

City of Edinburgh Council

Balerno High School Schools Review Workshop

Monday, 22 January 2018

18:30 – 20:30



Agenda

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|--------------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1. Introductions & Discussion Format | } | (20 Mins) |
| 2. Summary of Published Proposals | | |
| 3. Status of Published Proposals | | |
| 4. Rationale for Change | } | (80 mins) |
| 5. Feedback Received & Alternative Options | | |
| 6. Group Discussions | | |
| 7. Group Feedback | | (15 mins) |
| 8. Next Steps and Timeframes | | (5 mins) |

Introductions

Name	Job Title	Workshop Role
Robbie Crockatt	Acting School Estate Planning Manager	Presentation & Group Support
Andy Gray	Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning	Group Support
Crawford McGhie	Acting Head of Operational Support	Group Support
Michelle Moore	Quality Improvement Officer	Group Support
Julie Kelly	School Estate Planning	Group Facilitator
Alex Kerridge	School Estate Planning	Group Facilitator
Keith Thomson	Estate Development Advisor	Group Facilitator
Yvonne Gannon	Senior Insight and Engagement Officer	Group Facilitator
Emma Candy	Senior Insight and Engagement Officer	Group Facilitator

Attending Elected Members

Workshop Format

Groups

- 5 groups of approximately 8 people
- 1 facilitator per group
- Senior officers moving between groups
- Head Teachers / School Staff as observers only

Role of the Facilitator

- Record points raised, suggestions made and views expressed by the group.
- Direct and focus discussions.
- Ensure group allocates time to consider all options.
- Summarise and report group discussions and feedback.

Facilitators may be able to provide additional information to assist discussions but will not be able to answer all questions

Status of Published Proposals

- **No decisions have been made.**
 - This is an informal process.
 - Nothing can be implemented without full statutory consultation.
 - Gathering views, suggestions, ideas and sharing information.
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- Report to Education, Children and Families Committee on **6 March 2018** will provide feedback on emerging themes.
 - Informal process extended to **29 March 2018** to allow engagement with wider community.
 - Special meeting of E,C&F Committee to be held on **29 March 2018** to enable all groups to make representation.
 - If appropriate, recommendations for any statutory consultation to be made to E,C&F Committee in May.

Summary of Published Proposals

- Pupils from the Cherrytrees area of Currie Primary School would go to Dean Park Primary and then to Balerno High from August 2019.
- The rest of the pupils from Currie Primary would go to Balerno High instead of Currie High once South West Edinburgh High opens in August 2022.
- Balerno High would be expanded and refurbished on its existing school site. Capacity would increase from 850 to 1,200 pupils.
- Pupils from Ratho Primary would no longer go to Balerno High but to the new West Edinburgh High when it opens in August 2022.
- Pupils from Kirknewton Primary would continue to go to Balerno High.

Rationale for Change

- There is not enough space in Currie Primary so the Cherrytrees area would go to Dean Park Primary and then to Balerno High.
- Ratho Primary will be closer to the new West Edinburgh High than it is to Balerno High.
- Without Ratho Balerno High could become a small school, even if there were more houses built in the area.
- The Currie HS and WHEC buildings ideally need to be replaced.
- Currie, WHEC and Balerno HS's are smaller than many other schools in the Council's estate (9 of CEC's secondary schools have capacity of 1,150 or more).
- Larger schools can provide enhanced opportunities for all pupils both within and outwith the curriculum.
- Provides an opportunity to close the attainment gap.
- Larger and newer schools cost the Council less due to reduced management and maintenance costs.

Feedback Received

Overview

- Total 775 comments responses received and analysed to date.
- 50 comments from people in the existing Balerno HS catchment.
- 10 comments from people with children attending Balerno HS.
- 36 people (64.3%) in existing Balerno HS catchment or with children attending Balerno HS oppose proposals; 5 people (8.9%) support proposals.

Feedback Received

Theme	No. of comments	% of total comments
Roads/Traffic	391	64.1%
Community Hub/Dividing Community	388	63.6%
Local sports facilities/clubs/other	293	48.0%
Travel to school / safety	292	47.9%
Walking to school/Healthy and well-being policy	187	30.7%
High performing HS / low performing HS	171	28.0%
Bought house due to catchments	128	21.0%
Exams/disrupting education	122	20.0%
Environment	122	20.0%
Currie land being sold	119	19.5%

Figures from Currie, Nether Currie and Juniper Green only.



Published Proposal

- Positives
- Negatives

Alternative Options Suggested

1. Retain all schools on their existing sites refurbishing or rebuilding as required;
 - What works well now?
 - How could the current situation be improved?
2. Amalgamate Currie HS and Balerno HS in a new building on the existing Currie HS site.
 - What (if any) catchment changes would be required?

Open Discussion – Primary School Catchment Changes; Other suggestions.

Group Discussions

What do each of the suggested options mean for the following assessment criteria?

Schools

- Maintaining Educational Excellence
- Improving Attainment and Wider Achievement
- Maximising Curriculum Choice
- Supporting Young People with Additional Learning Needs
- Closing the Attainment Gap
- Creating an efficient school estate for a growing city

Community

- Maximising community facilities
- Maintaining links with Community Organisations

Travel

- Providing 'Safe Routes to Schools'.
- Promoting Active Travel

Printed criteria on group tables.

Published Proposal

- Positives
- Negatives

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Open Discussion – Primary School Catchment Changes; Other suggestions.

Group Feedback

[3 minutes per group]

Next Steps and Timeframes

- Circulate Workshop Report to all attendees.
- Report to Education, Children and Families Committee on **6 March 2018** will provide feedback on emerging themes.
- Informal process extended to **29 March 2018** to allow engagement with wider community.
- Website will remain live throughout the process.
- Special meeting of E,C&F Committee to be held on **29 March 2018** to enable all groups to make representation.
- If appropriate, recommendations for any statutory consultation to be made to Education, Children and Families Committee in May.
- Workshop Reports and all comments received to be made available to all Councillors ahead of E,C and F Committee in May.

Thank you.

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolsreview