakenly believed the small change in their catchment area would result in all properties in the Bonnyrigg PS catchment area feeding into Newtongrange PS and Newbattle HS. This was clarified, however there were a significant number of responses that were received which indicated they were not in support of this aspect of the proposal based on this misunderstanding.

The full text of all responses received can be read in Appendix 1, apart from submissions which consultees did not wish Midlothian Council to share publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the Education Authority's response as detailed in Section 10 of this report.

- 8.6 A number of common points and questions emerged from the responses as follows:
- Loss of community links with Dalkeith and Newtongrange
 - Concerns over transition arrangements
 - There needs to be safe routes to the new school
 - Difference in performance at the different high schools
 - How will this affect the new high school in Gorebridge?
 - Bonnyrigg PS catchment area should stay in the Lasswade HS associated school group.
 - Money should be spent on upgrading current schools

9 No Opinion on the Proposal

- 8.1 18.7% of all questionnaire respondents (42 responses) to the consultation had no opinion on the proposal to establish a new primary school at Easthouses.
- 8.2 28.9% of all questionnaire respondents (65 responses) to the consultation had no opinion on the proposal to create a new catchment area at Easthouses and remove this land from the current King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn PS catchment areas.

- 8.3 41.3% of all questionnaire respondents (93 responses) to the consultation had no opinion on the proposal to remove the area of Cockpen east of the South Esk River from the Bonnyrigg PS catchment area into the Newtongrange PS catchment area.
- 8.4 15.6% of all questionnaire respondents (35 responses) to the consultation had no opinion on the proposal to realign the catchment areas of Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools in light of these primary catchment changes?
- 9.2 A number of common points and questions emerged from the responses as follows:
- How can a decision be made when the maps are not available?
 - Where is the money coming from in light of budget cuts?
 - Dalkeith nurseries will not cover schools outwith Dalkeith catchment areas.

10 Education Authority Response to the Main Issues Raised

10.1 Will this new school cause issues for Newbattle HS capacity with the change in catchments?

There will be a slight increase in the number of children attending Newbattle High School however the school is not currently at capacity. The Council continuously monitors school rolls and capacities in order to anticipate and implement required changes to schools.

10.2 A replacement building at Mayfield should take priority.

Through the recently approved Learning Estate Strategy 2017 – 2047 (Update), approved at December Council 2022, this project features within the top priority category for completion.

The Mayfield and St Luke's Community Campus is currently under development aiming to be delivered by 2025 and forms part of Midlothian Council's successful bid to the Scottish Government's Learning Estate Investment Programme Phase 2.

With project budget agreement having been secured at December Council 2022, this project provides the opportunity to provide a welcoming and inclusive facility that creates a civic, social and educational heart for the Mayfield Community, building on existing strong values, identity and history.

This project will be delivered as part of the Council's commitment to improve the infrastructure and public buildings across Midlothian to improve the learning outcomes and health and well-being of residents, enhance the economy and make the area a destination of choice to live, work and visit.

10.3 Children shouldn't be asked to move schools

As stated in Section D, Paragraph 9 of the consultation proposal document, no pupil will be required to move schools if that is not their parents' wish.

10.4 Families should be able to pick which school they go to from any of the schools in Midlothian

Families can ask for their child to attend a non-catchment school, this is called a placing request. Information on placing requests can be found on the Midlothian Council website.

10.5 Needs to include a space for after school clubs

Whilst there is not a dedicated after school club space in the proposed new school building, there are proposed class room spaces and a community room that could be utilised by groups such as after school clubs.

10.6 Where are the teachers for the new school coming from?

New staff posts will be recruited when required following the normal Midlothian Council recruitment procedures.

We anticipate the need to recruit will be an incremental process reflecting the increase in the school roll year by year.

10.7 There needs to be safe routes to the new school

At present the Council is looking at the various walking and cycling routes which exist linking the housing developments to the new school and identifying any new links which are achievable in the longer term.

The Council are in the process of identifying localised improvements which could be made as part of the new school project which will provide safer active travel routes to the school.

10.8 Loss of community links with Dalkeith and Newtongrange

When considering the building of new schools, there are a number of factors the Council considers, including providing a suitable building that can be accessed by the entire community, ensuring it is a resource for all.

As part of each new school proposal, the Council are compelled to carry out a statutory consultation on the proposed catchment and all communities, schools and catchments must be considered as part of this. At times this means that some catchment areas are amended to ensure capacity pressures are alleviated at existing schools, and ensure there is not a breach in the stated capacity of any school.

Due to the continued growth within Midlothian we require to monitor school rolls, capacities and catchments to ensure we can provide sufficient statutory school places.

10.9 Concerns over transition arrangements

Whilst the Council appreciates that changes in transition arrangements can cause some anxiety for families, every effort has been made to cause as little disruption as possible in the circumstances. This includes providing a 3 year transition period and allowances for siblings.

Pupil transition tables which show how pupils will be affected by these proposed changes and what schools they will be eligible to attend can be found in Appendix 4.

A Head teacher has been appointed ahead of the delivery of the new school and will be responsible for establishing and leading a User Reference Group to support transition arrangements, development of the school's identity within the wider community and support families affected by the proposal.

More information on transition arrangements can be found in section 12 of this report.

10.10 Difference in performance at the different high schools

All Midlothian High Schools have rich curriculums and highly committed staff. National league tables are very narrow and do not capture the breadth of experiences and successes that children benefit from at Midlothian schools.

10.11 How will this affect the new high school in Gorebridge?

The potential new high school at Gorebridge will not be affected by this proposal.

10.12 Bonnyrigg PS catchment area should stay in the Lasswade HS associated school group.

The only area of the Bonnyrigg PS catchment area that would be realign to the Newtongrange PS and Newbattle HS catchment areas is the area of Cockpen in Newtongrange. This area contains 55 properties and lies to the east of the South Esk River. The rest of the Bonnyrigg PS catchment would remain in the Lasswade HS catchment area.

10.13 Money should be spent on upgrading current schools

A strategic approach to the Learning Estate is required to ensure that the Council meets its statutory duty to ensure that there is adequate and sufficient provision of school education in the area. Developing a programme to maintain and sustain existing learning estate facilities as well as delivering new builds as required, removes associated risks, such as poor condition school buildings and backlogs in building maintenance and lifecycle. This approach also better informs the Capital Plan, investment and budget setting process.

Since the development and publication of the Midlothian Council Learning Estate Strategy 2017-2047, projects such as the following have been complete:

- Replacement Danderhall Primary School
- Expansion of Burnbrae Primary School, Expansion
- Refurbishment of Sacred Heart Primary School
- Expansion and refurbishment of Cuiken Primary School.

Additionally, there are a number of projects in development or planning stages such as:

- Replacement Beeslack High School
- Refurbishment and expansion of Penicuik High School
- Replacement Mayfield and St Lukes Campus
- Expansion of Roslin Primary School
- Expansion of Woodburn Primary School

- Expansion of Bilston Primary School
- Refurbishment and expansion of Mauricewood Primary School
- Refurbishment of Newtongrange Primary School.

Rosewell Primary School and Kings Park Primary School both feature as part of Midlothian Council's bid to the Scottish Government's Learning Estate Investment Programme seeking to secure funding to allow Midlothian Council to carry out appropriate refurbishments / expansion / replacements as required.

10.14 How can a decision be made when the maps are not available?

Catchment maps were provided as part of Appendix 2 and 4 in the consultation proposal document. The Council provided more specific maps on the secondary catchment changes on 2 March 2023 and these were made available on the consultation's webpage, as well as being incorporated into the online survey. A copy of the proposed catchment changes can be found in Appendix 3.

10.15 Where is the money coming from in light of budget cuts?

The budget for this project was agreed at Council in August 2022 and will mainly come from the Council's Capital budget.

10.16 Dalkeith nurseries will not cover schools outwith Dalkeith catchment areas.

There are no catchment areas for early learning and childcare settings and parents and carers can apply for a place at any council setting or partnership funded provider setting or childminder in Midlothian. There is more information on early learning and childcare options on the council's website: [Your early learning and childcare options | Midlothian Council](#)

10.17 What will the new school's name be?

In previous Council reports the school has been referred to as Easthouses Primary School. Should the school and community decide that this name should be changed, informal consultation will be undertaken to determine what a new name would be.

11 Education Scotland Report

11.1 In accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a report was produced by Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Midlothian Council's proposal to establish a new primary school and its associated catchment area within the land at Easthouses and to realign the catchment areas of Dalkeith High School, Newbattle High School and Lasswade High School. The Education Scotland report can be read in full at Appendix 6.

11.2 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 29 March 2023 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and

- visits to the sites of Kings Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange, Woodburn and Bonnyrigg Primary Schools and Newbattle, Dalkeith and Lasswade High Schools, including discussion with relevant consultees.

- 11.3 The Summary section of the Education Scotland report summarises their findings and conclusions as follows:

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal to establish a new primary school at Easthouses will bring clear educational benefits for the children attending. The inclusion of an additional early years and additional support needs provision is also welcomed. However, a few parents in the Cockpen area of Newtongrange have ongoing worries regarding the impact of the proposal. Should the proposal go ahead, the council needs to engage with those parents to find ways to address their concerns.

Midlothian Council's Response to Education Scotland's Report

- 11.4 Midlothian Council welcomes the report by Education Scotland which highlights the benefits of the proposal and the Education Authority accepts its findings. Officers from the Education Authority met to consider the content of the report and the action highlighted in the summary.

- 11.5 In response to the findings contained within the Education Scotland report Midlothian has been asked to address the following points:

However, a few parents in the Cockpen area of Newtongrange have ongoing worries regarding the impact of the proposal. Should the proposal go ahead, the council needs to engage with those parents to find ways to address their concerns.

- 11.6 If the proposal is approved, Midlothian Council will contact properties in the Cockpen area of Newtongrange highlighted by Education Scotland, with information on transition arrangements and what this will mean for them, as well as the options available.

12 Transition Arrangements

- 12.1 Subject to the decision of Midlothian Council, children living in the proposed Easthouses Primary catchment area would be eligible to enrol for P1 at the school from November 2023, with the view to attending the school from it's opening in August 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 12.2 Children who move into the catchment area from stages P2-7 would be eligible to attend the new school on it's opening in August 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 12.3 Children currently attending their current catchment school would have the option to transfer to the new school if they chose, however they would also have the option to remain at the school they are currently attending.
- 12.4 Children living in the proposed new catchment area attending another school of their parents' choice will have the option to transfer to the new primary school when it opens, or remain at the school currently attended.

- 12.5 No pupils will be required to move school if that is not their parents' wish.
- 12.6 Those children who are currently in the area of Cockpen and attend Bonnyrigg Primary School would be eligible to attend Newtongrange Primary School from August 2023. Any child living in this area who currently attends Bonnyrigg PS or Lasswade HS will be able to remain at those schools.
- 12.7 Pupils who are currently attending their current catchment school and are due to attend secondary school within 3 years of the catchment changes will be allowed to attend either their previous or new catchment secondary school.
- 12..8 Pupils whose secondary catchment area will change as a result of these proposals and who have a sibling that will attend their previous catchment secondary within three years of the catchment changes will have the option to attend either their new or previous school.
- 12.9 It is proposed that there will be no change to the current process for referrals and the allocation of specialist primary support spaces.
- 12.10 A copy of the pupil transition tables presented at the Public Meeting on 29 March and subsequently shared with parents can be found in Appendix 4.
- 12.10 An enhanced transition to secondary education will be offered to all children attending the provision based on the individual needs of each child. Children will be supported to transition to their catchment area secondary school. Where a child's additional support needs continue to require additional specialist support, a referral will be made to the Education Resource Group and following assessment and consultation on their needs, they may be allocated specialist support in one of our provisions.

13 Alleged Omissions or Inaccuracies

- 13.1 *Section (10) (3) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* also places a requirement on the Council to provide details of any inaccuracy or omission within the Consultation Proposal Document which has either been identified by the Council or raised by consultees. This section of the 2010 Act also requires the Council to provide a statement on the action taken in respect of the inaccuracy or omission, or, if no action was taken, to state that fact and why.
- 13.2 There were no inaccuracies or omissions within the Consultation Proposal Document either identified by the Council or raised by consultees during the consultation period.

14 Compliance with Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

- 14.1 Section 9(1) of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* states that:
 After the Education Authority has received Education Scotland's report, the Authority is to review the relevant proposal having regard (in particular) to:
 - (i) written representations received by the Authority (from any person) during the consultation period,
 - (ii) oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting,

(iii) Education Scotland's report.

- 14.2 Following receipt of the Education Scotland report, 225 questionnaire responses received during the consultation period and consideration of oral representations made at a public meeting held during the consultation period, officers reviewed the proposal.
- 14.3 The feedback from the consultation was considered by relevant officers within the Council's Children, Young People's and Partnership Directorate. Data and factual information was checked where required and advice and input was sought from other Council Services where needed to consider the issues raised. This ensured that the Council met the requirements of sections 9(1), 12 and 13(3) (b) of the 2010 Act.

15 Legal Issues

- 15.1 The Council has complied in full with the requirements of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* throughout this statutory consultation.
- 15.2 The Council is mindful of its duties in respect of equality under the *Equality Act 2010*, the *Public Sector Equality Duty 2011*, and the *Fairer Scotland Duty* (Part one of the Equality Act).
- 15.3 Under the terms of the *Schools (Scotland) (Consultation) Act 2010*, it is a legal requirement that the Council should not reach any formal decision without having reviewed the relevant proposal having regard, in particular, to:
- a) relevant written representations received from any person during the consultation period;
 - b) oral representation made to it by any person at the public meetings held on;
 - c) the Education Scotland report;
 - d) preparing a Consultation Proposal; and
 - e) waiting until a period of three weeks starting on the day on which this Consultation Report is published in electronic and printed form has expired.
- 15.4 As it is the intention that this Consultation Proposal should be published, both electronically and in paper form, if required, on 5 June 2023, this meets the statutory requirement to publish this report for more than three weeks before consideration of the proposal by Midlothian Council.

16 Personnel Implications

- 16.1 A Head Teacher has already been appointed to lead on the establishment and development of the school and its learning community, in partnership with parents/carers, pupils and key partners. Research on other local authorities' practices highlights the benefits of appointing a Head Teacher well in advance of a new school opening to support transition and ensure all staff are appointed prior to the opening of the new school.
- 16.2. It is acknowledged that should the proposal be approved and implemented, forward planning will be required from the Education Service as a matter of good management practice in ensuring the required staffing is in place. Staffing arrangements for the new primary school and ELC setting will be consistent with Midlothian Council's recruitment policies and other local arrangements.

- 16.3 The proposed increase in specialist staff supporting the provision working closely within a mainstream building would be advantageous and provide more effective support to the career-long aspirations of staff. In particular, mainstream staff will benefit from the expertise of specialist staff in upskilling in inclusive pedagogy. In addition to this it would enable staff across specialist provisions to develop support networks in order to reflect, share and develop good practice in order to learn together and plan for improvement. This would lead to improved quality of learning, teaching and achievements for children both within and out with specialist provisions.
- 16.4 Consultation will be undertaken with staff in affected schools, Trade Unions and professional associations where appropriate on an implementation plan for staffing the new primary school. If this proposal is implemented, the Council does not envisage any adverse effects from the proposal in respect of staffing. Should issues arise however, these will be mitigated through the Council's Education Leadership Team support structure.
- 16.5 The new primary school will join the Newbattle HS associated school group and staff will benefit from the strong culture of collaboration and joint planning within this associated school group.

17 Environmental Issues

- 17.1 In order to ensure that the vision, aims and objectives of the Midlothian Council Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and Climate Change strategy 2020 are being addressed a number of strategic and operational factors have been considered as part of the proposed new school building, such as:
- Reduction of operational energy consumption to be in line with the Learning Estate Investment Programme targets;
 - Strict construction embodied carbon targets to be met;
 - Low carbon and zero waste processes to be implemented during the construction phase;
 - Circular economy agenda to be promoted.

18 Conclusions

- 18.1 On the basis of the feedback received and taking account of the educational and social benefits of the proposal, it is concluded that:
- a) a new primary school and its associated catchment area be established with the land at Easthouses and the catchment areas of Dalkeith High School, Newbattle High School and Lasswade High School be realigned;
 - b) the proposal will bring educational benefits by providing a modern, state-of-the-art learning environment and provide a focal point for community events;
 - c) the expansion of ASN provision will provide suitable high quality learning environments that are resourced with specialist staff and offer a high quality of educational experience;
 - d) the realignment of a historical catchment boundary will give children the opportunity to have more involvement in the learning community where they live;

- e) overall steps will be taken to address Midlothian Council's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Climate Change strategy 2020 during the build and operation of the proposed primary school;
- f) overall there are strong educational arguments in favour of this proposal.

19 Recommendations

19.1 It is recommended that the Council approves the following:

- The establishment of a new primary school catchment for Easthouses and the realignment of the catchment areas of King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Woodburn and Newtongrange Primary School;
- The establishment of a new primary school with early learning and childcare provision and specialist ASN provision for the proposed Easthouses primary catchment area;
- The opening of the new primary school on its permanent site on the completion of the new building in August 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- The realignment of the Bonnyrigg Primary School Catchment Area and Lasswade High School Catchment Area from August 2023;
- The realignment of the catchment areas of Dalkeith High School and Newbattle High School.

Appendix 1: Comments from Questionnaire Responses

Of the 225 questionnaire responses, 101 contained comments of which 79 declined permission to make their comments publicly available. However, their representations have been taken account of and responded to in Section 10 of the Consultation Proposal. The summary of comments below, were made from the remaining 22 responses who did not choose the option to decline permission to make their comments publicly available.

Responses from those in support of the proposals

The comments included with those responses received that were in favour of the proposal are shown below, comments are redacted to avoid the identification of individuals:

Comments
Related documents don't show how Lasswade HS catchment area would be realigned...
Whilst I agree with the new catchment areas for the Easthouses primary school. I do not wish my children to be forced to move from Lawfield where they are excelling in their education and are well settled. In particular for my eldest son who will be moving into P7 in 2024 and my second son who is going through an austistic assessment.
MUST include area /space for breakfast and after school club . Currently only one ASC serves whole area and often lacks support. Breakfast/After school club is ESSENTIAL for many working parents Am shocked that it has taken the council this long to look at school catchment area topic given the large amount new house builds in all towns within the area. Maybe next the rest of the infrastructure required for fully functioning towns can be looked at - rather than the automatic yes to new house builds.
This consultantation is not great. The website page has no clear information of what the new catchments would look like, the survey does now actually share this information. How would these changes impact on the approved high school in Gorebridge?
Seem very logical and a commonsense approach. Let's get on with it and get it and the extension to Woodburn PS built.
I agree that a new school is needed. But it hasn't been made clear to parents of children currently in schools out of their new catchment area what will happen. I do not want my child to be moved out of her current school to a new one. Also regarding secondary school and the change of catchment, KPP is currently a feeder school for Dalkeith High. Her and all her friends will be going to Dalkieth high. I also do not want this to change. Where is the clear advice for parents worried about these changes?
It makes sense to have kids travel to nearest primary for climate social and economic reasons. It makes sense to have the high school catchments mirror the primary feeder primaries
I strongly agree with the proposal to realign catchments but I do not think these boundary changes go far enough to tackle the pressure on Woodburn PS which is already oversubscribed before current housing developments are complete in Easter Langside. The catchment should move to take in a proportion of the housing in

Woodburn to combat this. Also we have the coming pressure of wrap around care being compulsory under scot Gov election promises when currently there are massively inadequate provisions in Dalkeith where all are currently full with a year+ waiting list.

Responses from those who are not in favour of the proposals

The comments made in the responses that were not in favour of the proposal are shown below, comments are redacted to avoid the identification of individuals:

Comments
Easthouses is multiple miles away, from Bonnyrigg PS and will contribute significantly in a negative way to the already busy peak traffic times. This also means local children, teachers and parents will need to drive or get multiple buses.
Strongly disagree on reevaluating the catchment areas particularly those of the high school. I have a child in primary 3 who this will affect come the proposed changes coming into place and instead of having a 10-20 minute walk to a school in our hometown they will have to take 2 buses to get to a school in another town.
My daughter and family bought a house in Cockpen with the express purpose of choosing a primary school which fed into Lasswade High. My grandson is in P2 Bonnyrigg and these new rules he will transfer to a school with any of his peers which is a poor way to enter secondary education and will not be attending the school which his parents had sacrificed and planned for. There should be some leeway for this sort of exception.
Absolutely shocking to think pupils from Bonnyrigg primary are going to be expected to move to new battle high school! 45 minute journey on a bus or over an hour walk for those in the community that don't drive!!
I strongly disagree, I bought my house as I wanted my children to attend Bonnyrigg primary and Lasswade high school. I have personally had problems with family's from the catchment of Newbattle and do not want my children having to get caught up in it. The route is unsafe to walk also. We live in the one Dalhousie estate currently.
Strongly disagree with the boundary change for AbbeyGrange Galadale Drive/Galadale Crescent etc. We strongly identify as Newtongrange, our houses are less than a 2minute walk from Main Street. A 5 minute walk and we are in the heart of the village. Children from these houses sent to the new primary school will find it hard to be part of the Newtongrange community. Will these children be prevented from being in the Newtongrange Galadale? How will they know children in the rest of Newtongrange. To see the majority of friends they make at the new primary school they would have to travel. Currently we have a short walk to friends houses, or the children meet in Newtongrange park to play. I believe AbbeyGrange/ Galadale children will end up on the edge of 2 communities, not quite fitting into either. Furthermore, the current route to Newtongrange Primary for us is a short, safe 700 metre walk at most. Once they are over the road with the lollipop person, our children can walk through the park themselves. If our child was going to the new school it be a longer walk, certainly over 1km from our current address and it would mean crossing more roads.
Not a safe road for young people to walk. It will encourage a short cut through the woodland area that will lead to anti social

behaviour.

The Wester Kippielaw estate is already well established within the Dalkeith community so should remain linked with Dalkeith High School. These unsafe conditions would encourage a rise in traffic and carbon footprint, damaging sustainability progress.

Because that school will be too far away from our home. I prefer to stay on Woodburn primary school.

My eldest child was not given a place at the primary school which is within 50m of our home, so we were offered a place at King's Park. As a result, we've had to submit a placing request for my youngest to attend King's Park too, as it's not our catchment. The proposed changes mean their new catchment for high school will be Newbattle, taking them away from all their peers they've built relationships with during the primary years. This is no fault of their own as they were not provided with a placement at our nearest school initially. I'm aware of other families nearby who will be in a similar position and it's unfair to disrupt the catchment areas for those of us already in the school system. If the proposed changes go ahead, please consider allowing those children already at King's Park to attend Dalkeith High without having to rely on a placement request.

Responses from those who had no opinion on the proposals

The comments made in the responses that had no opinion on the proposal are shown below, comments are redacted to avoid the identification of individuals:

Comments

You have not explained what the proposals to realign the catchment areas of Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools in light of these primary catchment changes actually are, please elaborate further so an informed opinion can be made.

Although directly affecting the catchment areas of King's Park Primary School, Woodburn Primary School and Dalkeith High School, it would appear that no summary of this document was provided to Dalkeith and District Community Council (see page 2). It also transpires that no information leaflet setting out details about the proposal and consultation meetings was received either (see page 5; para 6). Information was gleaned from the Midlothian Council web-site, and following up on the advice found there, paper copies of the document were requested, and it is acknowledged that these were made available and collected from Midlothian House for community councillors. Chair attended the public meeting on Wednesday 29 March in Newbattle High School. The few members of the public at that meeting and the reported one person attending the virtual meetings raised a concern for her. However there have been reassurances given that there has been a lot of engagement with pupils, parents and staff at all the affected schools, and the additional Parent Focus Group arranged for 18 April demonstrated the willingness to engage. The other main area of concern is safety while travelling to and from the proposed new school, particularly for those coming from Wester Kippielaw. At present there is no link from Wester Kippielaw to the proposed new school site. The route would have to be out

onto the Lauder Road (A6106), around onto Easthouses Road (B6482), travelling uphill crossing Kippielaw Road and Easthouses Court before turning right at the junction and continuing along Easthouses Road to the new school. Quite a distance to walk, especially on a cold, dark, winter morning. Also it was noted that the volume of traffic on this route is substantial and the speed limit for parts of it is 40 mph. A safe route to school must be in place before the school opens. Particularly welcome is the statement on page 25, para 9 "No pupil will be required to move school if that is not their parents' wish". Also appreciated is the 3 year window and accommodation for siblings. There was a question asked regarding the financial implications referenced on page 27, para 30. In light of the recent budget cuts and present financial situation, where are the monies coming from to meet this estimated cost?

Regarding the proposal document, there is a wealth of information within it, some of which is quite overwhelming if you have no background in education. However, I feel that there is no consistency in how the document describes the situation at each primary school, which makes it difficult to evaluate the impact that realigning the catchment boundaries would have. On page 13, para 37, reference is made to the centre of Mayfield being one of Scotland's most deprived areas (SIMD ranking for education/skills is 390 out of 6,976 data zones) yet there is no mention that Dalkeith is ranked as 82. On page 12, para 32, mention is made of the former Dalkeith High School site as an allocated site with significant housing, yet there is no mention of the new housing development at Wester Cowden which could affect the numbers seeking admission to Woodburn Primary School. On page 17, para 80, there is no information about how many houses are within this area or indeed if there are any pupils resident there – it simply states that there are no pupils currently attending King's Park Primary School in this area. On page 17, para 83, no quantitative data is given : just a statement made. Now there are in fact 2 areas which lie to the south west of the A6106 which are proposed for transfer : the 222 properties in Wester Kippielaw and an area where at present there is only 1 residential property. (see slide 12 of presentation given on 29 March). However, as work on Midlothian Local Development Plan 2 and local place plans has just started, the question of any more planned residential properties in the area between the A6106 and Whitehill has still to be addressed. The colour scheme chosen to represent the different catchment areas could perhaps have been better. It makes it quite difficult to distinguish both on the presentation slide 11 and on page 30 of the paper documentation the Woodburn Primary School catchment area from that for Lawfield Primary School or indeed from that of Newtongrange Primary School. This particularly matters at the 2 sections along the A6106 where catchment changes are proposed. Then there is an unfortunate typographical error in that Appendix 3 does not exist : it has been called Appendix 2 (page 31). The addresses are arranged in alphabetical order according to street name and so the list is not as helpful as it could have been. The fact that the list, which extends over 2 pages, is not on facing pages is unfortunate for those using the paper documentation. On page 25, para 5 and para 6, should not have an apostrophe at "it's". This error was carried over onto slide 27 of the presentation. Can you please check page 26, para 21, for sense. I suspect that it is missing "Parents of " from its beginning. Disappointingly, when I viewed or downloaded the presentation on my iPad, the legend

was not clear on slides 29 and 30 - truncated and superimposed on the table in slide 29 and truncated and behind the table on slide 30. Then the arrow shapes on slide 31 were different causing the text to overflow and make it more difficult to decipher. Nevertheless, the proposals for the new primary school with early learning and childcare provision and specialist ASN provision sound amazing. The possibility of the new primary school providing a focal point for the community might be something to feed into local place plans. The opportunity for a "Forest School" could lead to partnerships with Queen Margaret University and/or Newbattle Abbey College. It is important that "No pupil will be required to move school if that is not their parents' wish" (page 25, para 9) and it is good to see that consideration has been taken regarding siblings and an appropriate time period to adapt to the proposed changes. Before the new school is opened a Safe Routes to School plan should be agreed and in place.

Appendix 2: Pupil Questionnaire Responses

Easthouses Education Consultation Bonnyrigg PS Pupil Voice Session 28/03/2023

Gail Currie (GC) and Katy Johnstone (KJ) met with a selection of pupils from stages P3-7 to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the establishment of a new school:

Good idea – there would be more job opportunities for staff.

Good idea – there would be more rooms for local people to use.

Good idea – closer for children to get to school.

Good idea – there would be less pupils in other schools and more space.

Bad idea – friends could get separated.

You need to make sure the school has enough books, tables and other stuff in it when it opens.

In regard to the proposed new catchment area:

Good idea – could maybe take more from the King's Park catchment area

Good idea – it covers a big area.

In regards to the proposed change to the Bonnyrigg and Newtongrange PS catchment areas:

Will we have to move school?

GC replied – no one would have to move schools but if they live in the catchment area and they want to move schools they can.

Good idea – I think it's a good idea but some people might not want to change.

Very good idea – P4 are getting Chromebooks but the school is getting less money now and less kids would mean more money for the school.

In regards to the proposed change to the secondary catchments areas of Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle HS:

Wouldn't want to move school in the middle of a term.

Bad idea – might get separated from friends if your parents decide to send you to a new school.

Further Questions:

Is the Dalhousie estate in it?

KJ replied – no, only the Cockpen area of Newtongrange.

Will there be enough teachers?

GC replied – the Council will undertake a recruitment process to get teachers for the school.

What will the class structure be like?

KJ replied – we don't know that yet but that will be organised once we know how many children will be coming to the school.

How many kids will there be in the school?

KJ replied – we can't be sure, but children may move from other schools and there will be children coming out of new houses in the proposed new catchment.

What outdoor equipment will there be in the new school?

GC replied – we don't know that yet, but there is a project team that are working on that.

**Easthouses Education Consultation
Dalkeith HS Pupil Voice Session
19/04/2023**

Gail Currie (GC) and Katy Johnstone (KJ) met with a selection of pupils from stages S1-3 to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the establishment of a new school:

Good idea – good for people who need extra help to have dedicated spaces.

Good idea – more children would be able to walk to school.

Good idea – a new school would make the area look nicer.

What happens if you go to St David's RCPS?

KJ replied – denominational primary schools have a different catchment areas to non-denominational primary schools, and these would not be affected by this change.

Bad idea – there could be loud construction in the area.

In regard to the proposed new catchment area:

Bigger than they thought it would be.

The Council needs to make sure people can get to school safely.

Not sure about Wester Kippielaw going to Easthouses PS, maybe the whole of Kippielaw should go to Woodburn PS.

In regards to the proposed change to the Bonnyrigg and Newtongrange PS catchment areas:

Good idea – it would make friendship groups easier for kids living in the area.

In regards to the proposed change to the secondary catchments areas of Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle HS:

Think Wester Kippielaw should stay in Dalkeith HS catchment, but it does make sense to have the two Kippielaw areas going to the same schools.

Need to make sure the routes to school are safe.

Further Questions:

How do the Council pay for the new school?

GC replied – there are many different ways new schools get paid for. KJ added – if any developers build houses in an area and that will affect education in that area, they have to pay money towards education provision.

**Easthouses Education Consultation
King's Park PS Pupil Voice Session
28/03/2023**

Gail Currie (GC) and Katy Johnstone (KJ) met with a selection of pupils from stages P4-7 to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the establishment of a new school:

Good idea – children could be closer to the school and it wouldn't take them as long to get there.

Good idea – children could be closer to good education and it would be easier for parents to get to work because they don't have to travel as far to get their kids to school.

Good idea – it would be a nice new school building.

Bad idea – costs money to set up a new school and all of the stuff you would need for it.

You don't want to make a little school, you should have a class for every year. My friend goes to a small school with only two classes and she doesn't like it.

In regard to the proposed new catchment area:

Would children have to move schools?

GC replied – no one would have to move schools but if they live in the catchment area and they want to move schools they can.

In regards to the proposed change to the Bonnyrigg and Newtongrange PS catchment areas:

Good idea – they would get to go to school with other friends in their street

Good idea – they would get to spend more time with the friends that they live near if they all went to the same school.

Good idea – reminds them of a town in the Netherlands and Belgium that is split between the two countries.

In regards to the proposed change to the secondary catchments areas of Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle HS:

This makes sense.

Further Questions:

Will the new school be called Easthouses Primary School?

KJ replied – yes, that is the name that has been chosen but this decision was made a while ago and any changes would be a decision for the Council and the school community.

**Easthouses Education Consultation
Lasswade HS Pupil Voice Session
18/04/2023**

Gail Currie (GC) and Katy Johnstone (KJ) met with a selection of pupils from stages S1-4 to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the establishment of a new school:

Good idea – it's good to have the primary school and high school near each other, good for travel.

Good idea – takes pressure off other schools

Good idea – builds a good school community and allows schools to share resources.

Good idea – easier transition into high school because of how close the schools will be.

Good idea – makes active travel easier and makes the swimming lessons that happen in primary school easier.

Bad idea – too many houses being built.

Bad idea – building the new school (as well as the houses around it) is bad for the environment.

Bad idea – need more money to run the school and for teachers.

Bad idea – might be more litter in the area.

Bad idea – might not have enough families to fill the school.

In regard to the proposed new catchment area:

Could have taken more from the King's Park PS catchment area.

Are the schools around the new school at capacity?

KJ replied – They are at or near capacity. There has been a lot of housing building in all of the areas and there is also due to be more so the new school will relieve some of these pressures.

In regards to the proposed change to the Bonnyrigg and Newtongrange PS catchment areas:

Good idea – our school is at capacity so this would help.

Bad idea – unnecessary, you could move it the other way.

In regards to the proposed change to the secondary catchments areas of Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle HS:

Makes sense to have the whole primary school going to the same high school.

Good idea – the Cockpen area is closer to Newbattle HS

Good idea – will improve kids' ability to make friends because they will make friends at the new high school.

Further Questions:

Is there a plan for another school at Rosewell?

GC replied – the Council has put in a bid for money to build a new primary school at Rosewell, however we haven't heard anything back as of yet.

When will the school be ready?

KJ replied – the school is due to be ready by August 2024.

How much will it cost to build the school?

KJ replied - £22 million.

**Easthouses Education Consultation
Lawfield PS Pupil Voice Session
30/03/2023**

Gail Currie (GC) and Katy Johnstone (KJ) met with a selection of pupils from stages P3-7 to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the establishment of a new school:

Good idea – gives more space in other schools.

Good idea – it's not that far away and would help with people coming from Ukraine as there would be more school space.

What about people who are in other areas?

GC replied – only those in the proposed catchment area can automatically go to the new school if they want to. There is something called the Parent Charter which gives parents the right to apply to any school they want to, if the school has space then they will get a place.

Bad idea – concerned about the developer trucks being dangerous around the building site.

In regard to the proposed new catchment area:

Bigger than I thought it would be.

Good idea – with the transition to keep siblings together and give them a choice of where to go.

Good idea – education is available to more people.

Good idea – you would make new friends in the new school

In regards to the proposed change to the Bonnyrigg and Newtongrange PS catchment areas:

Will the change take up much of the catchment?

KJ replied – No, it is a small area of Newtongrange that contains one full street and a bit of another street.

How does a catchment line go through streets and houses?

GC replied – When these lines were drawn, a lot of these areas were empty fields, so it didn't matter where the lines were. Now we have lots of house building in the area and these houses are being built in these fields that have the catchment lines running through them.

Good idea – keeps people from the same area together

In regards to the proposed change to the secondary catchments areas of Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle HS:

Good idea – your secondary should be the one closest to you.

Further Questions:

What about splitting friends up?

GC replied – Moving school is up to parental and individual choice. Any move to any other school is something that your parents would discuss and make a decision on. No one who is already in school would have to move, but it would be a decision for your family if you wanted to.

**Easthouses Education Consultation
Mayfield PS Pupil Voice Session
17/04/2023**

Gail Currie (GC) and Katy Johnstone (KJ) met with a selection of pupils from stages P4-7 to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the establishment of a new school:

Bad idea – what if there aren't enough teachers for the new school?

GC replied – we would advertise for teachers to make sure that there were enough teachers for the number of pupils.

What if parents wanted you to move to the new school?

GC replied – any decisions around where you go to school are for you and your parents, every family is different and might have reasons for wanting to move schools or not.

Good idea – there would be more chance to learn as there would be more space in schools.

Good idea – there would be lots of barriers outside of the new school that would make traffic safer.

Good idea – there would be opportunities for better learning.

In regard to the proposed new catchment area:

Seems like a fair catchment area, takes a bit from everywhere.

Bigger than I thought it would be.

Bad idea – might take people from other schools.

If you are outside the new catchment area could you still go to the new school?

GC replied – there is something called the Parent Charter which gives parents the choice to apply to any school they want to, so if you live outside the new catchment area but you want to go to the new school you could apply.

In regards to the proposed change to the Bonnyrigg and Newtongrange PS catchment areas:

Good idea – saves time for getting to school.

Good idea – easier for kids to walk to school.

Good idea – it will help friendships that you make with other kids in your street.

Bad idea – might already have friends at Bonnyrigg PS

Will you be building an After School Club?

GC replied – this is something we will be looking at and coming out to talk to you about.

In regards to the proposed change to the secondary catchments areas of Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle HS:

Good idea – makes more sense, you could make more friends at High School.

Bad idea – you should still be allowed to go to the same high school.

Further Questions:

None.

**Easthouses Education Consultation
Newbattle HS Pupil Voice Session
30/03/2023**

Gail Currie (GC) and Katy Johnstone (KJ) met with a selection of pupils from stages S1-6 to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the establishment of a new school:

Good idea – would give an improvement in education

Good idea – more attention for individual pupils as there would be less overcrowding in schools.

Good idea – kids in the new houses wouldn't have to travel as far.

Money is tight as it is, do we have enough money for a new school?

GC replied – as some of you may know we have just come in to engage with pupils about the Budget. As part of the Budget the Council has to look at the best ways to spend money

and they think that one of these is to improve education and reduce pressures by building a new school.

Will it be a PPP school like St David's High where you have to keep paying for it?

KJ replied – No, the facilities will be owned and managed by Midlothian Council.

In regard to the proposed new catchment area:

Looks like a good area, takes in a mix of different areas.

Will Lawfield lose pupils?

KJ replied – they may lose some pupils, but they also have two developments being built in their catchment area so that will stabilise their roll.

How many children are in the area?

KJ replied – we don't know for certain because there will be children who are not yet in school, but there are 839 houses from Lawfield, 222 houses from Woodburn, 586 houses from Newtongrange and 6 houses from King's Park.

Good idea – the catchment being quite big would take pressures off other schools.

Might need to consider transport for the children coming from Woodburn as there is quite a small path up the road.

In regards to the proposed change to the Bonnyrigg and Newtongrange PS catchment areas:

Can children choose to go to Newtongrange from this area just now?

GC replied – yes, the Parent Charter gives parents the choice to apply to send their child to any school they want to.

Good idea – kids wouldn't have as far to travel.

In regards to the proposed change to the secondary catchments areas of Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle HS:

There are capacity pressures at Newbattle HS, if we can take the extra pupils it's a good idea but if we can't it isn't.

There is a low number of S6 who stay on though so that might balance it out.

Good idea – more people might mean more go on to University.

What is the capacity of Newbattle HS?

KJ replied – 1400.

The rising roll could be a problem.

KJ replied – the Council monitors school rolls so we can plan for any changes in pupil numbers.

Would you remove someone from a school?

KJ replied – no one who is currently at school would be asked to move, but if they wanted to they could.

Bad idea - behaviour is a concern already at Newbattle HS, it is already bad. More kids could come in and make the situation worse as there will be more people to deal with.

Good idea – might mean we get more choices of subjects in the senior years.

Further Questions:

Would you recruit more teachers?

GC replied – yes if we needed to.

**Easthouses Education Consultation
Newtongrange PS Pupil Voice Session
30/03/2023**

Gail Currie (GC) and Katy Johnstone (KJ) met with a selection of pupils from stages P4-7 to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the establishment of a new school:

Good idea – more kids can go to schools because they won't be as busy.

Good idea – more room for the kids coming out of the new housing.

Good idea – kids will be closer to schools.

Good idea – there are long waiting lists for Newtongrange PS at the moment.

Good idea – like having a nursery attached to a school, it's better for kids.

Bad idea – worried because it will affect other schools

Bad idea – worried about the effect it might have on friendships.

Bad idea – people might not want to go to a new school

Bad idea – might make traffic worse in the area.

Change might worry people.

When will the school be ready?

KJ replied – the school is due to be ready in August 2024.

Worried that services such as electricity might be affected for houses near the school.

We have a room we can go to if we're worried and I think we should have one at the new school.

Good to have a space for kids with disabilities so they can have space to concentrate.

In regard to the proposed new catchment area:

Will anyone have to move schools?

GC replied – no one will have to move schools, but if they live within the new catchment area and they want to move they can.

Do you have to move if your siblings move?

GC replied – that would be a decision for each individual family, you would make that decision with your parents.

Would there be mixed classes like there are here? I don't like composite classes.

GC replied – this would depend on the ages of the pupils in the school, but there might be.

Would teachers be allowed to move to the new school?

GC replied – If we need more teachers then we would advertise for them, some teachers who are already at schools in Midlothian might want to apply to these, but it would also be open to all qualified teachers. We want to have the best teachers we can in Midlothian.

Could people from Edinburgh come?

GC replied – people who live in Edinburgh would go to schools in the City of Edinburgh Council area, but they could apply to the school if they wanted to.

Could there be a shortage of teachers at other schools if they want to go to the new school?

GC replied – we would recruit teachers to each school to make sure we have enough teachers for the number of pupils we have.

In regards to the proposed change to the Bonnyrigg and Newtongrange PS catchment areas:

Good idea – might need more lights if more people are walking to Newtongrange though.

In regards to the proposed change to the secondary catchments areas of Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle HS:

Good idea – better for people in Cockpen as Lasswade HS is far away.

Does my younger sibling have to go to the same secondary school?

KJ replied – if they are in the catchment area then they will attend the same school. If they are in the new catchment area and they live where there will be a change to their secondary catchment area, they will have the option to go to either their new or old catchment secondary school if they have an older sibling at that old catchment secondary school. GC added – where your younger sibling goes to secondary school is something that they and your parents would decide.

Will people have to change where they are transitioning to?

KJ replied – No the new catchment won't come into effect until August 2024.

Further Questions:

Will you speak to other schools?

GC replied – yes, we have been out to speak to other affected schools and we will go out to speak to more. We have also spoken to parents and members of the public.

Is there a specific size that catchment areas have to be?

KJ replied – there isn't a definitive size of catchment areas however their size is usually matched to the size of the school.

How much does a school cost to build?

KJ replied – costs vary depending on the size of the school, but this school will cost £22 million.

Will tax be lower with more houses?

GC replied – don't know for certain, tax rates are decided every year.

**Easthouses Education Consultation
Woodburn Pupil Voice Session
28/03/2023**

Gail Currie (GC) and Katy Johnstone (KJ) met with a selection of pupils from stages P4-7 to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the establishment of a new school:

Would anyone have to move schools?

GC replied – No one would have to move schools, but if you live in the new catchment area and you want to move schools you can.

Good idea - schools would be less crowded and there would be less porta cabins.

Good idea – more access to learning and easier for some to get to school.

You would make more friends

It would make me nervous but also excited.

In regard to the proposed new catchment area:

Think it is quite a big catchment area, bigger than I thought it would be.

In regards to the proposed change to the Bonnyrigg and Newtongrange PS catchment areas:

Good idea – children wouldn't have to travel so far to get to school.

In regards to the proposed change to the secondary catchments areas of Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle HS:

It makes sense to change the high school catchment areas.

Further Questions:

If someone is going into P1 now, will they have to go to the new school?

KJ replied - No, the new school will not open until August 2024 and that will be the first year that anyone can go to the new school.

Will children in the nursery right now be able to go to Woodburn or will they go to the new school?

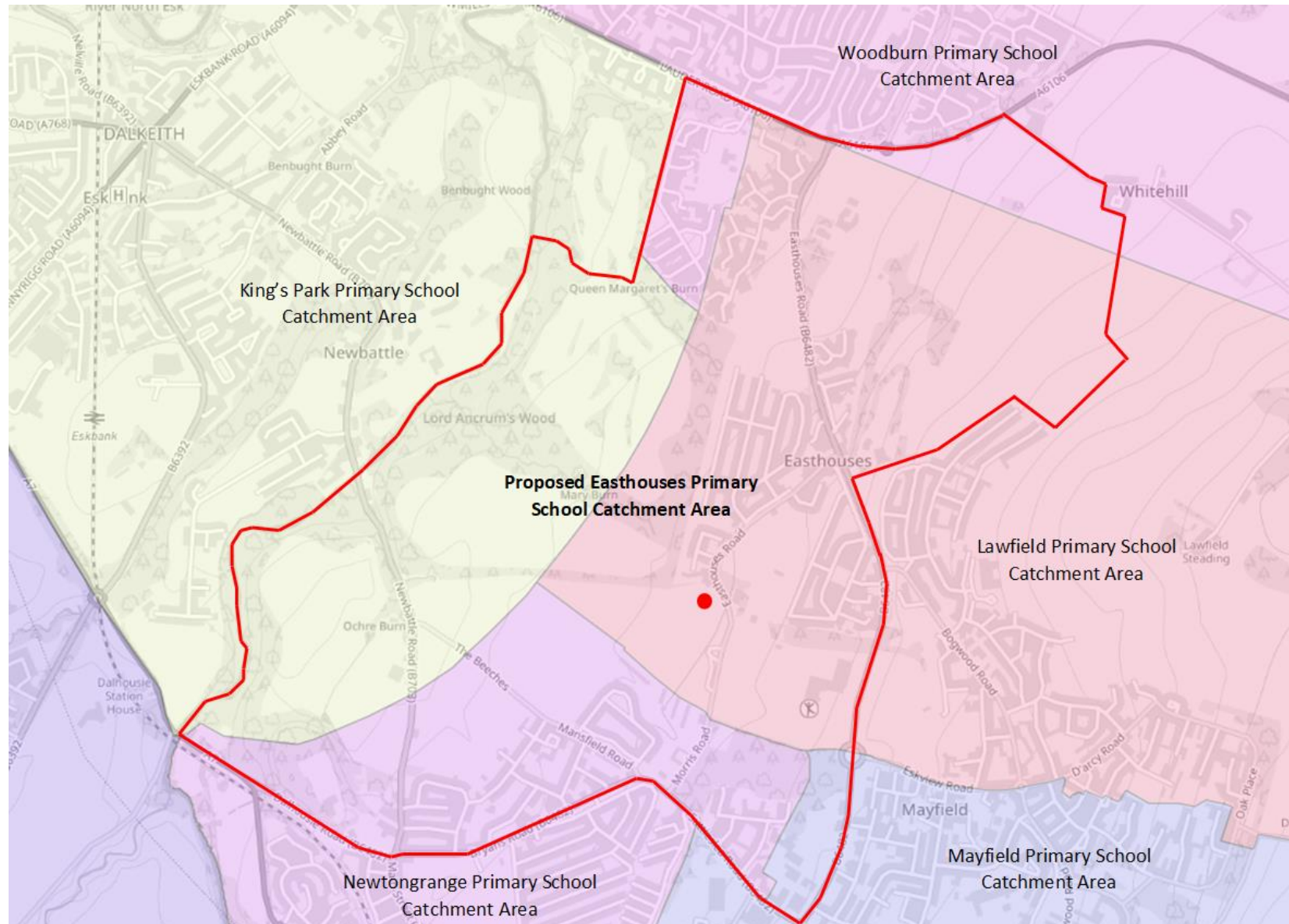
KJ replied – If there are children in the nursery who are going to start school in 2024 or after and they have an older sibling already in the school, they will get the choice to go to the new school or to Woodburn.

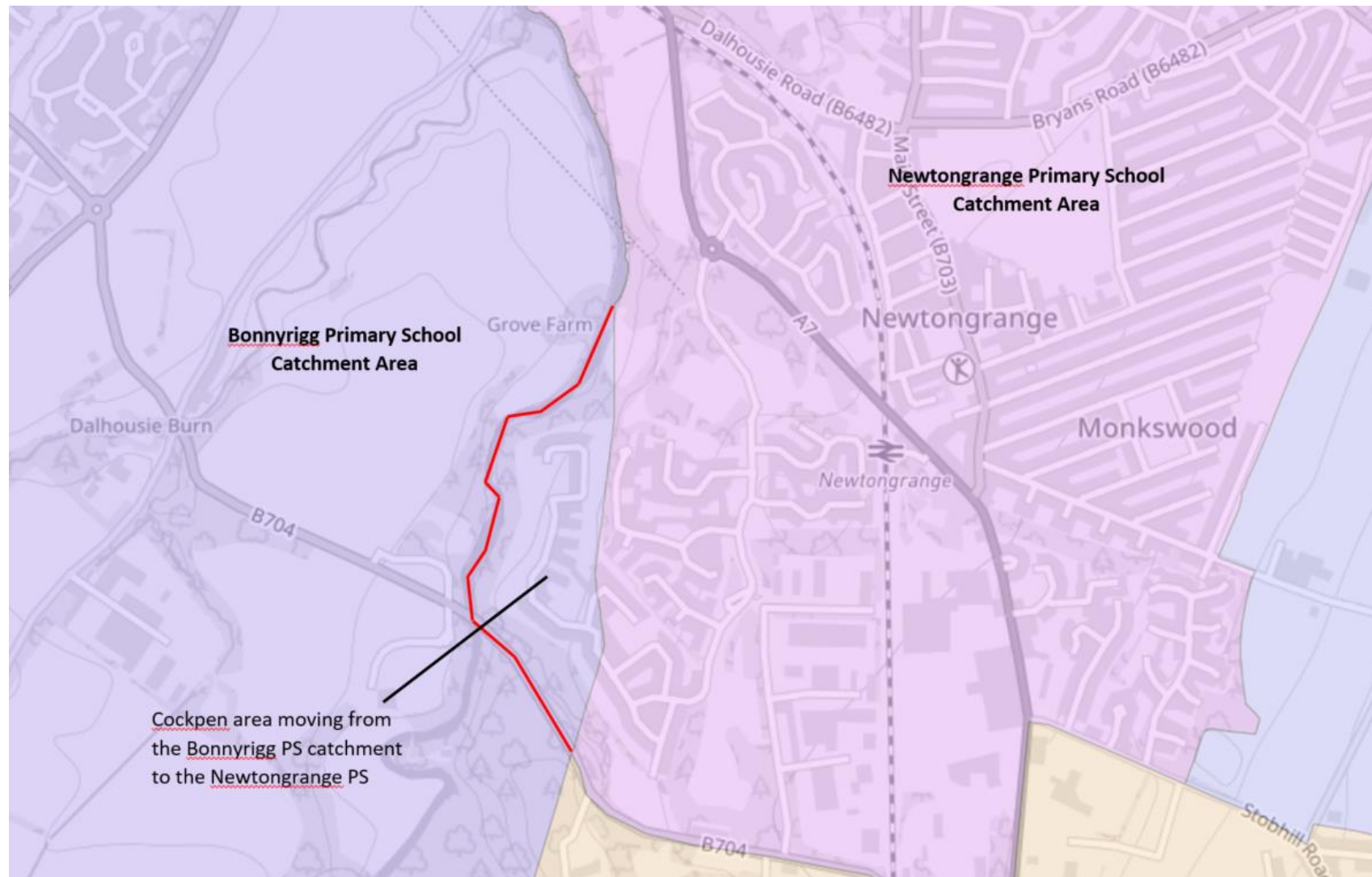
GC replied – There is something called the parent charter and this gives parents the right to apply to any school they want their child to attend.

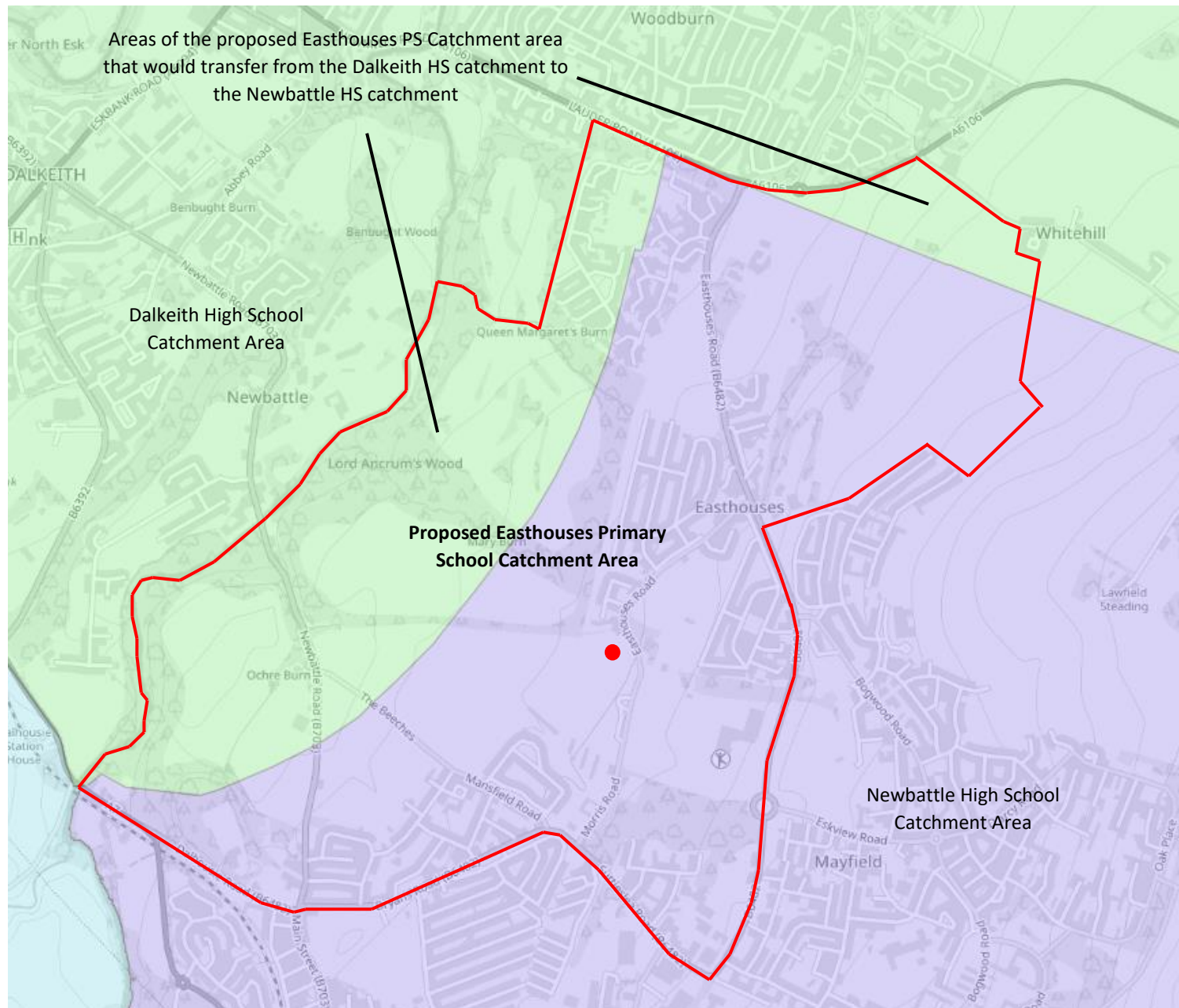
What happens if you have two houses and one is in the catchment area but the other isn't?

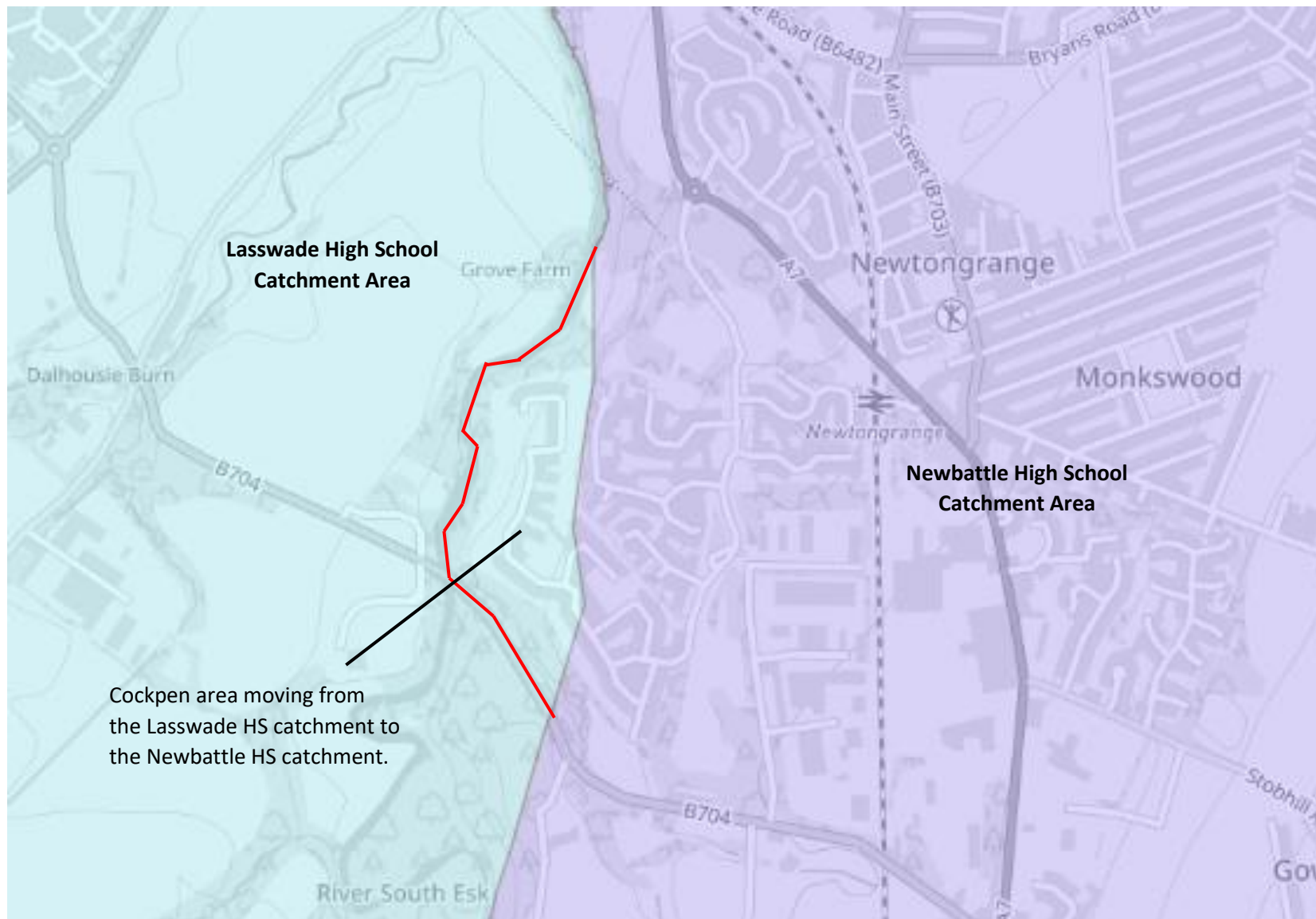
GC replied – we would use the main contact address that has been given as your catchment address.

Appendix 3: Proposed Catchment Maps









Appendix 4: Pupil Transition Tables

Easthouses Primary School Transition Table

Current Year Group					
2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
		2 years old			
		ELC*(Ante Pre-school)	ELC*(Ante Pre-school)		
		ELC*(Pre-school)	ELC*(Pre-school)	ELC*(Pre-school)	
P1	P1	P1	P1	P1	P1
P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2
P3	P3	P3	P3	P3	P3
P4	P4	P4	P4	P4	P4
P5	P5	P5	P5	P5	P5
P6	P6	P6	P6	P6	P6
P7	P7	P7	P7	P7	P7

Legend:



Children will have the choice of Newbattle HS or Dalkeith HS



Children will attend Newbattle HS, but can make a placing request for their former catchment secondary school.



Children may attend their previous primary catchment school **if** they already have a sibling attending that school. Otherwise they will attend the new school.



Not affected

Bonnyrigg and Newtongrange PS Transition Table

Current Year Group				
2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	2 years old			
	ELC*(Ante Pre-school)	ELC*(Ante Pre-school)		
	ELC*(Pre-school)	ELC*(Pre-school)	ELC*(Pre-school)	
P1	P1	P1	P1	P1
P2	P2	P2	P2	P2
P3	P3	P3	P3	P3
P4	P4	P4	P4	P4
P5	P5	P5	P5	P5
P6	P6	P6	P6	P6
P7	P7	P7	P7	P7

Legend:

- Children will have the choice of Newbattle HS or Lasswade HS
- Children will attend Newbattle HS but can make a placing request for their former catchment secondary school.
- Children may attend their previous primary catchment school **if** they already have a sibling attending that school
- Not affected

Appendix 5: Frequently Asked Questions

Easthouses Education Consultation

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What stage of school will my child need to be in when the catchment changes take place to be eligible to attend either their current or proposed catchment secondary school?

Any child who is commencing P5 and above in August 2023 at Bonnyrigg PS and P5 and above in August 2024 at King's Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange and Woodburn PS will be eligible to attend their choice of their current or proposed catchment secondary school.

Q. What happens if I have a child already attending their current catchment primary school who has a younger sibling that is not yet at school?

A. If the younger sibling starts primary school within 3 years of the date the catchment areas are changed (i.e. by August 2027 for the Easthouses catchment area and August 2026 for the change in the Newtongrange and Bonnyrigg PS catchment area) and they have an elder sibling already attending their current catchment primary school, they would be able to attend either their current or proposed new catchment school. If the younger sibling starts more than three years from the date the catchment areas are changed (i.e. after August 2027 for the Easthouses catchment area and August 2026 for the change in the Newtongrange and Bonnyrigg PS catchment area) then they can make a placing request to their former catchment school. Places are allocated in line with the council's Admission to Primary and Secondary Schools [policy](#) When considering placing requests, children with siblings attending a school are given higher priority than those who do not.

Q. What secondary school would my child attend if they live in the Wester Kippielaw area but attend St David's RCPS?

A. All pupils who attend a Roman Catholic primary school in Midlothian, including St David's Roman Catholic Primary School, are automatically registered at St David's Roman Catholic High School. This will not change if the catchment area for Easthouses Primary School is established as proposed.

Some pupils who attend a Roman Catholic primary school choose not to attend St David's Roman Catholic High School and put in a placing request to either their catchment non-denominational secondary school or to another non-denominational secondary school. Currently the catchment non-denominational secondary school for pupils living in the Wester Kippielaw area is Dalkeith High School. If the Easthouses primary school catchment area is established as proposed, the catchment non-denominational secondary school for this area will become Newbattle High School.

Appendix 6: Education Scotland Report

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Midlothian Council to establish a new primary school and its associated catchment area within the land at Easthouses and to realign the catchment areas of Dalkeith High School, Newbattle High School and Lasswade High School.

May 2023

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) 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 to establish a new primary school and its associated catchment area within the land at Easthouses and to realign the catchment areas of Dalkeith High School, Newbattle High School and Lasswade High School. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 29 March 2023 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and

- visits to the sites of Kings Park, Lawfield, Mayfield, Newtongrange, Woodburn and Bonnyrigg Primary Schools and Newbattle, Dalkeith and Lasswade High Schools, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 Midlothian Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

2.2 The consultation ran from 27 February until 23 April 2023. Papers for the consultation were available via the council's website and at a variety of public offices. A public meeting was held in Newbattle High School on 29 March 2023. It was attended by nine members of the public and a few members of staff from Midlothian Council. Members of the public were encouraged to respond to the consultation by email, either to the address given on the council website or directly to the Head of Education. Following the public meeting the council sent out further information regarding transition to secondary schools, along with a reminder about the closing date for responses.

Following this they received correspondence from the Chair of Bonnyrigg Primary School Parent Council. They requested clarification regarding the housing in their area that would be impacted by the proposed changes as they suggested that this was not clear. The council responded quickly to address the misunderstanding by sending out a response to detail the affected properties and received no further questions. Two hundred and twenty-five returns were received by the council in response to the consultation and almost all were in favour of the proposal. Many responders recognise the benefits of a new school in Easthouses which will provide a range of facilities benefitting the local community.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 HM Inspectors agree with the educational benefits the council sets out in its proposal. Almost all stakeholders that met with HM Inspectors recognise the educational benefits of a new primary school with provision for additional support needs and early years and childcare provision. A few parents and staff felt that it was important to maintain the identity of communities and so are supportive, in principle, of children attending their local school. A few primary school children who met with HM Inspectors agreed that a new school offered good opportunities for learning and making new friends. A few secondary school staff agreed that the proposed catchment changes should assist in alleviating pupil roll numbers in those schools that are nearing capacity. A few stakeholders thought that the council's commitment to allow siblings to continue to attend the same school is important. Several stakeholders raised concerns about potential increase in traffic around the new Easthouses Primary School and the importance of safe routes to school.

3.2 The proposed catchment changes impact on a few houses in the Cockpen area of Newtongrange. A few parents are concerned about the potential negative impact on their children such as losing well established friendship groups. They noted that the children from the Cockpen area who have confirmed places in August 2023 or younger children at Bonnyrigg Primary School will require placing requests in future to transition to Lasswade High School. These parents suggest that the proposed catchment changes are too soon and do not allow families to make informed choices. They are concerned that should placing requests for a primary or secondary school not be approved, children and young people would not transition to secondary school with their peers or friendship groups. HM Inspectors

suggest that the council should discuss the impact of the proposals with parents to allay their concerns.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal to establish a new primary school at Easthouses will bring clear educational benefits for the children attending. The inclusion of an additional early years and additional support needs provision is also welcomed. However, a few parents in the Cockpen area of Newtongrange have ongoing worries regarding the impact of the proposal. Should the proposal go ahead, the council needs to engage with those parents to find ways to address their concerns.

HM Inspectors
May 2023