

City of Edinburgh Council

Currie Primary School Schools Review Workshop

Wednesday, 17 January 2018

19:00 – 21:00



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
Alistair Gaw	Executive Director for Communities and Families	Group Support
Andy Gray	Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning	Group Support
Crawford McGhie	Acting Head of Operational Support	Group Support
Lynn Paterson	Quality Improvement Education Manager	Group Support
Julie Kelly	School Estate Projects Officer	Group Facilitator
Yvonne Gannon	Senior Insight and Engagement Officer	Group Facilitator
Emma Candy	Senior Insight and Engagement Officer	Group Facilitator
Elaine Watson	School Estate Planning Officer	Group Facilitator
Ian Tame	School Estate Planning 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 Committee to be held on 23 March 2018 to enable all groups to make representation to an official Council Committee.
 - If appropriate, recommendations for any statutory consultation to be made to Education, Children and Families Committee in May.

Summary of Published Proposals

Catchment Change Proposals

- Cherrytrees area realigned with Dean Park PS and Balerno HS from August 2019.
- Kinleith Mill area realigned with Nether Currie Primary from August 2019.
- North of the Gogar Burn realigned with Ratho PS and Balerno HS from August 2019.
- Area around Heriot Watt University realigned with Nether Currie Primary from August 2019.

Secondary Feeder Proposals

- Currie PS catchment would go to Balerno High instead of Currie High when South West Edinburgh High opens August 2022.

Rationale for Change

Catchment Change Proposals

- Catchment change may mitigate requirement for further expansion of Currie PS.
- 30% of primary pupils living in the Cherrytrees area already attend Dean Park Primary.
- 41% of secondary pupils living in the Cherrytrees area already attend Balerno High School.
- Dean Park Primary can be extended to provide additional spaces.
- Cherrytrees is within the Balerno Community Council boundary.
- Nether Currie Primary has space for new pupils from the Kinleith Mill development but further opportunities for change limited.
- Very small number of pupils affected by Currie/Ratho change proposal.

Rationale for Change

Secondary Feeder Proposals

- The Currie HS and WHEC buildings ideally need to be replaced.
- Balerno HS could be refurbished and expanded.
- 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.
- 320 comments from people in the existing Currie PS catchment.
- 240 comments from people with children attending Currie PS.
- 90% of people in existing Currie PS catchment or with children attending Currie PS oppose proposals; 2% support proposals.

Feedback Received

Secondary Feeder Proposals

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.

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. Build a new school on the Muir Wood field site;
 - What does this mean for the published proposal?
 - Is a catchment change required?
3. Amalgamate Currie HS and Balerno HS in a new building on the existing Currie HS site.
 - What (if any) catchment changes would be required?
4. Open Discussion – Published Proposal; 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.

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 - What does this mean for the published proposal?
 - Could this Catchment change required?
3. Amalgamate Currie HS and Balerno HS in a new building on the existing Currie HS site.
 - What (if any) catchment changes would be required?
4. Open Discussion – Published Proposal; 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 Committee to be held on **23 March 2018** to enable all groups to make representation to an official Council Committee.
- 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.