

10.00am, Thursday, 8 February 2024

## Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Proposing to Establish a New Non-Denominational Secondary School in Kirkliston and associated Catchment Changes

Executive/routine  
Wards

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 To approve that a new non-denominational secondary school could be established on the site of the existing Kirkliston Leisure Centre and that associated catchment changes would be implemented in the November prior to the new school opening.
- 1.2 To note that the delivery of a new non-denominational secondary on the site of the existing Kirkliston Leisure Centre is currently an unfunded pressure in the capital programme and will be subject to approval of a full business case by the appropriate executive committees.
- 1.3 To note that the business case to be developed will require to be considered alongside other feasible options to address capacity requirements in order to ensure best value had been fully considered in the decision-making process.

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## Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Proposing to Establish a New Non-Denominational Secondary School in Kirkliston and associated Catchment Changes

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report sets out the outcomes of a statutory consultation proposing the establishment of a new non-denominational secondary school in Kirkliston.
- 2.2 A consultation conducted according to the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ran from Monday 11 September to Tuesday 31 October 2023.
- 2.3 Overall there was no majority support for or against the proposals in the consultation paper. However, the report identifies that the significant majority of those responding to the consultation from Kirkliston did not support the proposals.
- 2.4 The concerns raised can be addressed through design and curriculum development; and the best way to achieve this is by continuing to work with the Kirkliston community. Approval of the proposals outlined in statutory consultation will confirm a site is available for the creation of a new secondary school in Kirkliston and thus remove one of the barriers to the school's delivery allowing the development of a detailed business case outlining funding requirements to be progressed and presented to the appropriate executive committees for consideration.
- 2.5 If Council do not approve the recommendations in this report, then additional secondary capacity will still be required and work will begin on the only deliverable alternative solution which is the permanent expansion of Queensferry High School. This would be a significant expansion of the school requiring considerable funding and a detailed business case would be progressed and presented to the appropriate executive committees for consideration. As this option can be implemented without a statutory consultation, it will always remain an alternative to provision of a new High School in Kirkliston.
- 2.6 Accordingly, this report recommends that the proposals in the statutory consultation paper to establish a new non-denominational secondary school in Kirkliston and associated catchment changes are approved to allow the preparation of a detailed business case for this option to be progressed.

- 2.7 It is also proposed that the business case for the alternative option at Queensferry High School is prepared and presented to Committee at the same time as the business case for a new Kirkliston High School so that value for money can be a consideration in the final decision-making process.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The current Queensferry High School was designed in 2016 to accommodate pupils from Queensferry, including those from new housing sites allocated in the 2014 Local Development Plan. However, its design did not include accommodation for pupils from Kirkliston in the longer term. This is because when the funding for the new school was approved by Council in [November 2016](#), it was on the basis that a catchment change would be required so that pupils from Kirkliston would go to a different secondary school as the new housing in Queensferry was delivered and began to generate pupils.
- 3.2 Projections suggested that if pupils from Kirkliston continue to attend the school, Queensferry High School could exceed its notional capacity of 1,200 pupils in 2025, growing to nearly 1,700 pupils by 2032.
- 3.3 Informal engagement with the Queensferry and Kirkliston communities began in 2017. Since that time different options have been proposed, explored and rejected by the Kirkliston and/or Queensferry communities. These were:
- A new secondary school in West Edinburgh at the International Business Gateway (IBG) site. *(Rejected by Kirkliston community due to travel/transport issues and no community link);*
  - Kirkliston feeding to the new Winchburgh Academy in West Lothian. *(Rejected by Kirkliston community due to different term dates in West Lothian and identity as part of Edinburgh);*
  - A new secondary school at a site in Ratho Station. *(Rejected by Kirkliston community due to travel/transport issues);*
  - A school on a site at Burnshot Road. *(Rejected by Kirkliston community as part of CityPlan 2030 engagement process due to associated requirement for release of land for additional housing);*
  - New secondary school in West Edinburgh at the West Town site. *(Rejected by Kirkliston community due to travel/transport issues and no community link); and*
  - Extension to Queensferry High School. *(Rejected by both Queensferry and Kirkliston communities due to size of school and potential traffic congestion.)*
- 3.4 Informal engagement in [January 2023](#) showed that 70% of the 240 responses received from people in Kirkliston supported a new secondary school in the village. Several people suggested the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site as a potential location for the new school. The same engagement showed that only 9% of the total 808

responses received from Kirkliston and Queensferry supported the extension of Queensferry High School.

- 3.5 However, further informal engagement in June 2023 focused on the option of locating a new secondary school on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site – showed that 62% of the 186 respondents did not think the Leisure Centre site was suitable for a new secondary school.
- 3.6 The outcomes of the June 2023 engagement were published in September 2023 in a report considered by the [Education, Children and Families Committee](#). The Committee approved the recommendations that a statutory consultation be undertaken proposing the establishment of a new non-denominational secondary school in Kirkliston on the Leisure Centre Site and associated catchment changes.
- 3.7 The consultation, conducted according to the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, ran from Monday 11 September to Tuesday 31 October 2023. During this period stakeholders from affected communities were asked for their views on the proposals set out in the consultation paper, a summary of which is included in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.8 The Council requested feedback to the consultation proposals via an online questionnaire, by email, in writing and undertook separate surveys of pupils at Kirkliston Primary School and Queensferry High School. Full information, including the consultation paper issued and supporting documents such as the high-level feasibility study showing how a secondary school could be accommodated on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site, are available in links in Section 10 of this report and at <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs>
- 3.9 The consultation was widely advertised in both Kirkliston and Queensferry through the distribution of letters to parents at affected schools and early years providers, adverts in the local press, posters in local libraries and community centres and some commercial premises, targeted lamppost wraps and direct engagement with school pupils.
- 3.10 This report summarises the responses received to the statutory process, including that of Education Scotland, and sets out proposed next steps.

## **4. Main report**

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### **Consultation Response Summary**

#### ***Summary of Online Questionnaire Response***

- 4.1 Overall, 49% of the 724 individual responses to the statutory consultation's online questionnaire *do not* support the proposals as set out in the consultation paper. 44% expressed support for the proposals while a further 7% were undecided. Accordingly, the online questionnaire shows no majority support or rejection of the proposals.

- 4.2 However, analysis of the overall response to the online questionnaire shows a clear difference between responses from people living in Kirkliston and of people living outside Kirkliston. The 287 responses from those living outside Kirkliston showed 85% support for the proposals – principally to avoid an extension of Queensferry High School.
- 4.3 Among the 426 people responding from Kirkliston, 74% *did not* support the proposals as set out in the consultation paper and 10% were undecided. Accordingly, within Kirkliston an overwhelming majority rejected the proposals.
- 4.4 A full analysis of the responses received to the consultation and the Council's replies to the comments received are attached as **Appendix 2**. However, in summary, the five most commonly recurring points were (in order of highest occurrence):
- The leisure centre site is too small; (*do not support the proposals*);
  - Kirkliston is big enough for its own secondary school; (*support the proposals*);
  - The proposals would increase traffic congestion in Kirkliston; (*do not support the proposals*);
  - The single feeder status of a new Kirkliston High School would be detrimental to pupils; (*do not support the proposals*); and
  - Extending Queensferry High School would create a school that is too big which would impact the quality of education. (*support the proposals*).

### ***Public Meeting***

- 4.5 A public meeting was held at Kirkliston Primary School on Tuesday 10 October 2023 from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Approximately 200 members of the public attended and [a copy of the minute](#) has been published on the Council website.

### ***Pupil Responses***

- 4.6 A link to an on-line survey was circulated to Kirkliston Primary School pupils (P6 & P7 only) and Queensferry High School pupils (all year groups). The survey asked if they think a new High School on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre was a good idea. A detailed summary of the responses is available in **Appendix 2**. In summary, 103 responses were received, 46 from Kirkliston Primary School pupils and 57 from Queensferry High School pupils.
- 4.7 45 pupils (44%) stated they thought a new High School on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre was a good idea, 41 pupils (41%) did not think the proposal was a good idea, and 17 pupils were unsure.
- 4.8 Separately, Kirkliston Primary School conducted their own survey of pupils with separate surveys for P1-P3 classes and P4-P7 classes. Comments from discussions with Kirkliston Primary School's Pupil Council have also been collected. This response from Kirkliston Primary School is as available in **Appendix 2**.

## **Kirkliston Primary School Parent Council**

- 4.9 In addition to the online responses received, a written response was received from Kirkliston Primary School Association (KPSA). A copy of this response is available in **Appendix 2**. While the response from KPSA recognises that *“a local high school could deliver significant benefits to the Kirkliston community”*, it concludes that this would only be the case *“if there is a robust plan to deliver a high-quality education”*. Accordingly, it asks that elected members *“instruct further work to address the concerns raised on education delivery and suitability of the leisure centre site, to consider the viability of alternative sites and/or to explore and encourage alternative, innovative, approaches in detail before making a decision”*.

### **Report from Education Scotland**

- 4.10 As required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, all the responses received during the public consultation, including pupil responses, were made available to Education Scotland for their consideration. Education Scotland visited Queensferry High School and Kirkliston Primary School and discussed the educational aspects with staff, parents and pupils before producing their final report. A report from Education Scotland providing their response to the proposal was submitted in November 2023. This report is attached in **Appendix 3**.
- 4.11 The Education Scotland report mainly relays concerns raised by stakeholders which have already been recorded as part of the consultation process. Education Scotland conclude that: *“HM Inspectors do not believe that the council has explained sufficiently how all of the educational benefits outlined in the proposal, can be fully realised on the chosen site.”* In qualifying this statement, Education Scotland highlight three areas in particular they believe the Council need to address:
- i. Breadth of Curriculum: *“the proposal does not provide sufficient detail on how partnership, the use of technology and access to resources would be able to support an appropriately wide curriculum;”*
  - ii. Site Limitations and Small Staff Numbers: *“specialist subject teaching and learning may be difficult to provide; as could specialist support for learners with additional needs;”*
  - iii. Extracurricular: *“particularly in the first few years, options for clubs and after school activities could be limited.”*
- 4.12 In conclusion, the Education Scotland report recommends that “if approved, the council... ensure that there is appropriate planning and consultation on its implementation with Queensferry High School staff and senior managers.”

## **Council Response to Education Scotland Report**

### **General**

- 4.13 The purpose of Education Scotland’s report is “to provide an independent and impartial consideration of The City of Edinburgh Council’s proposal”. However, the Education Scotland report is largely a summary of the concerns and issues raised by others which, statutorily, the Council are obliged to respond to anyway as part of this Outcomes Report.
- 4.14 The proposal to establish a new non-denominational secondary school in Kirkliston shares many similarities to the new non-denominational secondary school in Winchburgh, including proposed admission and transition arrangements. Winchburgh Academy opened in August 2022 with capacity for 660 pupils and an expansion plan for up to 1,210 pupils. It currently has one feeder primary school, Winchburgh Primary School (19-classes) and is populated on a phased basis starting with S1.
- 4.15 In their report on the statutory consultation to establish a new non-denominational secondary school at Winchburgh, Education Scotland found that all stakeholders agreed with the proposal to build the new school and noted that a few parents disagreed with the Council’s proposal to populate the new school year by year. The inspectors agreed the new school would relieve pressure on secondary education and had the potential to provide modern, improved facilities closer to young peoples’ homes and communities. Education Scotland also commented on the fact that residents may benefit from access to a range of facilities for community use.
- 4.16 Education Scotland’s report on the new secondary school at Winchburgh raised no issues about the breadth of the curriculum a small school might offer, the impact a smaller staff group may have on the availability of specialist teaching and support for learners with additional needs or how extracurricular activities will be delivered.
- 4.17 Limitations in the curricular offering as a result of the site size were also not considered a factor for the Education Scotland report during the consultation on the relocation of Boroughmuir High School to its new site which is approximately half the size of the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site with more than two and a half times the pupil capacity.
- 4.18 It is also worth noting that Education Scotland did not comment on the most commonly recurring education concern raised by stakeholders: the single feeder status of the proposed new Kirkliston High school.

***Detailed Response to Key Issues Raised by Education Scotland***

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| <p>i. Breadth of Curriculum: “<i>the proposal does not provide sufficient detail on how partnership, the use of technology and access to resources would be able to support an appropriately wide curriculum;</i>”</p> |
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Council Response:

- 4.19 It is common practice for closely located schools to work together to ensure that opportunities for partnership working are explored. For example, if Queensferry is providing History at Advanced Higher level and Kirkliston High School isn’t, then the

curriculum would be aligned and co-constructed to ensure that learners have increased options across both schools.

- 4.20 Should the proposal for a new school on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site progress, extensive planning will be required to ensure both the new school and Queensferry High School are working collegiately, particularly in the first few years after the new school opens. This is clearly expressed in the Council's Educational Benefits statement in the consultation paper. However, there is a significant period of time to develop this plan which, to respond to Education Scotland's closing remarks, will necessarily involve senior staff at Queensferry High School and Kirkliston Primary School and also senior managers within the Council's Schools and Lifelong Learning Teams.
- 4.21 In regard to the use of technology as a means of offering a wide curriculum; the Council has an Empowered Learning 1:1 Strategy with all learners from P6 upwards provided with an iPad. The educational benefits of this strategy are city wide and relate to the ability to add breadth and depth to the curriculum for all learners, regardless of individual school context. For example, a learner from a school with a roll of 1,200 pupils could access Mandarin through a digital offer supported through a much smaller school that is delivering it. The perception from stakeholders is that the Digital Offer is a replacement for face-to-face learning; however, it is actually considered to be an enhancement and provides increased choice for all.
- 4.22 The development of partnerships and working closely with community groups is essential to the success of any school, regardless of its size. They provide an opportunity to deliver the experiences Kirkliston's young people require to develop the skills they need for learning, life and work. This collaborative approach could be enhanced by involving other members of the community and community organisations in the life of the school through the establishment of a community hub.

*i. Site Limitations and Small Staff Numbers: "specialist subject teaching and learning may be difficult to provide; as could specialist support for learners with additional needs;"*

Council Response:

- 4.23 The size of the proposed school site and what that means for the design of a new school is considered in detail in the responses in **Appendix 2**. However, it is worth noting that Boroughmuir High School, St Thomas of Aquins's RC High School and Trinity Academy are all larger schools on considerably smaller sites than that proposed for a new Kirkliston High School. Accordingly, the size of the site need not be a barrier to the delivery of a broad and specialised curriculum.
- 4.24 Neither does the size of the site, nor the size of a new school's roll need to be a limitation on the support offered to learners with additional needs. Support is not dependent or determined on the size of a school but is directed where it is needed.

*i. Extracurricular: “particularly in the first few years, options for clubs and after school activities could be limited.”*

Council Response:

- 4.25 One of the issues highlighted in previous engagements was the difficulties that pupils from Kirkliston attending Queensferry High School have attending after school activities due to the distance between Kirkliston and Queensferry and access to transport. The availability of new facilities in Kirkliston will allow new clubs and after school activities to be offered in the village, significantly improving the access pupils have to them. However, as set out in the responses above, partnership with Queensferry High School will be important in a new school’s first few years, and this will be something that is developed as part of the transition planning undertaken with the two schools and their wider communities.

### **Conclusions**

- 4.26 It is clear from the responses received to this statutory consultation that there is still work to be done to address concerns, particularly about the size of the proposed site, the impact on traffic and the single feeder status of a new secondary school located on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site. However, all of the concerns raised can be addressed through design and curriculum development; and the best way to achieve this is by providing certainty about the way forward and working with the Kirkliston community.
- 4.27 The Council already operates very successful and considerably larger schools from sites that are smaller than that proposed. Furthermore, there is an opportunity in Kirkliston to develop a strategy for sports provision, school expansion and even curricular delivery that goes beyond the redline boundary of a school site to offer facilities and services that can benefit the whole community long into the future.
- 4.28 Regardless of where it is located in Kirkliston or the size of the site available, a new secondary school in Kirkliston is likely to be a small, single feeder school unless a new primary school is built to support further housing growth if that occurs at some point in the future. Time to ‘innovate’ and develop new models of delivery such as a Kirkliston junior school or annexe of Queensferry High School has been requested. However, aside from the challenges managing these arrangements, Queensferry pupils whether at primary or secondary level can currently walk or wheel to their school. An annexe proposal would require the daily transportation of children between Queensferry and Kirkliston, adding to traffic and is contrary to the Council’s Living Well Locally policy. The educational benefits for the majority of pupils and families affected are unclear.
- 4.29 It has also been suggested that the Council should stop and consider alternative options. However, the Council has spent more than six years exploring multiple options and variations and each time these have been rejected with a call from the Kirkliston community for it to have its own secondary school. If a new secondary school is to be created in Kirkliston, the leisure centre site is currently the only site

where a school can be delivered and this option can only be progressed if the statutory consultation proposal is approved.

- 4.30 Approval of the proposals outlined in the statutory consultation will confirm a site is available for the creation of a new secondary school in Kirkliston and thus remove one of the barriers to the school's delivery allowing the development of a detailed business case outlining funding requirements to be progressed and presented to the appropriate executive committees for consideration.
- 4.31 By providing clarity on the location of a new school, approval will allow officers to build a business case for the new school by focusing on the development of a design for the new school, engage with the community on the services a new community hub should offer and engage with landowners regarding the purchase of land necessary in the delivery of pitch/sports strategy for the village. It will also allow officers to work with the community to plan a full education strategy and any mitigating measures that may be required to address concerns about the impact of traffic generated by the new school on the Leisure Centre site.
- 4.32 If Council do not approve the recommendations in this report, then additional secondary capacity will still be required and work will begin on the only deliverable alternative solution which is the permanent expansion of Queensferry High School. This would be a significant expansion of the school requiring considerable funding and a detailed business case would be progressed and presented to the appropriate executive committees for consideration. As this option can be implemented without a statutory consultation, it will always remain an alternative to provision of a new High School in Kirkliston.
- 4.33 Accordingly, this report recommends that the proposals in the statutory consultation to establish a new non-denominational secondary school in Kirkliston and associated catchment changes are approved to allow the preparation of a detailed business case for this option to be progressed.
- 4.34 It is also proposed that the business case for the alternative option at Queensferry High School is prepared and presented to Committee at the same time as the business case for a new Kirkliston High School so that value for money can be a consideration in the final decision-making process.
- 4.35 To delay a decision will be to maintain uncertainty about the future of secondary school provision for Kirkliston and increase the length of time over which temporary accommodation may be required at Queensferry High School.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 If Council approve the recommendations that a new non-denominational secondary school could be established on the site of the existing Kirkliston Leisure Centre and that associated catchment changes be implemented when necessary then the next steps will be to:

- Meet with representatives from the Kirkliston community and Edinburgh Leisure to develop a strategy for pitch provision associated with the new school – this will allow discussions with relevant land owners to progress as required;
- Begin a process of engagement with the Kirkliston community to shape service provision from the new community hub;
- Progress a full Traffic Impact Assessment around the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site and, at the appropriate time, meet with resident groups to plan any measures that may be necessary to mitigate the impact of the new school and community hub;
- Include the Head Teachers from Queensferry High School and Kirkliston Primary School, and representatives from both schools Parent Councils in a working group to develop the educational model, partnership arrangements and transition planning;
- Work with Queensferry High School’s management team to consider the temporary arrangements that may need to be put in place to ensure sufficient capacity is available at the school;
- Appoint a design team to work across the three groups above in the development of a brief for a new school and undertake detailed survey and feasibility work on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site to inform costs, carbon analysis and other factors required for a Business Case;
- Work with Edinburgh Leisure to plan for loss of the Leisure Centre during the construction period of a new school; and plan how access to sports and other facilities in the new school will be managed;
- Provide regular updates on the work being undertaken to elected members, the Kirkliston community and the Education, Children and Families Committee; and
- Prepare a business case incorporating all of the work above to establish the funding for the new school which would be required within the Council’s Capital Investment Programme. It is anticipated that this business case would be considered by the appropriate executive committees when available. This business case would include a financial comparison with the option to extend Queensferry High School so that value for money can be a consideration in the final decision-making process.

5.2 If Council do not approve the recommendations in this report then work will begin on the permanent expansion of Queensferry High School and the next steps will be to:

- Establish a working group including Queensferry High School’s management team and Parent Council representatives to:
  - Consider the temporary arrangements that may need to be put in place to ensure sufficient capacity is available at the school;
  - Work with an appointed design team to develop proposals for the extension of the school; and

- Plan for any decant of existing spaces which may require refurbishment.
- Undertake Traffic and Environmental assessments as part of the development of extension proposals; and
- Arrange public information sessions providing details of the developing proposals ahead of submitting a Planning Application.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 This paper seeks approval to establish a new secondary school on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site. If approved, it would remove a significant barrier to the deliverability of the only currently viable alternative to expansion of Queensferry High School by ratifying the use of the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site for secondary education.
- 6.2 The next steps following approval of the recommendations in this report (set out in Section 5 above) are focused on the development of a full Business Case to set out in detail the associated costs and establish the funding levels that would be required for this project in the Council's Capital Investment Programme. Accordingly, while approval of the recommendations in this report set a definitive course of action, the financial commitment associated with this requires separate approval and to be considered alongside the other deliverable option to address capacity requirements to ensure best value had been fully considered in the decision-making process.
- 6.3 For this reason, there are no costs arising directly from this report other than the appointment of a design team to further develop the feasibility work already undertaken and inform a brief for a new school that considers the requirements arising from the actions set out in Section 5 (above). This will be funded from existing feasibility budgets.

## **7. Equality and Poverty Impact**

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- 7.1 Kirkliston and Queensferry include areas ranging from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> decile in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 (SIMD). The Scottish Household Survey 2020, reported that 93% of households has access to the internet, dropping to 87% in the 20% most deprived areas. Accordingly, while respondents were encouraged to complete the online survey, an address was provided for written responses and a clerk recorded points raised at a public meeting. Additionally, hard copies of the consultation paper were available in local schools and libraries and posters advertising the consultation and the public meeting were displayed in a variety of public and commercial premises. Translation services were offered ahead of the public meeting and for anyone requesting that the consultation paper be made available in an alternative language.
- 7.2 If fully implemented, the proposals set out in the consultation paper to create a Community Hub, where members of the community can access a broad range of

services and social opportunities, have the potential to help address poverty in Kirkliston. The Edinburgh Poverty Commission report “A Just Capital – Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh” states that “...the change required to end poverty in Edinburgh is as much about changing the day to day experiences, connections and relationships between individuals and organisations and within communities as concrete change to material circumstances.”

- 7.3 The recommendations in this Committee report have been made following a statutory consultation undertaken according to the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This Act is designed “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. These consultation processes are expected to be robust, open, transparent and fair, and seen to be so.” (Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010: guidance).
- 7.4 Accordingly, by following the established process set out in the Act, the Council has provided those stakeholders most affected by these proposals with an opportunity to have their say and raise any concerns or issues. This Outcomes Report sets out the Council’s response to the issues raised during the consultation and suggests any mitigating measures that may be required.
- 7.5 Equality Duty covers the protected characteristic of age, which refers to a person having a particular age or being within an age group. The age group most directly impacted by the proposal to establish a new school is young people and children. The Educational Benefits statement in the statutory consultation paper sets out the ways in which the Council believes that children and young people could benefit or be disadvantaged by these proposals. In addition, letters providing information and inviting responses to the statutory consultation were made available to the parents and carers of all pupils in the affected area. Separate pupil consultations were also undertaken to understand the issues important to young people and children. The Council has provided responses to these issues in this Outcomes Report.
- 7.6 This statutory consultation has been undertaken at a formative stage of the project to provide early confirmation of its deliverability. No detailed design work has taken place and the full scope of the project is yet to be confirmed through further stages of public engagement. Approval of the proposals outlined in the statutory consultation will provide the Council with the right to establish a school on the proposed site and implement catchment changes when that new school opens, however; the delivery of a new school and related catchment changes will only be progressed subject to committee approval of a full Business Case and planning permissions.
- 7.7 Approval of the location of a new school and that school’s catchment boundaries will allow the development of a design through engagement with the school community and the wider community, addressing key issues that may only be addressed through this process. The Council’s Corporate Property Strategy

requires that a school be more than just a school – that it becomes a focus for community activity and wider service delivery. For example, community engagement would include consideration of the services a new school should offer with opportunities to collocate or integrate other services on the school site. Transport and active travel links would also be a key focus for community engagement.

- 7.8 It is on conclusion of this further engagement work, at the point where a brief for the new facility has been set, that the impact a new school or community hub may have on different population groups may fully be assessed and documented.
- 7.9 Accordingly, a more detailed Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) will be undertaken to address the specific changes proposed by the project as part of the formal planning process.

## **8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications**

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- 8.1 Approval of the recommendations in this paper commit the Council to a course of action that would focus officer time and engagement with the Kirkliston community on the development of a new school. The impact on the Council's net-zero ambitions and the climate and nature emergency will be assessed as part of the design development process via an Environmental Impact Assessment. This will form part of the business case for a new school.
- 8.2 Any new school building would be constructed to low energy Passivhaus or equivalent standards.

## **9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact**

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- 9.1 The purpose of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 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. These consultation processes are expected to be robust, open, transparent and fair, and seen to be so.” (Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010: guidance) Accordingly, by following the established process set out in the Act, the Council has met its obligation to provide prescribed affected stakeholders with the opportunity to have their say.
- 9.2 In addition, the consultation was undertaken at a formative stage following significant informal consultation allowing for informed consideration and response. The consultation period was the statutorily prescribed 30 working days and included an extended additional period over the school's two-week October break allowing stakeholders more than 7 weeks in which to consider the proposals and submit comments.

## 10. Background reading/external references

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- [‘Queensferry High School’](#) report to City of Edinburgh Council, 24 November 2016
- [‘West Edinburgh High School’](#) report to Education, Children and Families Committee, 12 October 2021
- [‘Learning Estate Update: School Roll Projections and West Edinburgh Engagement’](#) report to Education, Children and Families Committee, 1 March 2022
- [‘Future Queensferry and Kirkliston Secondary School Provision Engagement Outcomes’](#) report to Education, Children and Families Committee, 27 April 2023
- [‘Learning Estate Update: Statutory Consultations required for St Catherine’s RC Primary School, a new Primary School in Queensferry and a new Kirkliston High School’](#) report to Education, Children and Families Committee, 5 September 2023
- [Record of Public Consultation Meeting, 10 October 2023: Proposal to Establish a New Non-Denominational Secondary School in Kirkliston.](#)
- [Council Officer Presentation to Public Consultation Meeting, 10 October 2023](#)
- [Full Statutory Consultation Paper: Proposal to Establish a New Non-Denominational Secondary School in Kirkliston and implement Catchment](#)
- Further Information including Transport Feasibility Study and Kirkliston Leisure Centre site viability study available at: [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs)

## 11. Appendices

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- 11.1 [APPENDIX 1: Statutory Consultation Paper - Proposal to Establish a New Non-Denominational Secondary School in Kirkliston and implement Catchment Changes \(Affecting Kirkliston Primary School and Queensferry High School\)](#)
- 11.2 [APPENDIX 2: Report: Consultation Responses and Council Replies.](#)
- 11.3 [APPENDIX 3: Education Scotland Report.](#)

**APPENDIX 1: Statutory Consultation Paper - Proposal to Establish a New Non-Denominational Secondary School in Kirkliston and implement Catchment Changes (Affecting Kirkliston Primary School and Queensferry High School)**

# Proposal to Establish a New Non-Denominational Secondary School in Kirkliston and implement Catchment Changes

Affecting Kirkliston Primary School and Queensferry High School

This consultation paper is divided into the following sections:

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## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This paper proposes that a new non-denominational secondary school be established on the site of the existing Leisure Centre in Kirkliston.
- 1.2 Previous informal engagement has helped shape this proposal which now forms the basis for this formal statutory consultation conducted according to the requirements of The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 1.3 The proposal is that Kirkliston Primary School will be the sole feeder primary school to a new secondary school located on the existing Kirkliston Leisure Centre site. The catchment area of the new secondary school will be the same as that of the existing Kirkliston Primary School.
- 1.4 This proposal requires changes to the catchment area of Queensferry High School. Existing school catchment areas are set out in [Appendix 1](#). The proposed catchment areas are set out in [Appendix 2](#).
- 1.5 This consultation paper sets out the rationale for, and implications of, the proposal which will address secondary school capacity and accommodation issues arising from new housing developments in Queensferry. The paper also sets out the consultation process and the means and timescales for making representations.
- 1.6 The new school could open in August 2028 at the earliest. If the proposal is approved by the Council, the date from when the proposed catchment area for the secondary school would be effective is the November prior to the new school opening, in time for the S1 registration process.
- 1.7 All catchment changes will only apply to new S1 pupils. There will be no mandatory transfer for pupils already attending another school. All addresses in the existing Kirkliston Primary School catchment area are directly affected by these proposals.
- 1.8 Comments on the proposal should be submitted by no later than close of business on **Tuesday 31 October 2023**. A response questionnaire can be completed online via the Council website: [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs)
- 1.9 A copy of the questionnaire is included in [Appendix 5](#) of this paper and this can also be submitted by email or post to the addresses set out in Section 9 of this paper.
- 1.10 A public meeting in relation to these proposals will be held as follows, further details of which are provided in [Section 9](#):



Venue	Date	Time
Kirkliston Primary School	Tuesday 10 October, 2023	6.30pm – 8.30pm

## 2 Background and Context

- 2.1 Queensferry High School moved into a new building in March 2020. The new building has capacity for 1,200 pupils. Children living in Queensferry High School’s catchment area are eligible to attend the school. The school’s catchment area includes the primary school catchments of Queensferry, Echline, Dalmeny and Kirkliston. A map showing Queensferry High School’s existing catchment area and feeder primary schools is in [Appendix 1](#).
- 2.2 Projections show that Queensferry High School’s roll will continue to grow due to new housing being built in the Queensferry area. Projections suggest that it could exceed its notional capacity in 2025, growing to nearly 1,700 pupils by 2032. Further information on roll projections and capacity can be found in [Section 3](#).
- 2.3 Queensferry High School was designed in 2016 to accommodate pupils from Queensferry, including those from new housing. However, its design did not include for pupils from Kirkliston. This is because when the funding for the new school was approved by Council in [November 2016](#), it was on the basis that a catchment change would be required so that pupils from Kirkliston would go to a different secondary school.

### *Informal Engagement – December 2017*

- 2.4 In late 2017 the Council consulted with the Kirkliston community on three alternative secondary school options for Kirkliston:
- A new secondary school in West Edinburgh at the International Business Gateway (IBG) site;
  - A new secondary school in Winchburgh;
  - A new secondary school at Ratho Station.
- 2.5 No clear preference was established and issues were raised with all three options – mostly around transport and safe routes to the proposed school sites.
- 2.6 In 2018 a new school in Kirkliston was proposed as an alternative option for pupils from Kirkliston. The problem has been finding a site for a new secondary school in or around Kirkliston as most of the land is privately owned. The other issue has been that the release of ‘greenfield’ sites around Kirkliston has not been supported by Planning policy. We have waited for the release of the [Council’s CityPlan 2030](#) to see if it would change Planning Policy to support the development of a new school in Kirkliston. However, the policy has not changed.

### *Informal Engagement – January 2023*

- 2.7 In January 2023 we asked people in Queensferry and Kirkliston for their views on two potential solutions:
- extend Queensferry High School to accommodate up to 1,800 pupils; or
  - build a new secondary school in Kirkliston or West Edinburgh for pupils from Kirkliston.
- 2.8 On 27 April 2023 [a report to the Council's Education, Children and Families Committee](#) summarised the responses we received. The report said that the key message arising from the engagement with the Queensferry and Kirkliston communities was that there should be a new secondary school built in Kirkliston. Several people also suggested Kirkliston Leisure Centre as a potential site for a new high school.
- 2.9 We had previously ruled out the use of the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site due to its small size, its proximity to the motorway and existing residential properties, its location on the west of Kirkliston and the loss of Kirkliston's leisure facilities. However, as this is the only potential site in Council control, in response to the feedback received through the engagement we appointed an architect to tell us whether a high school for 1,200 pupils could be built on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site.
- 2.10 Extracts from the feasibility report produced by the architect can be found in [Appendix 3](#) of this paper. It demonstrates that the site could accommodate a high school for 1,200 pupils along with publicly accessible leisure facilities. The full feasibility report can be accessed via [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs)
- Informal Engagement – June 2023*
- 2.11 In June 2023 we undertook further informal engagement. This time we asked people in Kirkliston if the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site was a good site for a new secondary school. Our engagement included a public information event and was advertised widely, including flyers to approximately 450 properties around the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site.
- 2.12 The outcomes of this second engagement were reported in full to the [Education, Children and Families Committee in September 2023](#). In summary, the key message from this second engagement was that the majority of people (60%) felt that the Leisure Centre was not the right site for a new secondary school. This was principally due to concerns about the impact a new secondary school could have on traffic, parking and congestion in Kirkliston.
- 2.13 More than half of the respondents (96) suggested alternative sites in and around Kirkliston for a new high school, that they thought would be more suitable. However, most of these had previously been considered and ruled out principally due to them being 'greenfield' sites currently protected by Planning policy.
- 2.14 Many people expressed concern for the loss of the leisure facilities during the construction period. The City of Edinburgh Council in partnership with Edinburgh Leisure will optimise the use of other facilities in the surrounding area

to keep disruption to existing groups and activities to a minimum where possible.

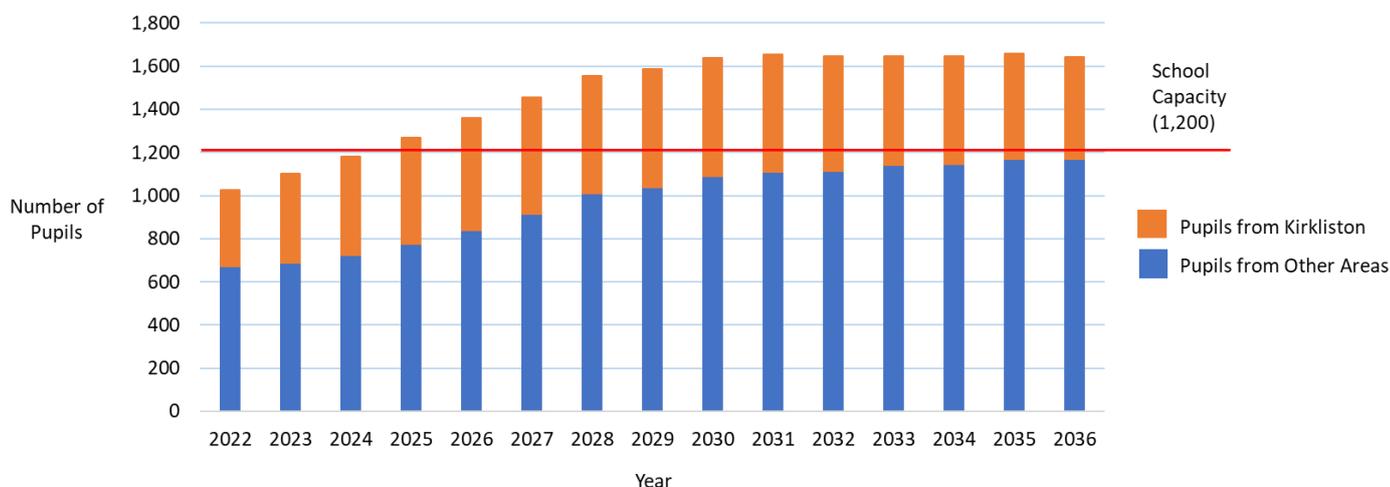
- 2.15 The report to the [Education, Children and Families Committee in September 2023](#) concluded that while the majority of respondents do not think that the Kirkliston Leisure Centre is the right site for a new secondary school, no viable or deliverable alternative options currently exist nor seem likely in the near future without a change in Planning policy. Accordingly, the Education, Children and Families Committee approved the report's recommendation that a statutory consultation be progressed proposing the establishment of a new secondary school on the Leisure Centre site in Kirkliston.

### 3 Roll Projections, Catchment Data and Capacity Analysis

#### *Queensferry High School*

- 3.1 The proposals in this paper will directly affect Queensferry High School. The proposals are made to reduce pressure on Queensferry High School which does not have capacity to accommodate current and projected catchment demand for places.
- 3.2 Extending Queensferry High School is not specifically given as an option in this paper. However, while it was rejected by a considerable majority of respondents to engagement in January 2023, it remains a deliverable solution. Should the preferred option which forms the basis of the proposals in this paper ultimately prove undeliverable then, in the absence of other viable solutions, extension of Queensferry High School would be necessary.
- 3.3 Figure 1 (below) shows how current roll projections exceed Queensferry High School's capacity and the impact of pupils from Kirkliston on that roll.

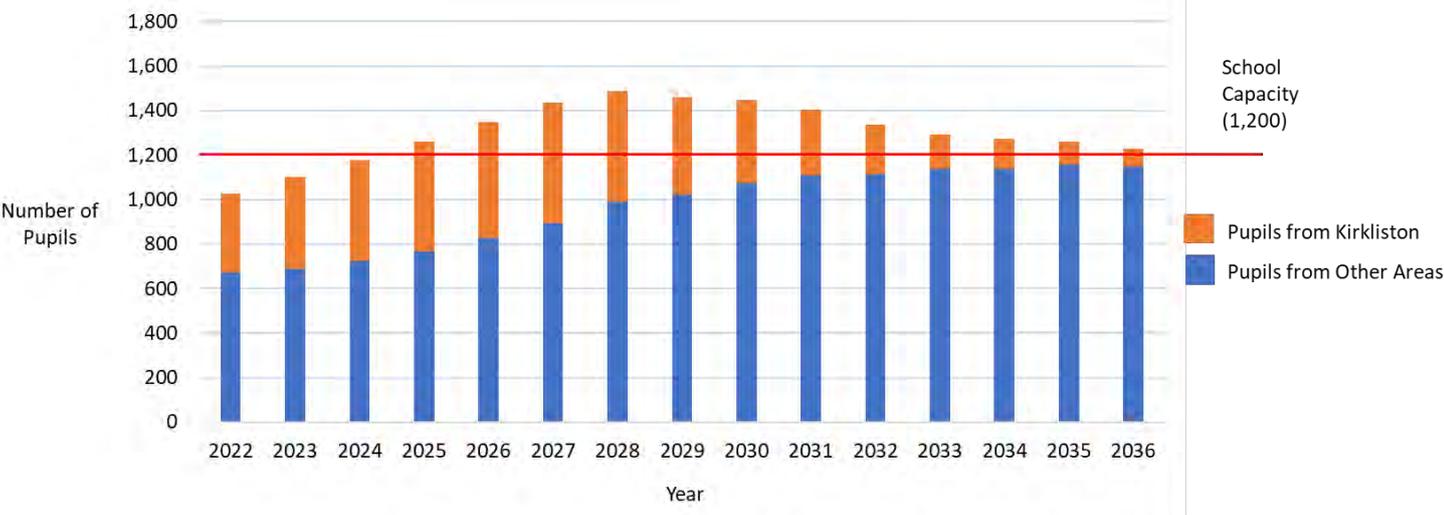
**Figure 1: Queensferry High School Projected Roll, 2022-2036**



- 3.4 If the proposals in this paper are progressed, the roll at Queensferry High School would reduce over time as pupils from Kirkliston will feed to a new secondary school in Kirkliston.

3.5 Figure 2 (below) shows how the roll at Queensferry High School could be affected if a new high school in Kirkliston opened in August 2028:

**Figure 2: Queensferry High School Projected Roll, 2022-2036 assuming new Kirkliston High School opens in August 2028**



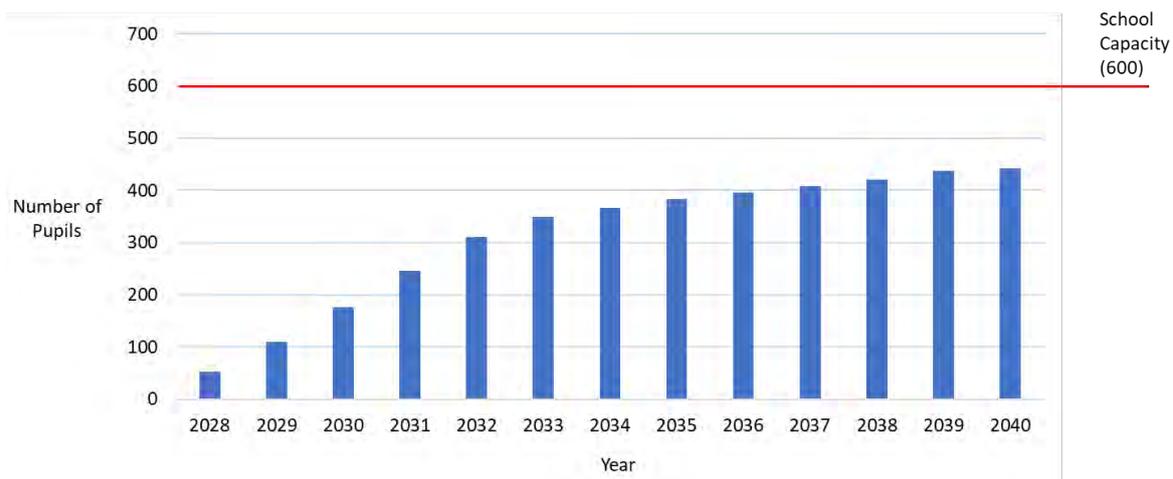
3.6 The projection in Table 2 suggests that, if pupils from Kirkliston were to attend a new school in Kirkliston, then the capacity of Queensferry High School would be exceeded temporarily from 2025 to 2031 by a maximum of approximately 250 pupils. Accordingly, Council Officers are working with the Head Teacher at Queensferry High School to identify any measures that may be required to address accommodation pressures for this period. These measures will consider the outcomes of a review of the school’s capacity which is being undertaken as part of a review of the whole secondary school estate.

*Kirkliston High School*

3.7 The proposal in this paper is for a new secondary school in Kirkliston to open gradually, growing from a single S1 year group in 2028. In each consecutive year a new year group would be added. This means that it will be 2033 before the school has an S6 year group. Populating a new Kirkliston High School is discussed further in [Section 4.26](#) of the paper.

3.8 The phased opening of the new school means that the roll of the school will increase gradually, as shown in the roll projection in Figure 3 below:

**Figure 3: Kirkliston High School Projected Roll, 2028-2040**



### *The Impact of Siblings*

- 3.9 It is proposed that a sibling guarantee be offered to children who have an older sibling at Queensferry High School. Details of this can be found in [Section 4.31](#) of this paper.
- 3.10 It is difficult to project with any degree of certainty the number of pupils in each S1 year group who would have a sibling in Queensferry High School. The assumption made in the projections above is that initially, high numbers of Kirkliston catchment pupils (40%) would continue to attend Queensferry High School because they have a sibling in that school. The projections slowly reduce the percentage of pupils with a sibling at Queensferry High School until it is capturing 95% of its catchment population by 2036.

## **4 Details of Proposal**

### **Summary**

- 4.1 The previous sections of this paper have identified that there is a requirement to address growing capacity issues at Queensferry High School.
- 4.2 To address this requirement, the proposal is as follows:
- Establish a new 600 capacity non-denominational secondary school on the site of the existing Kirkliston Leisure Centre;
  - The catchment area for the new school will be formed from the existing Kirkliston Primary School catchment area;
  - The new school's catchment area will be implemented from the November prior to the new school opening;
  - Establish Kirkliston Primary School as a feeder school to the new high school;
  - Realign the catchment area boundary of Queensferry High School so that it no longer includes the catchment area of Kirkliston Primary School;

- The new school will be built with capacity for 600 pupils but will be extendable to 1,200 if required.
- 4.3 The proposed non-denominational secondary school catchment areas are set out in [Appendix 2](#).
- 4.4 Catchment changes will only apply to new S1 pupils. There would be no mandatory transfer for pupils already attending Queensferry High School or any other school.
- 4.5 The new school could open in August 2028 at the earliest. If the proposal is approved by the Council, the earliest date from when the proposed catchment area for the new school would be effective is November 2027, in time for the P1 registration process.
- 4.6 This paper does not propose any changes to the Roman Catholic Primary or Roman Catholic Secondary school catchment areas.

## **New Secondary School**

### *Site Location and Size*

- 4.7 The new secondary school will be established on land on the site of the existing Kirkliston Leisure Centre. This is located on the west side of the existing urban area adjacent to the motorway and the B9080 to Winchburgh.
- 4.8 The size of site for any new (or replacement) school is prescribed in the School Premises (General Requirements and Standards) (Scotland) Regulations 1967 and the 1973 and 1979 amendments to those regulations. For a new 600 capacity secondary school, the total site size should be 4.4 hectares comprising two elements for which the appropriate sizes are defined separately:
- A main school site on which the actual school buildings are located of not less than 2.0 hectares; and
  - An available area of playing fields of not less than 2.4 hectares.
- This increases to a total requirement of 6.0 hectares for a school of 1,200 pupils – made up of 2.4 hectares for the school site and 3.6 hectares of available playing fields.
- 4.9 A new Early Years facility and Primary 1 annexe occupies the northern part of the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site. The size of the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site available to a new secondary school is 1.7 hectares. This means that the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site is not big enough to accommodate the required size of school building and sports pitches to meet the Regulations.
- 4.10 In certain circumstances a smaller site area can be provided for a new school with the consent of the Scottish Government subject to it being agreed that it would be impractical or unreasonable to apply the standards within the legislation.
- 4.11 We have undertaken feasibility work that demonstrates how a 600 pupil capacity school building – extendable to a capacity of 1,200 pupils – could be

accommodated on the 1.7 hectare site available. This feasibility work is included in [Appendix 3](#). This work demonstrates that an appropriate environment for a new secondary school of this size on this site is achievable over 4 storeys.

- 4.12 Accordingly, the consent of the Scottish Government to make use of the smaller site will be progressed to ensure, should the Council wish to progress with this proposal, that the decision of the Scottish Government is known at the earliest opportunity and ideally in advance of the Council's consideration of the outcomes of this statutory consultation in January 2024.
- 4.13 The regulations do not require that playing fields (or pitches) are adjacent to the actual school building but that they are available to the school i.e. could be elsewhere and off-site. In Edinburgh there are many schools where the maximum areas for playing fields are not met however the city complies with the regulations by virtue of the extensive alternative pitch provision which is available to schools throughout the city.
- 4.14 The strategy for this proposed secondary school would be to make use of off-site facilities, including those available at Queensferry High School and at Winchburgh. Options for the development of further pitch provision or the upgrade of existing in or around Kirkliston are still being explored. However, it should be noted that the planning constraints around Kirkliston that have made identifying a site for a school a challenging process also apply to sites for pitches.
- 4.15 Should the school be required to expand to 1,200 pupils in the future due to expansion of Kirkliston; additional land would be sought from housing developers to provide any necessary additional playing field or pitch provision.

#### *Catchment Area*

- 4.16 The proposed catchment area for the new secondary school is set out in [Appendix 2](#). This follows the same boundaries as its sole feeder primary, Kirkliston Primary School.

#### *Access and Travel Routes*

- 4.17 Pupils from Kirkliston currently travel to Queensferry High School by bus. Under this proposal, all pupils in Kirkliston would be within walking, cycling or wheeling distance of their school. This is consistent with the Council's 20-minute neighbourhood policy. The Health and Wellbeing benefits of active travel are well documented and there are also benefits associated with reduced bus travel time. The proximity of the new school will make after school clubs and activities run from school more readily accessible.
- 4.18 Routes within Kirkliston to the Leisure Centre site are already established with a new pedestrian crossing being added to support the development of the nursery. An initial Transport Feasibility Study has been undertaken and this can be viewed in full on the Council website: [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs)

4.19 Should the proposals in this paper progress, as part of any design development for the school, a full traffic impact assessment would be undertaken which would set out in more detail the measures that may need to be put in place to meet the needs of staff, pupils and visitors travelling to the new school site and seek to limit congestion or parking issues in surrounding areas. This would include further traffic monitoring once the new Early Years campus has opened.

#### *School Design and Capacity*

- 4.20 The school and the facilities it provides will be designed with community involvement from the outset.
- 4.21 It will have a flexible design that will allow it to accommodate expansion to 1,200 pupils at a later stage. This may become necessary if there is further housing development around Kirkliston. While this appears unlikely at the time of writing due to current Planning Policy, the school building will be designed with a 60 year lifespan and should be able to respond to unforeseen changes in population, policy or learning and teaching practises in the future.
- 4.22 The school will be designed with community access as a core principle. This will mean that many of the spaces and facilities offered by the school should be made available for use by the community both outside and within school hours. A model for this approach will be developed with school and community users through the school's design development.
- 4.23 The new building will be designed to Passivhaus standards in line with the Councils Net Zero Strategy. There may be further opportunities to replace or repurpose some of the existing poor performing assets in the village, however this needs further discussion to ensure that the existing level of service provision can be maintained and enhanced.
- 4.24 Detailed planning permission will be required for the school building and grounds which will provide the community with further opportunities to comment on the design and location of the school.

#### *Staffing for the New School*

- 4.25 In addition to additional teaching and support staff, there would be a requirement to create and fill all the management and non-teaching staff positions associated with running a separate secondary school. These positions would include a Head Teacher, a Business Manager, admin/clerical staff, dining room staff and janitorial staff.
- 4.26 Research on practices adopted in other authorities leading up to the opening of an entirely new school has highlighted the value of appointing the Head Teacher at least six months before the new school opens. This would allow the Head Teacher to take time to appoint staff, oversee the completion and occupation of the building and take a leading role in establishing relationships within the new school community including with the potential parent body and promoting the school to its potential users and community. This could play a

significant part in increasing the number of parents willing to transfer their child from existing schools to the new school.

*Populating the New School*

- 4.27 On the assumption that the proposal for a new school could be progressed, funded, constructed and opened by August 2028 the catchment area for the new secondary school would apply from the start of the S1 registration process in November 2027.
- 4.28 In Autumn 2027 the Council would write to the parents and guardians of all P7 pupils living in the catchment area of the new school, offering them a place at the new school for the start of the school year in August 2028.
- 4.29 P7 pupils eligible to start school in August 2028 and living within the catchment area of the new school in November 2027 would be expected to make a non-catchment placing request if they wished to attend a school other than their new catchment school.
- 4.30 Standard processes for the placement of non-catchment S1 pupils making a placing request to the new school for August 2028 would apply, however, places for catchment pupils would be prioritised.
- 4.31 The school would open in August 2028 with S1 pupils only. No places in upper year groups would be available. In each consecutive year a new year group would be added. This means that it will be 2033 before the school had an S6 year group as per the table below:

**Table 1: Proposed Availability of Year Stages at a new school in Kirkliston**

Year Stage	Year Available
S1	2028
S2	2029
S3	2030
S4	2031
S5	2032
S6	2033

*Sibling Guarantee*

- 4.32 Children registered at a primary school or nursery and living in the catchment area of the new school at the time of the Committee decision to progress the new school is made (January 2024), will be able to attend Queensferry High School if they have a sibling at that school when they reach S1 and continue to live in the catchment area.

- 4.33 There would be no mandatory transfer for pupils already attending another school. However, if older siblings of pupils attending the new school in Kirkliston wish to transfer to the new school, they may do this assuming their stage is available at the new school. For example, an S4 pupil could not transfer from Queensferry High School to the new school in 2029 as only S1 and S2 year groups would be available at the new school (see Table 1, above).

## **5 Implications for Queensferry High School**

- 5.1 Establishing the proposed catchment area for the new secondary school in Kirkliston will mean that the catchment boundary of Queensferry High School will be realigned. It is proposed that the new school's catchment will follow the catchment boundaries of Kirkliston Primary School as this will be the new secondary school's sole feeder primary school. The catchment changes proposed are illustrated in [Appendix 2](#).
- 5.2 The result of the proposed catchment change would be a significant reduction in Queensferry High School's catchment population. However, the phased opening of the new school, one year group at a time, will mean that the impact on the roll of Queensferry High School will be gradual, reducing incoming S1 year groups from August 2028. The graph in [Figure 2](#) illustrates the projected gradual reduction in Queensferry High School's roll.
- 5.3 Accordingly, in the long-term, the impact on Queensferry High School is that its roll will reduce to a level that is consistent with its design capacity. However, the projection in Figure 2 also suggests that it may take eight years from the opening of the new school before the roll reaches this level.
- 5.4 In the short and medium terms, there is therefore a requirement to identify temporary solutions to accommodation pressures at the school. Work will commence on the development of solutions to allow the projected roll to be accommodated. This will be developed with Queensferry High School's management team.
- 5.5 In terms of wider impact, the reduction in the number of pupils attending Queensferry High School from Kirkliston will also mean a reduction in the number of buses required to pick-up or drop-off pupils as is currently the case.
- 5.6 Should the preferred option which forms the basis of the proposals in this paper ultimately prove undeliverable then, in the absence of other viable solutions, extension of Queensferry High School would be necessary.

## **6 Educational Benefits**

- 6.1 A full consideration of the Educational Benefits and Disbenefits of the proposals in this paper is included as [Appendix 4](#).

- 6.2 In summary; there is clear evidence to support the viability of smaller schools, such as the one proposed by this paper, based on the performance data of schools across Scotland. Attainment, achievement and success is not defined by how large or small a school community is; it's defined by creative leadership at all levels, that strives to ensure learners are engaged and involved in their learning.
- 6.3 There would need to be a high level of collegiate working between the established Queensferry High School and the newly provided Kirkliston Secondary School. This would be particularly relevant at the early stages, following the new school's opening.
- 6.4 The successful implementation of the phased development of a new secondary school can be seen in other authorities including Bertha Park (Perth and Kinross) and Winchburgh Academy (West Lothian). In both cases, these schools have taken the opportunity to review the curriculum and challenge more traditional structures and methods for learning, developing pedagogy and introducing innovative practice within these new environments.
- 6.5 Starting a new school community can provide many positives, such as:
- Initial smaller cohorts will allow opportunity for the children and young people to comfortably familiarise themselves with their new environment and develop relationships with peers at an early stage this in turn encouraging pupils to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.
  - Early opportunities for the school community to develop and embed school policies and procedures.
  - Staff and pupils will have opportunity to work together and develop a positive school ethos.
  - Opportunity for management and staff to plan and deliver a well-constructed timetable encapsulating the key elements of the Broad General Education that optimises the learning experience for the initial year stages.
  - Engagement of creative teaching and learning approaches in a new viable and sustainable school space can help broaden scope for attainment and achievement.
- 6.6 Timetable and staffing arrangements will be reviewed and adjusted year on year to acknowledge the increase in pupil numbers as new year stages are introduced and to fulfil delivery of a well-balanced curriculum.
- 6.7 Extensive planning would need to take place to ensure that a flexible Senior Phase curriculum is in place for pupils as they progress through their educational pathway in the BGE.

6.8 While acknowledging the concerns raised regarding the limitations placed on the Curriculum within a smaller school, it is clear that with a supported, creative and ambitious approach, working in partnership with stakeholders, a smaller school community can thrive equally as well as a larger one. Much will depend on the successful leadership of the school and the positive culture and ethos that needs to be established.

**7 Financial Considerations**

**Capital Works Required**

7.1 A construction cost estimate for a 600 pupil secondary school is set out in Table 2 (below). This is based on the recent cost analysis for the secondary school construction project at Liberton High School. It shows an indicative capital cost of £60.74m. No site costs would be incurred other than demolition of the existing leisure centre building.

**Table 2: Accommodation Cost Summary**

**Capital Costs:**

Capital Construction (based on Liberton HS)	£59.18m
Demolition of existing Leisure Centre	£0.06m
Land purchase – pitch strategy (2 hectares)	£1.5m
<b>Estimated Total Capital Costs</b>	<b>£60.74m</b>

7.2 A new school would lead to an increase in revenue costs for Communities and Families. This is because, in addition to the additional teaching and support staff, there would be a requirement to create and fill all the management and non-teaching staff positions associated with running a separate secondary school. These positions would include a Head Teacher, a Business Manager, admin/clerical staff, dining room staff and janitorial staff.

7.3 The creation of a new school building would also result in additional building running, maintenance and repair costs for the school estate. However, these would be offset against the current costs associated with the existing Leisure Centre and a reduced requirement for school transport between Kirkliston and Queensferry.

7.4 The estimated additional revenue costs are set out in Table 3 below. The maintenance burden for the new building is likely to be low in the short to medium term but would increase over time.

**Table 3: Annual Revenue Cost Summary**

Estimated Additional Staffing Costs	Management	£1.6m
	Teaching	£2.0m
	Other (non-teaching staff)	£0.6m
	<b>Staffing Total</b>	<b>£4.2m</b>
Estimated Lifecycle Costs (based on 3Q2023 BCIS standard rates@ £94.85 per m2)	<b>Premises Cost Total</b>	<b>£1.0m</b>
Existing Leisure Centre Running Costs 2023/24 (property, lifecycle & VAT)		<b>-£0.1m</b>
Existing bus provision – Kirkliston to Queensferry.		<b>-£0.4m</b>
<b>Estimated Additional Revenue Costs per annum</b>	<b>£4.7m</b>	

**Temporary Costs at Queensferry High School**

In addition to the costs associated with building and running a new school, costs would also be incurred at Queensferry High School accommodating increased demand until the new school in Kirkliston is complete. The cost of this is difficult to quantify. The staffing costs would be incurred regardless of the option developed. However, the accommodation costs (capital costs) will be dependent on the type and quantity of additional accommodation the identified solution requires. This solution will be developed with school management.

**Funding**

- 7.5 If, on completion of the consultation, it is agreed by Council that the new school should progress, a Business Case would be prepared for consideration by the appropriate Council Committee to seek approval for the required additional capital and revenue funding to deliver the new school by August 2028.

**8 Indicative Timescales**

- 8.1 The timescales for the delivery of the new facilities are dependent on the necessary funding being approved and provided to deliver the project.
- 8.2 Table 4 (below) sets out the indicative design and construction timescale, based on an assumed date of initiation after Council approval in January 2024.

**Table 4: Indicative Construction Timescales**

Conclusion of consultation and approval of solution to be progressed	January 2024
Business Case and Funding Approval	+3 months (Apr 24)
Design Team Appointments	+2 months (Jun 24)
Design Development to RIBA Stage 2	+6 months (Dec 24)
Design Development to RIBA Stage 3 (submit for Planning)	+6 months (Jun 25)
Design Development to RIBA Stage 4 and completion of planning	+4 months (Oct 25)
Complete construction contract tender process and award contract	+5 months (Mar 26)
Construction Completion of New Build	+24 months (Mar 28)
<b>Estimated Opening Date</b>	<b>August 2028</b>

## 9 Consultation Process

9.1 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, sets out the statutory consultation requirements for:

- The establishment of a new school;
- The relocation of a stage of education;
- Changes to existing admission arrangements (such as catchment change); and
- The closure of a stage of education.

9.2 The prescribed consultees vary for each of the above. Although a closure is not proposed, the requirements for a closure encompass all the necessary consultees and it is this process that will be followed to ensure full compliance with all the requirements of the Act. Accordingly, consultees will be as follows (where relevant):

- the Parent Council of any affected school;
- the parents of the pupils at any affected school;
- the parents of any children expected to attend any affected school within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper;

- the pupils at any affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity);
- the staff (teaching and other) at any affected school;
- any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of the staff (teaching and other) at any affected school;
- the community councils (if any);
- the Roman Catholic Church;
- any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant;
- any other users of any affected school that the education authority considers relevant.

9.3 The extent of the consultation with pupils at the affected schools and the appropriate means of engaging with those pupils will be discussed in detail with each school's management team.

9.4 The consultation period will run for a 7 week period from Monday 11 September 2023 to Tuesday, 31 October 2023 and the paper will be made available electronically and in paper format and copies will be available for inspection at the Council Offices at Waverley Court, at Kirkliston Library, Queensferry Library and at the schools affected by the proposals.

9.5 A public meeting will be held in respect of the proposal which will give interested parties a more formal opportunity to express their views. Representatives of the Council will be present at the meeting to outline the proposals, assist discussions and answer questions. A record of each public meeting will be taken by the Council.

Venue	Date	Time
Kirkliston Primary School	Tuesday, 10 October 2023	6.30pm – 8.30pm

9.6 All comments received will be recorded and represented in the final report regarding the outcomes of the consultation, along with the Council's response to those comments. Individual responses will not be provided to submissions made during the consultation.

9.7 The Council website will contain information on the consultation and this will be updated as necessary [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs).

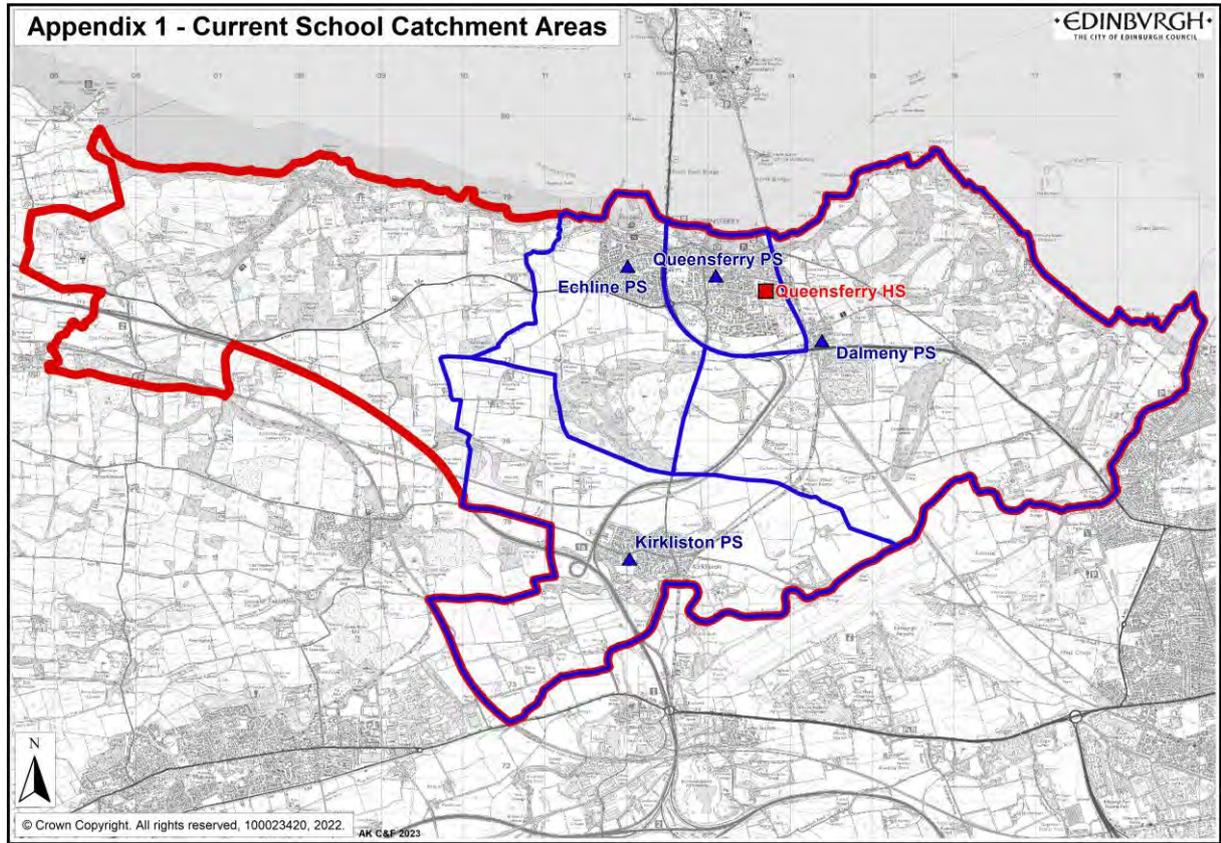
9.8 Respondents are encouraged to use the response questionnaire which can be completed online by following the links at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs).

9.9 A paper copy of the questionnaire is also available in [Appendix 5](#). This can be scanned and e-mailed directly to [kirklistonhs@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:kirklistonhs@edinburgh.gov.uk) or posted to the following address:

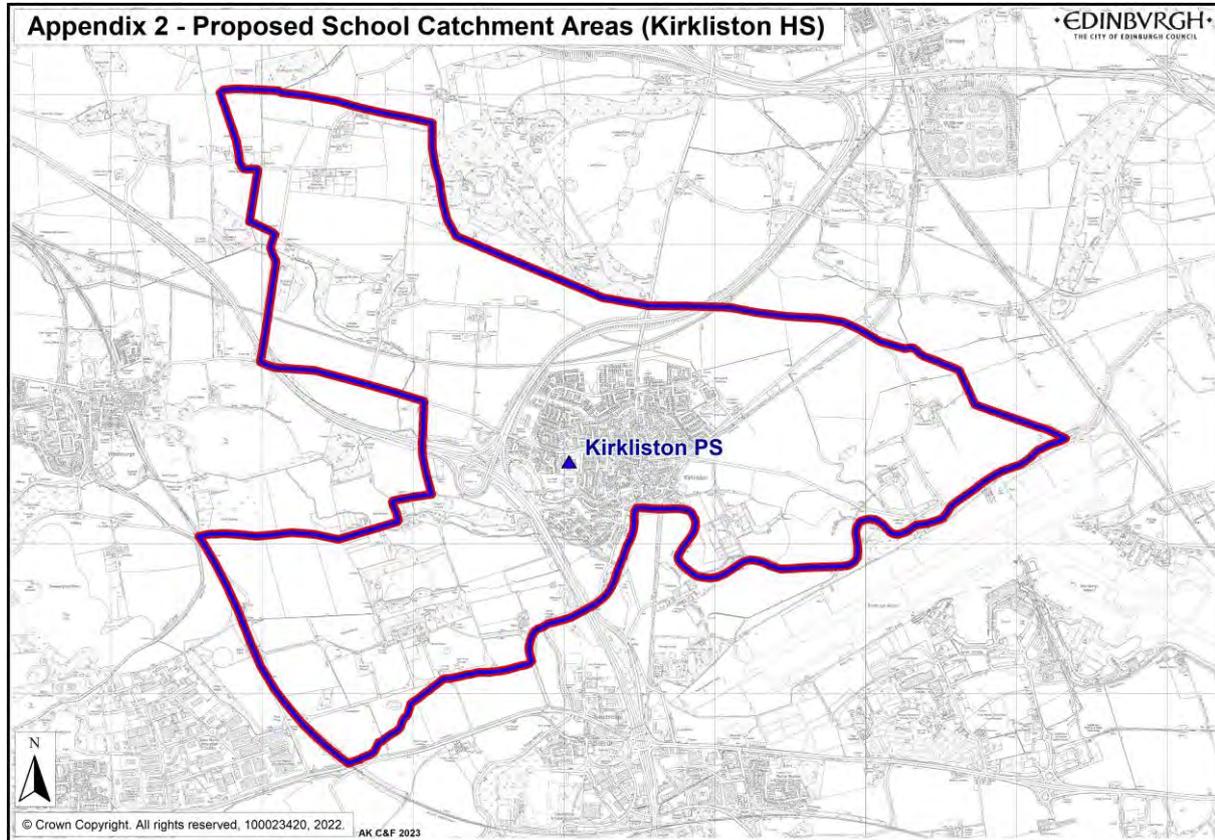
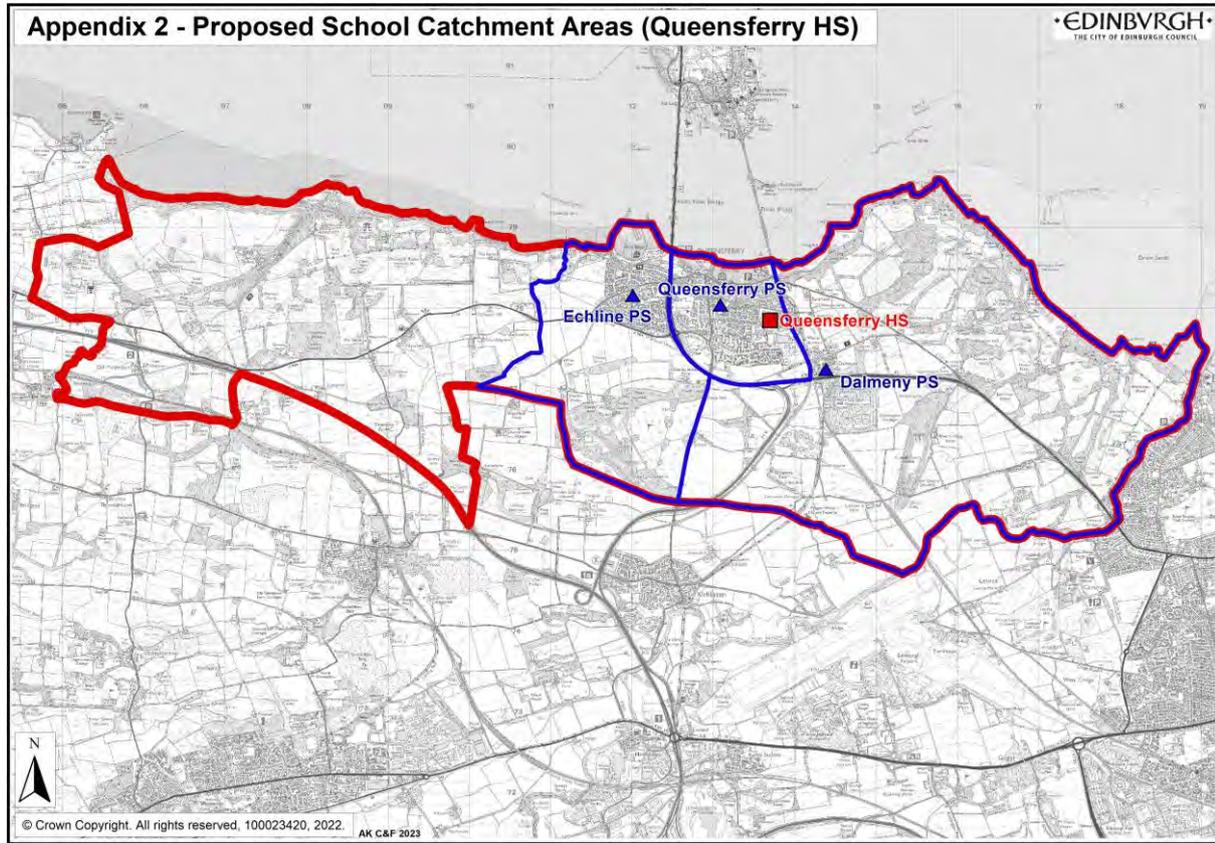
Robbie Crockatt  
City of Edinburgh Council  
Council Headquarters  
Waverley Court  
Level 1:2  
4 East Market Street  
Edinburgh EH8 8BG

- 9.10 All responses, whether by letter, e-mail or using the online questionnaire should be received by **no later than close of business on Tuesday 31 October 2023**.
- 9.11 Once the public consultation phase finishes, details of the representations received will be issued to Education Scotland for their consideration of the educational effects of the proposals. Education Scotland will issue a report on their findings which will be included in the final Council report on the consultation.
- 9.12 Following the conclusion of the consultation period and after consideration of the representations received and the views of Education Scotland on the educational benefits of the proposal, a report on the Outcomes of the Consultation will be presented to the Council for consideration. The report will be made publicly available and notification will be given to those individuals or groups that have made representations during the consultation period. The report will include a summary of written representations received during the consultation period and representations made at the public meeting along with the Council response to representations made and to any issues raised by Education Scotland.
- 9.13 It is anticipated that the consultation report, setting out recommendations, will be presented to a Meeting of the Council in January 2024. The report will be published three weeks in advance of the Council meeting.

# APPENDIX 1 – Current School Catchment Areas – Primary and Secondary



## APPENDIX 2 – Proposed School Catchment Areas – Primary and Secondary



**APPENDIX 3 – Pre-feasibility Report: New Kirkliston HS on Kirkliston Leisure Centre site**



# Kirkliston High School

Edinburgh City Council

Edinburgh | August 2023



Viability Report

## 01.1 Executive Summary & Brief

### *Kirkliston High School*



Community consultation held in response to future capacity issues at Queensferry High School has identified a preference for a new secondary school to serve Kirkliston.

ADP have been commissioned to test the viability of the current Kirkliston Leisure Centre site as the location for a new secondary school.

### **Working Brief**

- + The school will have capacity for 600 pupils with the potential to extend to serve 1200 pupils as part of a second phase of works.
- + The site is to act as a community hub for Kirkliston. The exact provision of community facilities is to be confirmed but the proposals will provide community sports facilities and could also include a public library (shared with the school) and flexible spaces for community run meetings, workshops and classes.
- + The proposals are to be designed based on Passivhaus principles with the possibility of achieving full Passivhaus certification.
- + Due to the area available on the site, options are being explored for the location of off site playing fields.
- + Provision of outdoor learning has been identified as a key aspiration for the school.



## 02.1 The Site

### Kirkliston Town Context

The site is located to the west of Kirkliston town centre, within the settlement boundary. It is bounded on its western edge by the M90 motorway and on all other sides by low density 1-3 storey residential development. The site currently houses the Kirkliston Leisure Centre, a linear 2 storey building situated at the centre of the site, associated outdoor sports facilities, car parking and a recycling centre. The new Kirkliston Primary School annex is currently under construction directly to the north. The site is in council ownership.

-  Proposed Kirkliston High School Site
-  Kirkliston Primary School annex site (under construction)
-  Existing Kirkliston Primary School
-  Kirkliston Town Centre
-  Kirkliston Community Centre
-  Green Spaces
-  Motorway
-  Primary Vehicular Route
-  Secondary Vehicular Route
-  Town Limits
-  15 Minute-walk Radius
-  Bus stop



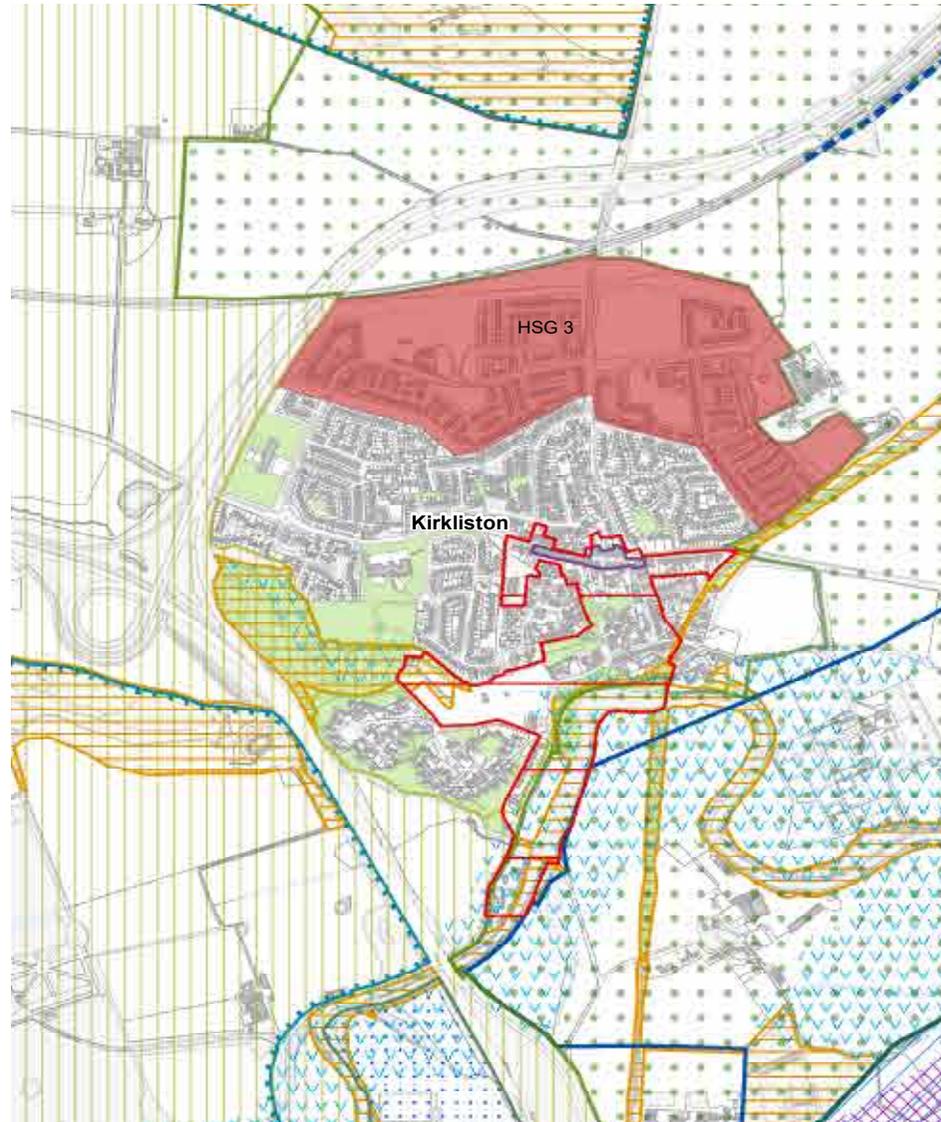
## 02.3 The site Planning Context

Kirkliston is surrounded on its northern, eastern and southern sides by land designated as green belt and is bordered to the west by a countryside policy area. City of Edinburgh Council's Local Development Plan policy Env 10 restricts development in areas designated as green belt or countryside to the following types:

- + Development for the purposes of agriculture, forestry, horticulture or countryside recreation where a countryside location is essential
- + The change of use of existing buildings
- + The extension of an existing building appropriate to it's original use
- + The replacement of an existing building with a new building of the same use.

In all cases the proposed development must be of an appropriate scale and design quality, not damage or replace a listed building and be acceptable in terms of traffic impact.

The designation of the land surrounding Kirkliston means that development of a high school in these areas would be unlikely to be granted planning permission without significant deviation from planning policy. Early consultation with the planning department has reinforced this. This likely restricts development to within the settlement boundary.



The City of Edinburgh Council Boundary General plan - wide policies	
[Symbol]	Del 1, Del 1-13, Env 2-4, Env 7-9, Env 10, Env 16, Env 18-20, Hou 1-7, Hou 9-10, Tra 1-4, Tra 6, Tra 8-9, Tra 11, RS 1, RS 4, RS 6, RS 7
[Symbol]	Emp 1, Emp 9-10, Hou 8, Ret 6, RS 3
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**Alternative 1**

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### 03.2 Site Approach - Alternative 1 Plans

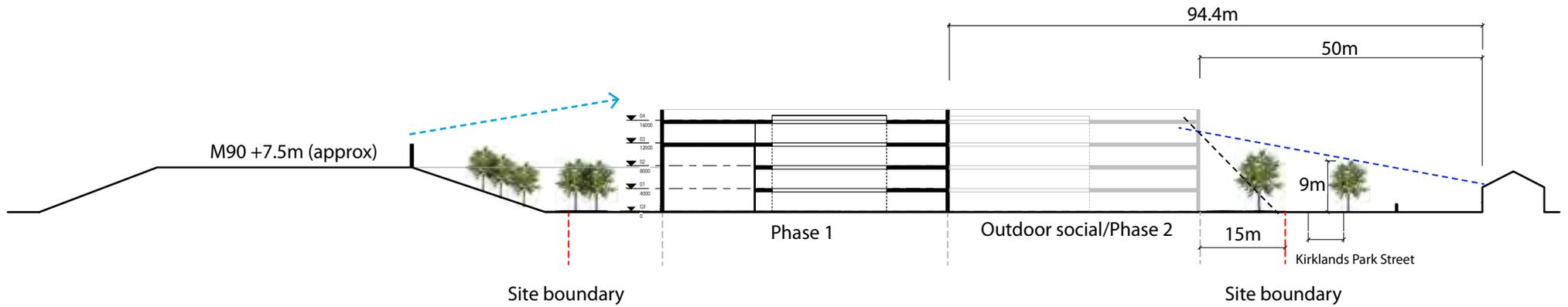
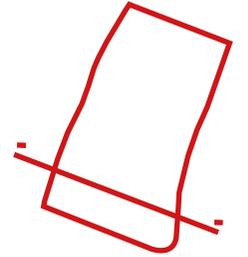
Alternative 1 responds to the constraints presented by the motorway by locating less acoustically sensitive spaces along the rear of the site and orientating the teaching spaces so that they face away from the noise source

- + Taller masses are pulled away from the street and primary school
- + Good thermal, daylighting and acoustic orientation for teaching spaces on north and south sides of the building
- + Original car park retained with new pedestrian entrance to the south
- + Large area of public realm provided at the entrance of the site
- + Access provided to the rear of the site for servicing via the car park
- + South facing outdoor social/teaching space will get plenty of sun

1. Shared Public Realm
2. Shared Spaces
3. Social / Assembly Spaces (Less Noise Sensitive)
4. Teaching Spaces
5. Future Extension
6. Pedestrian Crossing
7. Cycle Storage
8. Sports Centre
9. Service / Emergency w/ Reversing Head
10. MUGAs
11. Social Spaces Outdoor Spillout
12. South Facing Outdoor Space



03.2 Site Approach - Alternative 1  
Site Section



Section through Site from East to West

- Siteline over trees measured from 1.7m above 4th floor level
- Siteline at 45°
- Sound deflection from potential acoustic barrier

**03.2 Site Approach - Alternative 1**  
*Massing*

**Phase 1**



**View from Stirling Roundabout**

**Phase 1 & 2**

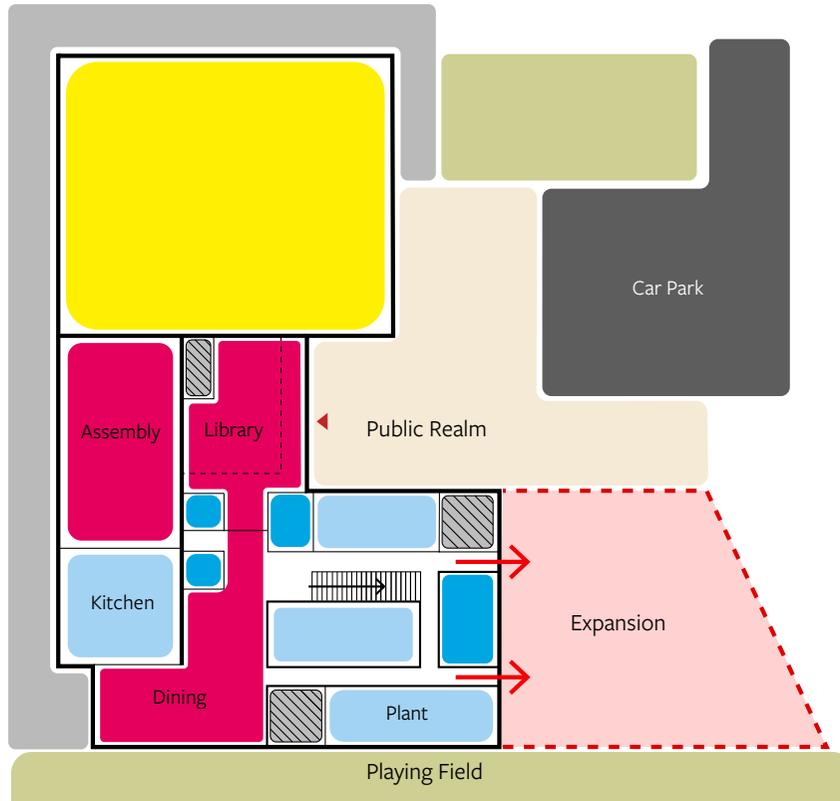


**View from Kirklands Park Road looking south**

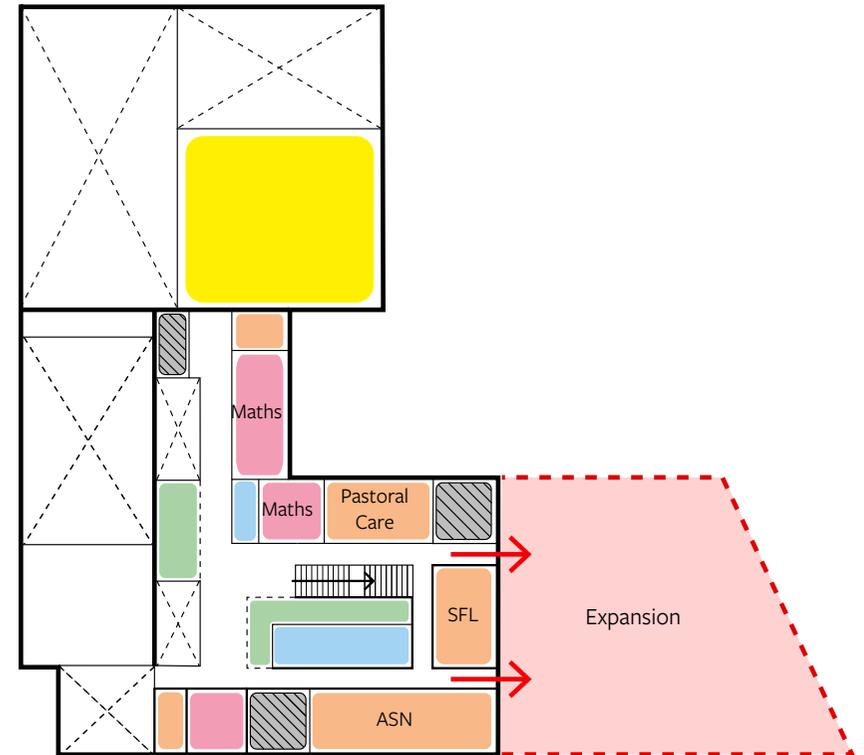


03.2 Site Approach - Alternative 1  
Outline Space Planning

Ground Floor



First Floor



- |               |              |                              |                     |
|---------------|--------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Shared        | Staff spaces | Breakout / Flexible Learning | Integrated Support  |
| Indoor sports | Classrooms   | Core                         | Support / Ancillary |



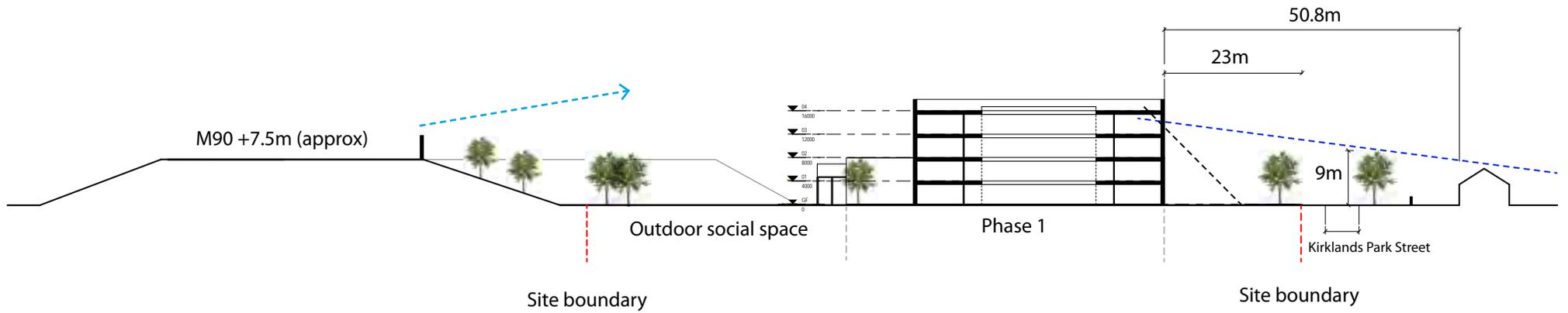
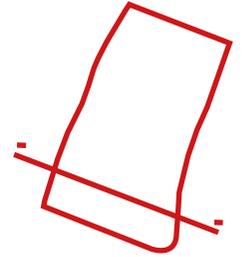
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**Alternative 2**

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03.3 Site Approach - Alternative 2  
Site Section



Section through Site from East to West

- Siteline over trees measured from 1.7m above 4th floor level
- Siteline at 45°
- Sound deflection from potential acoustic barrier

03.3 Site Approach - Alternative 2  
Massing

Phase 1



View from Stirling Roundabout

Phase 1 & 2



View from Kirklands Park Road looking south

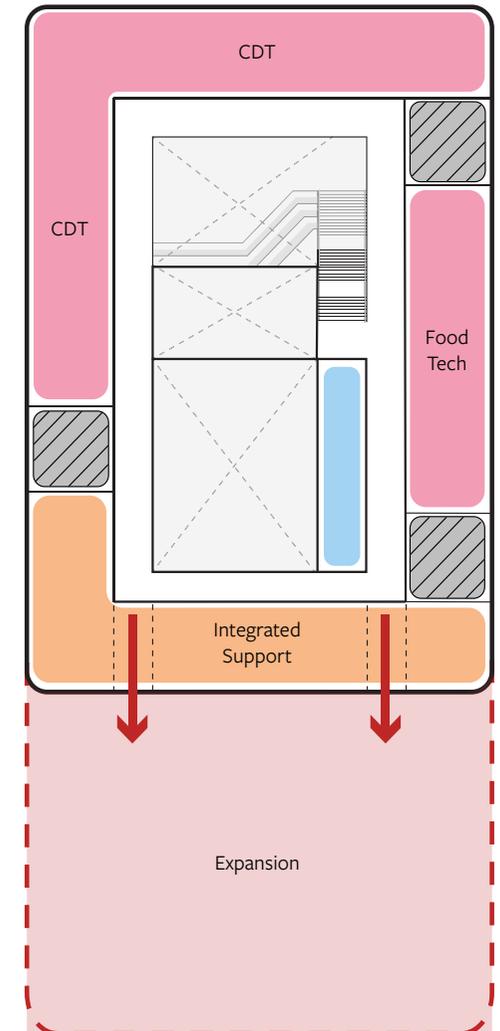
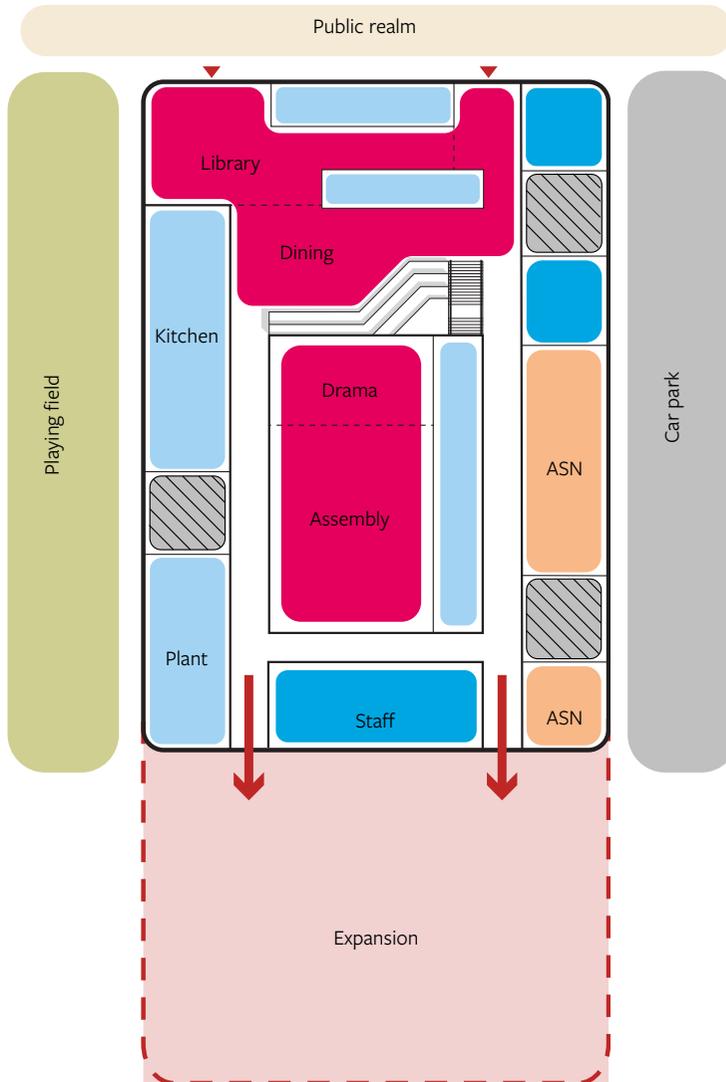


03.3 Site Approach - Alternative 2  
Outline Space Planning

Ground Floor

First Floor

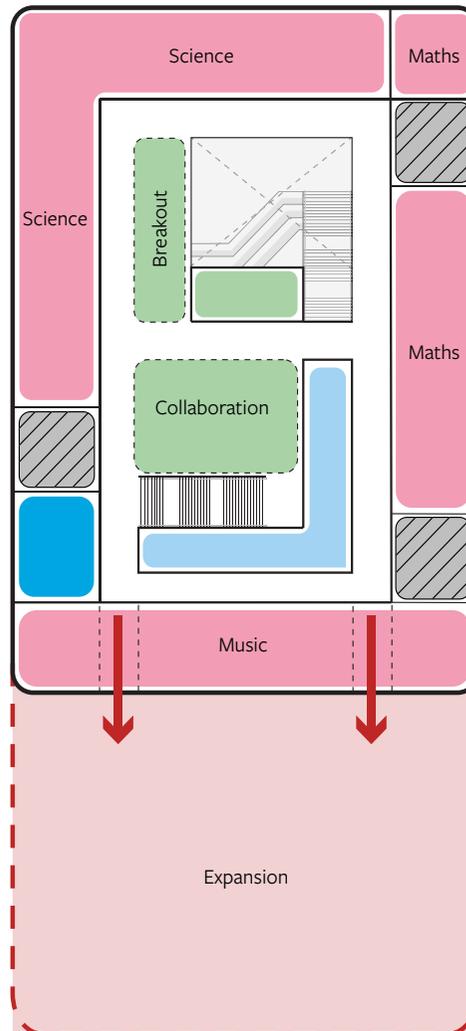
-  Core
-  Shared
-  Classrooms
-  Integrated Support
-  Staff
-  Support / Ancillary
-  Breakout / Flexible Learning



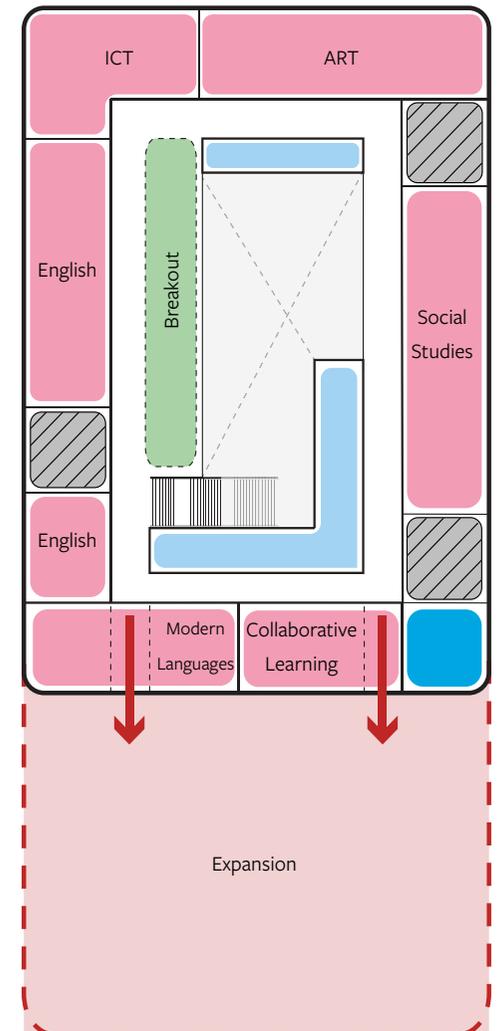
03.3 Site Approach - Alternative 2  
Outline Space Planning

-  Core
-  Shared
-  Classrooms
-  Integrated Support
-  Staff
-  Support / Ancillary
-  Breakout / Flexible Learning

Second Floor



Third Floor

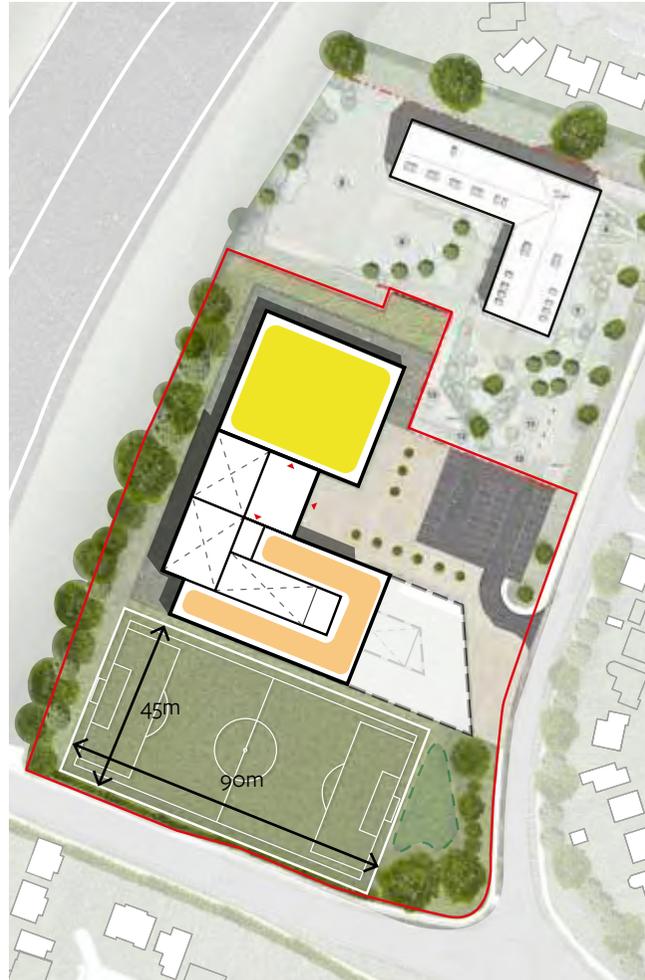


### 03.4 Site Approach

#### *Sports Scotland Pitches*

Both of the alternatives described above could be adapted to allow a sports pitch to be constructed in accordance with the area requirements of Sports Scotland (a 45m x 90m football pitch). It should be noted that this pitch would not encompass the full outdoor pitch provision required by Sports Scotland and offsite provision would need to be utilised to meet this requirement.

Providing a full size pitch requires compromise on the other outdoor spaces provided and, particularly for alternative 3, the location of the building on the site.



Alternative 3



Alternative 4

## **APPENDIX 4 – Educational Benefits Assessment**

### **Kirkliston High School – Educational Benefits**

#### **Background**

Following a consultation on the future of Secondary Education in Queensferry and Kirkliston, a report was published detailing the outcomes of this engagement and the overwhelming support for a new Secondary School for Kirkliston as opposed to the alternative proposal to expand the existing Queensferry High School (the current catchment Secondary for pupils from Kirkliston).

The report states that:

*before consulting further on the establishment of a new school in Kirkliston an educational operating model for a new Kirkliston High School will be required to help inform people's views. This model will also help the Council to demonstrate the educational benefits and disbenefits of such a proposal and say how the school would be populated. The Council's Educational Benefits statement is a requirement of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and it will be assessed by Education Scotland who will provide their views on the proposal.*

This Educational Benefits Statement will set out the vision for the creation of a new Secondary School in Kirkliston, within the context of Edinburgh Learns for Life and taking into consideration some of the key aspects that will determine the viability of a new school, given the need to grow the school roll over a number of years as the community transitions from Queensferry High School being its catchment Secondary School.

The educational benefits and disbenefits of the proposals are influenced by and reference the following key documents:

- Curriculum for Excellence: vision, aims and guidance on the delivery and assessment of the Curriculum
- Developing the Young Workforce, which sets out the pathways into full and productive employment, training and learning for learners
- How Good is our School (4), the self-improvement toolkit for schools
- Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy 2019
- Edinburgh's Learning Estate Strategy 2021
- Strategic Brief for Secondary Schools (Draft 2023)
- Strategic Brief for Secondary Schools - Outdoor Learning (Draft 2023)
- Future Secondary Provision for Queensferry and Kirkliston – Outcomes Report (2023)

Previous Educational Benefits statements have been researched and advice sought from various allied professionals, colleagues and experts in the field.

#### **Overview of key aspects (benefits/disbenefits) being considered**

In engaging and consulting with communities, it is clear there are some concerns about how effectively a smaller Secondary School can deliver the required breadth and depth within its curriculum. There are questions about how a smaller school roll impacts on subject choice and potentially narrows options for learner pathways. Further concerns have been raised about a new Kirkliston Secondary School effectively having one main feeder Primary School (Kirkliston Primary).

In order to address these key aspects and consider the potential benefits and disbenefits of a new Kirkliston Secondary School, this statement is categorised in sections, within the context of the Edinburgh Learns Framework and Curriculum for Excellence. This statement therefore assesses the strategy for the provision of a new Kirkliston High School and associated Educational Benefits which relate to:

1. The Curriculum
2. Skills for Learning, Life and Work
3. Learners' Experiences
4. Children's Rights and Personal and Social Development
5. Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion
6. The Learning Environment
7. Leadership
8. Partnerships
9. Monitoring and Quality Assurance

A concluding statement provides a summary of the educational benefits and disbenefits, based on the strategy for the provision of the new school as set out in the sections below.

## **1 The Curriculum**

A key educational advantage of this proposal is that the new secondary school will be fully equipped to deliver the full breadth of Curriculum for Excellence. Curriculum for Excellence is the national curriculum of experiences and outcomes for all pupils, 3-18 years. The concern is that with a smaller roll, there will not be the full breadth of specialist teaching staff to deliver a wide range of subjects for learners to study.

The national guidance from Education Scotland encourages education authorities to ensure that curricular provisions offer opportunities for learners to achieve across all curricular areas and develop skills, attributes and capabilities through courses aligned with the 7 key principles of Curriculum for Excellence; Challenge, Enjoyment, Breadth, Progression, Depth, Personalisation and Choice, Coherence and Relevance

Curriculum provisions at the proposed new school will be designed around the needs of the children and young people within the four contexts of learning: Curriculum Areas, Interdisciplinary Learning, Ethos and Life of the School and Opportunities for Personal Development. The Broad General Education (S1-S3) will focus on the core curricular areas and will enable the curricular and career interests and the aspirations of the individual to be met. The Senior Phase (S4-S6) once established, will allow opportunity for specialisation and depth; preparation for achievement at National Qualification level; development of skills for learning, life and work and support the achievement of a positive and sustained destination on leaving secondary education.

The proposal for the new Kirkliston Secondary school relies on there being a close working relationship with Queensferry High School, as well as through taking advantage of technological advances that have developed rapidly to enable digital and virtual learning opportunities across Edinburgh's schools. This will be particularly relevant in its first few years of operation, to support the breadth and depth of the curriculum offer for Kirkliston learners as the school grows. This strategy, with its ambitious, creative and enterprising approach, would provide increased breadth and depth to the Curriculum offer at Kirkliston in these formative years, raising attainment and achievement.

The rationale and design of the Curriculum would be aligned in its structure with Queensferry High School, to enable flexible learner pathways and improved personalisation and choice, creating strong

and improved outcomes for learners. The structure of the school day - in terms of timetabling learning- would align across Kirkliston and Queensferry schools, so that opportunities for learners are not limited or restricted by the two schools following different timings.

The increased number of teaching professionals and school staff across the schools would provide a greater variety of skills and knowledge to support the developing Secondary Curriculum across the BGE and into the Senior Phase at Kirkliston during the transitional stages, giving wider access to a variety of courses and flexible, progressive pathways.

The close relationship with Queensferry High School during these early transition years will support communication between staff and partners to develop a greater knowledge and understanding of a learner's profile and progression, so that information and strategies for improving outcomes can be more easily shared and effectively applied.

The development of the new Kirkliston High School as part of a Community Hub will also enhance and further grow opportunities for innovative and dynamic partnership working within the Curriculum, to improve learners' experiences and to develop skills for learning, life and work.

Senior Leadership Teams of the two schools will be supported to work together to identify opportunities to enrich Interdisciplinary learning projects within the BGE and to increase breadth and depth as Senior Phase year groups begin to be established at Kirkliston.

## **2 Skills for Learning, Life and Work**

Developing skills for learning, life and work is a fundamental part of Scottish education and there is broad acceptance that skills should be developed within and outwith the classroom. The vision for education, Edinburgh Learns for Life, firmly establishes the concept of learning 'at school, in the community, at home and in the workplace.' The proposal to create a new Kirkliston purpose-built school campus will bring new opportunities for skills development.

Wider achievement opportunities are often delivered after school in extra-curricular activities, and the growing school population in a new Secondary School will service this aspect of Wider Achievement well. The expectations of Sports Scotland that more children are more active more often, is built on a culture of coaching offered by volunteers. While the school population builds, however, the close links to Queensferry High School will provide a source of additional opportunities to develop Wider Achievement.

## **3 Learner's Experiences**

Until now, secondary provision for the Kirkliston community has been provided by Queensferry High School. With this new proposal, learners will enjoy the co-creation of key elements of a new environment for learning - design of learning spaces and facilities, the curriculum, the educational vision, goals and aims - will bring a sense of ownership and belonging for staff, learners and families from the Kirkliston Community.

Edinburgh Learns for Life actively encourages pupil engagement in decision making with regards to their own learning and the wider life of the school. Learner-led consultation is a key feature of the planning process for this proposal and will build on current pupil-voice activity to help establish and sustain a culture where learners' views and ideas are sought, valued and acted on.

The new setting will create a dedicated space where the learning community will be more able to build and sustain a strong community ethos and culture, while affording learners access to a full range of facilities, activities and experiences.

A mixed economy of pathways leading to positive sustained destinations will be available to all learners through a broad and varied curriculum offer, with the face-to-face offer enhanced through proximity to Queensferry High School.

#### **4 Children’s Rights and Personal and Social Development**

The establishment of the Kirkliston secondary school will bring together a community of learners, staff and families from the local area. This community’s vision, values and aims will be developed in these early phased transition years, but will feature how wellbeing and personal, social, health and emotional needs will be developed in the new school. The vision, values and aims will address GIRFEC, the national strategy for wellbeing, as well as the UNCRC (Convention for the Rights of the Child). Thereafter all school policies will mirror the statements contained in the vision, values and aims and all behaviours displayed in the school should model these qualities. Respect and high-quality relationships will be at the heart of the school and the senior leadership team will ensure that all legislative frameworks are fully complied with.

As part of their ongoing self-evaluation, young people at the school will regularly review their wellbeing through SHANARRI (wellbeing indicators) self-assessment, as well as taking part in local and national surveys. Any issues that emerge will be addressed by the pupil support team, in partnership with parents and carers, and any relevant professionals.

The curriculum will provide opportunities offered through a collegiate approach with Queensferry High School, as well as providing young people with well-planned and progressive opportunities to explore diversity, multi-faith issues, and to become active in the issues that interest them. As with all other schools in the city, the school will have both Pupil and Staff Equalities Coordinators who are responsible for developing an anti-racist culture, and for supporting other equalities issues.

As the school will be being built up over several years, new policies and procedures will require to be written and implemented. These policies and procedures will make explicit reference to the Equalities Act, GIRFEC, ASL Act and UNCRC as appropriate. Each of these key themes, set out in the relevant policies, will be subject to consultation and consideration by all stakeholders, including young people and families. The senior leader(s) with the remits for Equalities and Wellbeing will ensure that regular times are planned in the school calendar to audit practice, meet with Coordinators and plan improvement activities. This may include a calendar for Diversity/Equality or similar.

In addition to embedded themes, young people will be offered a range of leadership roles to develop areas of interest, and thus extend their confidence and resilience and develop their personal and social skills. These will be determined by the senior leadership team, along with the young people, but may include class rep; house captain; ECO or Sustainability Rep; Equalities Coordinator; Pupil Council; School Captain.

In order to fully implement the city and education service vision, the school’s design will incorporate opportunities for outdoor education. Children who feel well, learn well, and the impact of outdoor education will be fully incorporated into curriculum planning and delivery. This aspect is explored further below as part of the Learning Environment section.

#### **5 Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion**

During the course of the transition, the new Kirkliston school will develop a suite of policies and procedures, which as mentioned, will be compliant with the major national policies and statutory duties. Principal among these will be the policy on Inclusion and meeting Additional Support Needs. This policy will be based on a strong and effective strategy for developing positive relationships and behaviour, which will be the responsibility of all staff and partners. The policy will be child-centred and ensure that young people’s views are at the centre of planning for and delivering their support.

All teaching staff will be working towards the Edinburgh Teachers' Charter which sets out key skills for differentiation and where additional needs are identified, the DHT for Pupil Support will ensure that staff training is put in place. Key Adult time will be set out clearly in the timetable of all learners and appropriate mentors will be in place, for example, for those who are care experienced.

Although all learning objectives will be shown in class plans, various children will have learning targets set out in support or individualised plans, including formal Co-ordinated Support Plans. The school will be allocated specialist staff to assist with drawing up these plans. A Support for Learning teacher and a CL for Pupil Support (Guidance) will be in place during the transition period. An Educational Psychologist will also be allocated to the school and will be linked to Kirkliston primary school.

A calendar of activities to ensure effective support will be developed at Kirkliston Primary School and at Queensferry High School in readiness for the transition to the new school. This calendar will show the dates of Pupil Support Group meetings; the dates for individualised planning and reviews; the dates for quality assurance of the overall policy, including audits of the Service Level Agreements that will be in place for partners and agencies. The policy/calendar will also show when and how enhanced transition takes place, including the specific arrangements for post-school transitions.

Transitions into, between and beyond each stage of education will focus on ensuring continuity and progression to support pupil well-being and raising attainment.

Transition activity will be planned collaboratively, with staff, learners, parents and partners actively involved in decision making as we develop a new Kirkliston High School. This will include co-creation of the physical design of accommodation and facilities as well as the design of the Curriculum.

Planning for transition will start well in advance of the move to the new school, allowing staff, learners, families and the community significant opportunities for meaningful engagement with the process and so to have a sense of ownership of their new learning environment.

The new Kirkliston team with close association with primary colleagues and the established team at Queensferry High School, will allow for enhanced transition support for learners and families. This will include P7 and S1 teaching staff, key-adults, cross-sector senior leadership, Additional Support for Learning Staff and Pupil Support leaders and specialist staff. This will allow full account to be taken of social, emotional and mental well-being, as well as physical needs of all learners.

In advance of, during and following transition, there will be opportunities for staff to work together across the learning community to ensure effective communication regarding information sharing, tracking and monitoring and a shared understanding of progress across settings and stages of learning.

## **6 Learning Environment**

With reference to the 10 Guiding Principles within Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy – Connecting People, Places and Learning (2019), Edinburgh's Learning Estate Strategy (2021) focuses on 5 core themes of Teaching and Learning, Sustainability, Digital, Inclusion and Sustainability.

With a key focus on delivery of a viable efficient learning establishment it is paramount that the proposed new school is flexible and allows the creative and multiple use of spaces by staff, pupils and the community.

The new school building will be a modern, state-of-the-art learning environment designed to be accessible to all, creating a sense of pride in the learning community and helping to build a positive ethos. It will motivate and inspire the aspirations, achievements and attainment of the learners who access it, through the quality of the spaces created. These environments will provide spaces to suit

and support all learners, with seamless digital connectivity and rich outdoor learning opportunities; learners and the wider community will feel valued and respected. In turn, they will respect, engage with, and respond positively to spaces which have been designed with their needs in mind.

The innovative and creative design of learning spaces will impact positively on learners' progress, providing the best conditions for learning and teaching with lighting, heating, ventilation and acoustics optimised to provide a comfortable environment, supporting strong outcomes for learners.

The new school building will provide a range of learning environments, with agile spaces to provide teachers with the opportunities to support differentiation and challenge learners to progress at an appropriate pace. Learners will be supported through these spaces to lead their own learning, whilst also providing the facilities to allow collaboration within and across subject specialisms, to develop transferrable skills.

As with all existing education establishments in Edinburgh, the proposed new school would benefit from best design practices that will offer opportunity for outdoor learning. Both indoor and outdoor learning can inspire pupils and have a positive effect on attainment, achievement and aspirations.

The importance placed on the provision and design of outdoor learning spaces within Edinburgh's Learning Estate Strategy will ensure creative approaches are embedded in the curriculum to connect learners with nature. Solutions for easy access in all weathers will be designed into the building and landscape.

Layout and design plans will be an ongoing consideration throughout the process, should a new Kirkliston High School be progressed. Sustainability will be a key factor in the design and construction of the proposed new school and will be incorporated into every element of the design process. Due regard will be offered to the materials used for construction, fixtures and fittings, heating systems and lighting provisions.

### **Inclusive Learning Environment**

The proposal, which assumes the support and partnership of Queensferry High School during the early stages of transition, with its increased breadth and depth to the Curriculum offer, will enable flexible learner pathways and improved personalisation and choice. This will provide a positive impact on equity for all within an inclusive educational experience.

The proposed campus will fully utilise new technologies, supporting and enabling Edinburgh's 1:1 Empowered Digital Learning Strategy. The development of equity of opportunity through digital technology will provide even greater access to learning and courses; locally, nationally and internationally through distance and hybrid learning activities. These facilities will form dedicated Digital Hubs across the Campus for the use of both school communities, enabling access to learning through established digital platforms such as eSgoil, West OS, Vscene and other collaborative learning networks.

The building of a new Kirkliston Secondary School presents an opportunity to provide a learning environment which will more effectively meet the needs of all learners through an inclusive approach to design. This will provide a variety of flexible and adaptable spaces that enable inclusive practice throughout the curriculum.

Signage, colour contrast, textures and finishes will be used to aid learners by providing direction and clearly defining different areas. Glazing and views between spaces (for example glazed door panels) will create visual connections, supporting a collaborative, inclusive ethos - aiding passive supervision and management of spaces.

The inclusion strategy for the design of the new school will ensure that there are a variety of spaces to support learners needs, enhancing support throughout the curriculum, creating opportunities for different modes for learning. There will be flexibility in the design to allow spaces to be tailored to best meet the needs of learners. The new building will foster a positive ethos and improve comfort, safety and overall wellbeing. The design will support the ambition to ensure all learners feel included, engaged and involved in the life of the school.

## **7 Leadership**

Teaching staff appointments at the proposed new secondary school will be undertaken in accordance with The City of Edinburgh Council's statutory recruitment processes.

Should the proposal to establish the new school be progressed, a Head Teacher will be appointed well in advance of the opening of the school with them being involved in the subsequent recruitment process for the Senior Leadership Team and teaching staff fulfilment.

In addition to teaching and support staff, there will be a requirement to create and fill all staff positions associated with the day-to-day operations of a secondary school. Again, this will be undertaken under the terms and conditions of The City of Edinburgh Council recruitment processes.

The City of Edinburgh Council do not anticipate changes to the existing Senior Leadership and staff provisions at Queensferry High School and associated primary schools as a result of the proposals. Should there be an instance where staffing adjustments are required, all actions will be carried out and adhere to existing City of Edinburgh Council statutory requirements.

The creation of a new school for Kirkliston with the phased introduction of pupils and transition from Queensferry High School, will require a Senior Leadership Team to lead and manage the change. This team will be recruited, trained and mentored during the transition phase. Fundamental to their practice will be the application of clear self-evaluation, based on the How Good is Our School guidance, and using evidence-based improvement techniques. Training for the team will be developed using the council's Professional Review and Development framework which includes specific reference to reflection by staff using the GTC Standard for Headship. Coaching conversations to ensure clear professional learning targets are set and relevant training takes place and overseen by the relevant Senior Education Officer for the Headteacher, and the Headteacher will line manage the senior team.

At the heart of the successful introduction of a new Kirkliston Secondary will be a clear vision for the new school. The vision, values and aims will be developed during the transition phase and will include all stakeholders: learners, parents/carers and staff involved, but specifically including those in the primary stages who will enjoy the new school and should determine the ethos and values they want to see embodied.

Leadership of Learning and Change is reliant on effective information and data. The new school will be data rich and will make effective use of all relevant data including demographic, attendance, attainment, wider achievement and progress through learning. The data system will be compliant with the local authority system so that relevant comparisons can be drawn. The transfer of information between sectors will be enabled through the electronic system and supported by effective transition meetings.

During the transition phase the school will develop its policy on self-evaluation. This will set out the activities it will use to ensure continuous, evidence-based improvement. These include tracking and monitoring meetings, shared classroom experience meetings (where learners are observed), attainment meetings, Learner Conversations, where learners discuss progress in learning and parent/carer consultations.

The City of Edinburgh Council's stance on Leadership is that strong senior leadership is fully supported by an empowered system. This means that leadership will exist at all levels within the new school. A member of the school Senior Leadership Team will be remitted to develop leadership at all levels. This will include a clear programme of professional learning for all staff, including support staff. There will be an expectation that teachers will take part in practitioner enquiry to develop their practice, and that this will be recorded in the PRD plans. All teachers will be expected to take forward the Edinburgh Teachers' Charter which will develop skills in the 4 key areas defined.

The Headteacher will set out the Improvement Plan objectives, aligned to the Working Time Agreement and supported through a calendar of Collegiate Activity Times over the course of each school year. These will ensure that collegiate working is embedded. As Kirkliston Secondary school grows in terms of pupil roll and staffing complement, it will be important to ensure that the Headteachers of Kirkliston and Queensferry High schools align their proposed improvement objectives, and CAT sessions as appropriate. While there will not be complete overlap, it is envisaged that core Teaching and Learning and curricular CLPL will be areas of common interest and should therefore be planned together. This will provide a richer seam of professional learning for staff, with greater resources and networks.

Leadership of learning from the perspective of pupils is an area that will be developed as successful pupil-led learning is influenced by pupils' levels of confidence and resilience. Their identification as proud members of their school community will assist them in developing leadership of learning skills. This will be developed by the senior leader with responsibility for Pupil Participation. This leader will prepare the plan for Pupil Participation in partnership with the Pupil Council. This plan will set out the ways in which learners become active in the work and life of the school, and beyond the school as appropriate.

## **8 Partnerships**

How Good is Our School (4) describes strong, effective partnerships as "the key to future improvement in Scottish Education." (How Good is Our School Fourth Edition, Education Scotland, 2015, p7.) The proposed new school will allow existing and future partnership collaborations to thrive and bringing benefits to the Kirkliston Community

Through the learner-led consultation process, new partnerships will be identified to extend learning pathways and raise attainment, including collaboration linked to Queensferry High School and its local community.

As a new and initially, relatively small school, partnerships will be developed to support well-being, attainment and wider achievement over time. Proximity to Queensferry High School will allow the Kirkliston learning community to benefit from wide-reaching, well-established partnership links and networks from the outset. Queensferry High School already enjoys strong, productive partnerships with a wide range of groups and organisations in Edinburgh, around Scotland and further afield. The new setting will allow us to continue to strengthen and develop these links to enrich experiences for young people in a dedicated Kirkliston High School.

## **9 Monitoring and Quality Assurance**

The delivery of education across the city is tracked and monitored in various ways. The new Kirkliston senior leadership team will implement their self-evaluation calendar of activities, which will include tracking attainment and achievement. Progress in learning will be reported through the authority tracking database so that comparisons can be made. The SLT will create a Standards and Quality Report which will be scrutinised by local authority officers: this will detail progress in the 'core' Quality Indicators: Leadership of Change, Learning Teaching and Assessment, Wellbeing, Equalities

and Inclusion and Raising Attainment and Achievement. They will also report on how finance is managed and any Pupil Equity Fund spending.

In addition to progress in learning demonstrated through national examinations, progress via CfE levels will be tracked in national standardised assessments. This will allow for national comparisons to be made.

A Quality Improvement Education Officer will be allocated to support with all aspects of education performance and delivery. This will include taking part in tracking and monitoring meetings, supporting classroom experience visits and any other Validated Self Evaluation activities that the school may wish to implement.

It is envisaged that the Parent Councils and Pupil Councils of the schools concerned will work in partnership with their senior leadership teams and local authority officers to undertake full pre and post transition analysis. This would include questionnaires to gauge what learners are looking forward to, and what presents anxiety, so that plans can be made. Thereafter, reviews at pupil, class and school level, including input from families would take place.

## **Conclusions**

There is clear evidence to support the viability of smaller schools, based on the performance data of schools across Scotland. Some of the highest attaining schools have rolls of around 700 and others around 2000. Attainment, achievement and success is not defined by how large a school community is, it's defined by creative leadership at all levels, that strives to ensure learners are engaged and involved in their learning.

It is evident from the strategy proposed that there would need to be a high level of collegiate working between the established Queensferry High School and the newly provided Kirkliston Secondary School. This would mean a combined approach to organising the school day and timetabling experiences to ensure learners at Kirkliston were able to access the full breadth of learning opportunities. This would be particularly relevant at the early stages, following the new school's opening. The City of Edinburgh Council would need to look at staffing efficiencies across the two schools and support the provision of subject specialists that could initially work across both communities until such time as the new school's roll has grown significantly. Even then, the opportunities for that collegiate approach should be continued and developed.

Again, it is possible to look to other Local Authorities for examples and evidence of successfully implementing a phased plan for a new secondary school to grow. Bertha Park (Perth and Kinross) and Winchburgh Academy (West Lothian) are both newly established schools that are growing over time having opened to just one or two year groups initially. Both schools have taken this opportunity to review the curriculum and challenge more traditional structures and methods for learning, developing pedagogy and introducing innovative practice within these new environments. Starting a new school community can actually provide many positives, such as:

- Initial smaller cohorts will allow opportunity for the children and young people to comfortably familiarise themselves with their new environment and develop relationships with peers at an early stage this in turn encouraging pupils to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.
- Early opportunities for the school community to develop and embed school policies and procedures.
- Staff and pupils will have opportunity to work together and develop a positive school ethos.

- Opportunity for management and staff to plan and deliver a well-constructed timetable encapsulating the key elements of the Broad General Education that optimises the learning experience for the initial year stages.
- Engagement of creative teaching and learning approaches in a new viable and sustainable school space can help broaden scope for attainment and achievement.
- Timetable and staffing arrangements will be reviewed and adjusted year on year to acknowledge the increase in pupil numbers as new year stages are introduced and to fulfil delivery of a well-balanced curriculum.

Extensive planning would need to take place to ensure that a flexible Senior Phase curriculum is in place for pupils as they progress through their educational pathway in the BGE.

While acknowledging the concerns raised regarding the limitations placed on the Curriculum within a smaller school, it is clear that with a supported, creative and ambitious approach, working in partnership with stakeholders, a smaller school community can thrive equally as well as a larger one. Much will depend on the successful leadership of the school and the positive culture and ethos that needs to be established.

The option to extend Queensferry High School, that was presented as an alternative to the provision of a new secondary school for Kirkliston, would no doubt provide reassurances to anyone who questioned the viability of a smaller school. A larger school will inevitably be able to deliver a wider curriculum offer to its learners, due to the wider range of staff and subject specialisms. Having said that, a creative and innovative curriculum is still reliant on the culture and ethos of the community and it's not always the case that a larger school will have more flexible pathways and innovative practice than that of a smaller school. The curriculum offer and the totality of the curriculum experience is best defined by the ability of the school to meet the needs of its learners and this isn't an ability that is exclusive to larger schools. Leadership and partnerships are crucial in this respect.

## APPENDIX 5 – Response Questionnaire

### Proposal to Establish a New Non-Denominational Secondary School in Kirkliston and implement Catchment Changes

#### Introduction

This paper proposes that a new non-denominational secondary school be established on the site of the existing Leisure Centre in Kirkliston.

Previous informal engagement processes have helped shape this proposal which now forms the basis for this formal statutory consultation conducted according to the requirements of The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

The proposal is that Kirkliston Primary School will be the sole feeder primary school to a new secondary school located on the existing Kirkliston Leisure Centre site. The catchment area of the new secondary school will be the same as that of the existing Kirkliston Primary School.

#### Why we are consulting?

The Council has a legal obligation to carry out a statutory consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The proposal put forward will have implications for families and communities and we want to hear the views of anyone affected. All comments made during the statutory consultation period will be recorded and represented in a final report anticipated to be considered by Council in January 2024.

This questionnaire should be completed and **returned by no later than 5pm on Tuesday 31 October 2023**. All personal information in the questionnaire is for internal use only and will not be made public however the responses to questions 6 and 7 may be reflected either in whole, or in part, in the report to Council but on an anonymised basis. The questionnaire can be completed online at the following link [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs) or can be completed in the following pages and returned to the following address:

Robbie Crockatt  
City of Edinburgh Council  
Council Headquarters  
Waverley Court  
Level 1:2, 4 East Market Street  
Edinburgh EH8 8BG

Responses can also be made in writing to the address above or by e-mail to the following address [kirklistonhs@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:kirklistonhs@edinburgh.gov.uk).

**Question 1**

What is your name?

Name

**Question 2**

What is your email address?

Email

**Question 3**

What is your postcode?

Postcode

**Question 4**

What is your main interest in the consultation?

*Please select (tick) all items that apply:*

- Parent/Carer of school child
- Parent/Carer of school child with younger sibling/s
- Parent/Carer of pre-school child
- School Staff
- Pupil
- Local resident
- Local organisation
- Other

If you are answering on behalf of an organisation, or for other reasons, please explain below.

**Question 5**

Do you have a child or children in a nursery or school at the moment?  
*Please select (tick) only one item.*

Yes  No

If yes, please tell us the name(s) of their school or nursery classes.

- Queensferry High School
- Kirkliston Primary School
- Queensferry Primary School
- Echline Primary School
- Dalmeny Primary School
- St Margaret's RC Primary School
- Kirkliston Primary School Nursery Class
- Queensferry Primary School Nursery Class
- Echline Primary School Nursery Class
- Dalmeny Primary School Nursery Classes
- Other (please specify below)

**Question 6**

Do you support the proposal as detailed in the statutory consultation paper?  
*Please select (tick) only one item.*

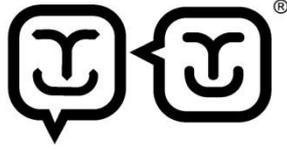
Yes  No

Please give your reasons below:

**Question 7**

Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

Comments or suggestions can also be emailed to [kirklistonhs@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:kirklistonhs@edinburgh.gov.uk).



## HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

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You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats if you ask us. We can also give information on community language translations. Please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service at [its@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:its@edinburgh.gov.uk) quoting the unique reference 23-9035.

Paper copies of the survey are also available on request.

**APPENDIX 2: Report: Consultation Responses and Council Replies**

# Statutory Consultation Proposing to Establish a New Non-Denominational Secondary School in Kirkliston and implement Catchment Changes

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## CONSULTATION RESPONSES & COUNCIL REPLY

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### Contents

1. Purpose of this Paper
2. Summary
3. Response Analysis
4. Response Categories, Issues and Council Reply

[Appendix 1: Response from Kirkliston Primary School's Parent Council](#)

[Appendix 2: Response Issues Categorised and Summarised](#)

[Appendix 3: Council Reply to Responses Received](#)

### 1. Purpose of this paper

- 1.1 In September and October 2023 the Council undertook a statutory consultation asking people in Kirkliston and Queensferry to give their views on a proposal to establish a new secondary school in Kirkliston on the site of the existing Kirkliston Leisure Centre. This consultation was conducted according to the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.
- 1.2 The Council requested feedback via an online questionnaire, by email, in writing and undertook separate surveys of pupils at Kirkliston Primary School and Queensferry High School.
- 1.3 This paper provides analysis and a summary of the feedback received.
- 1.4 The Council's response to the feedback we received and our next steps are set out in a separate report which you can find here:

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/kirklistonhs)

## 2. Summary

### Response

- 2.1 Analysis of the 724 individual responses to the statutory consultation's online questionnaire shows that:
- 49% of responses **do not** support the proposals as set out in the consultation paper.
  - 44% expressed support for the proposals while a further 7% were undecided.

However, among the 426 responses from people with a Kirkliston postcode:

- 74% of people **do not** support the proposals as set out in the consultation paper and 10% were undecided.

- 2.2 The 287 responses from people living outside Kirkliston showed 85% support for the proposals.

### Key Messages

- 2.3 These are the key messages that we took from the responses we received:

*a) Respondents from Kirkliston overwhelmingly reject the proposals.*

While many people commented on a lack of facilities in Kirkliston and the need for a secondary school, people felt that the Leisure Centre site was not the right location. This is principally because people feel:

- i. the leisure centre site is too small;
- ii. the proposals would increase traffic congestion;
- iii. the single feeder status of a new school would be detrimental to pupils.

*b) The majority of respondents from areas outside Kirkliston supported the proposals.*

Queensferry High School should not be extended because it will make the school too big, it will be a short-term solution and will make traffic and parking issues in Queensferry much worse.

## 3. Response Analysis

### Number of Responses

- 3.1 The Council received 752 responses to its online survey. Twenty-eight (28) of these responses were identified as coming from someone that had already submitted a response. Accordingly, the true number of individual responses is 724.
- 3.2 The Council also received 2 email responses including one from Kirkliston Primary School's Parent Council (attached as [Appendix 1](#)).

3.3 The Council conducted a separate online survey that was open to all pupils at Queensferry High School and P6-P7 pupils at Kirkliston Primary School which generated 103 responses.

3.4 Kirkliston Primary School's Pupil Council undertook their own survey of pupils at Kirkliston Primary School. This resulted in 120 responses from P1-P3 pupils and 198 responses from P4-P7 pupils.

### ***Organisations***

3.5 In addition to the email response from Kirkliston Primary School's Parent Council, 11 of the 724 responses received identified their main interest as being 'Local Organisation'. However, in some cases it was not clear whether the response was on behalf of the group or organisation. Responses identified as being on behalf of an organisation or group were from:

- Queensferry & District Community Council
- Edinburgh Local Association of the Education Institute for Scotland (Teaching Trade Union)
- TouchDownUK (youth work charity)
- Barrat David Wilson and Taylor Wimpey
- Miller Homes

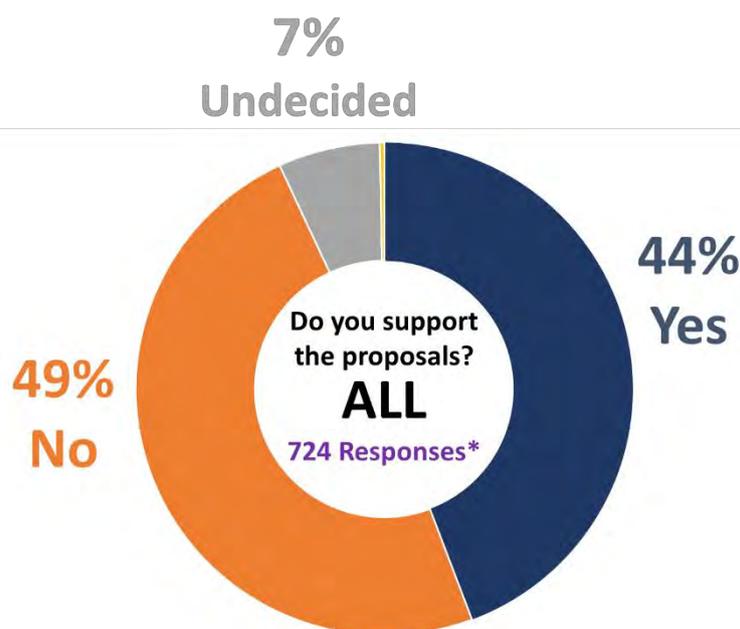
### ***Overall Response***

3.6 The consultation paper asked three things:

1. Do you support the proposals as detailed in the statutory consultation paper?
2. Please give reasons for your answer [to the above question]
3. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

3.7 The following section provides analysis of the response to the question "Do you support the proposals as detailed in the statutory consultation paper?":

### ***Do you support the proposals as detailed in the statutory consultation paper?***



\* 2 responses did not answer the question.

\* Includes views expressed in two email responses received.

Note: Where a duplicate response was identified, the answer to this question in the last response received was counted.

### ***Responses by Area of Origin***

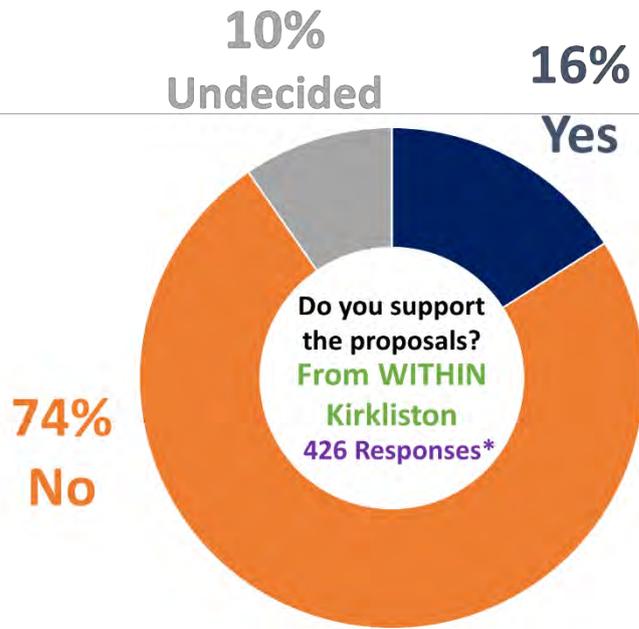
3.8 We used people's postcodes to see if where they lived made a difference to their support for the proposals. The most notable difference in people's responses was between those received from the Kirkliston primary school catchment area and those received from the Queensferry High School catchment area excluding Kirkliston.

3.9 Table 1 below provides a full breakdown of the geographical origin of responses.

**Table 1: Responses by Area of Origin**

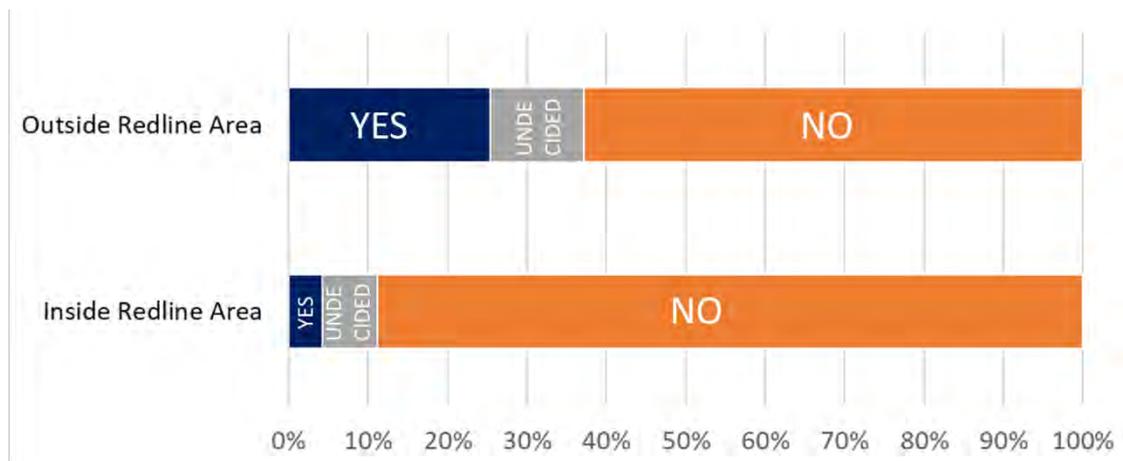
Origin of Response	Yes	No	Un-decided	Un-answered	Total	
Within Kirkliston PS Catchment Area	68	317	41	0	426	59%
Queensferry HS catchment (excluding Kirkliston)	244	20	5	2	271	37%
Other City of Edinburgh Catchment Area	0	6	0	0	6	4%
Outwith City of Edinburgh boundary	1	8	1	0	10	
No Postcode Provided	7	3	1	0	11	
	320	354	48	2	<b>724</b>	

### ***Responses from Kirkliston Primary School's Catchment Area Only***

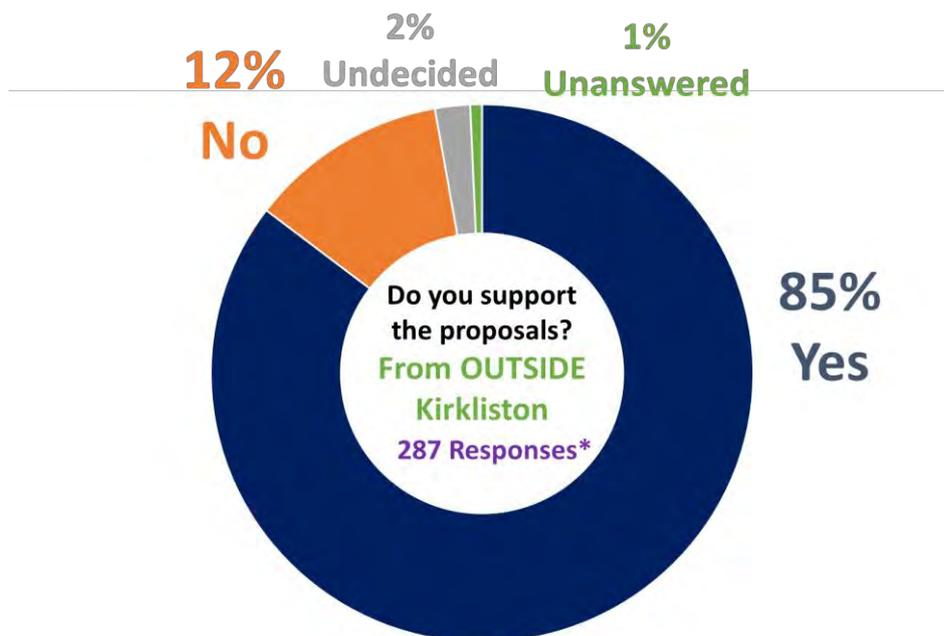


\* Where a duplicate response was identified, the answer to this question in the last response received was counted.

- 189 (44%) of the 426 responses from people living in Kirkliston Primary School’s catchment area came from inside the redline boundary shown below.
- While there was increased support for the proposals from people living outside the redline boundary area, the proposals were still rejected by a significant majority of people.



**Responses from Queensferry High School’s Catchment Area (excluding Kirkliston)**



\* Where a duplicate response was identified, the answer to this question in the last response received was counted.

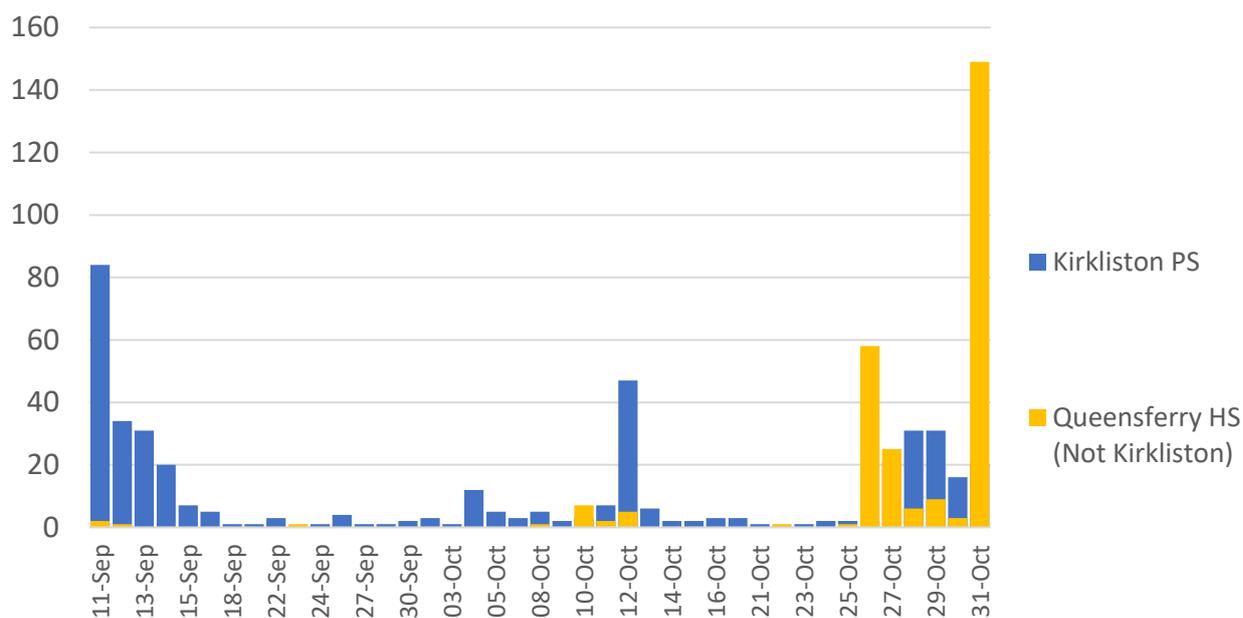
### Further Analysis

#### Response distribution across consultation period

3.10 Figure 4 (below) illustrates that there was differing distribution across the consultation period over which responses from within Kirkliston and from the rest of the Queensferry High School catchment area were received.

- 42% of responses from people living within Kirkliston Primary School’s catchment area were received within the *first* 6 days of the consultation opening.
- 92% of responses from people living in the Queensferry High School catchment area excluding Kirkliston were received in the *last* 6 days of the consultation period with more than half being received on the last day.
- 117 of the 147 responses received on the last day of the consultation period were from people with a child at Queensferry Primary School.

**Figure 4: Timeline of Responses Received**



### Responses from people with children at school or nursery

- 496 (69%) of the 724 responses received were from people identifying themselves as the parent or carer for a child or children currently attending a nursery or school.
  - Among people identifying themselves as the parent or carer for a child or children currently attending a nursery or school, 51% supported the proposals, 42% rejected the proposals and 7% were undecided.
  - Among people who identified themselves as **not** having a child or children currently attending a nursery or school, 31% supported the proposals, 65% rejected the proposals and 4% were undecided.
- 267 (54%) of the 496 responses from people identifying themselves as the parent or carer for a child or children currently attending a nursery lived in the Kirkliston Primary School catchment area.
  - Among people living in the Kirkliston Primary School catchment area and identifying themselves as the parent or carer for a child or children currently attending a nursery or school, 16% supported the proposals, 72% rejected the proposals and 12% were undecided. This reflected the overall response from people living in the Kirkliston Primary School catchment area which was similar regardless of whether or not the respondent identified themselves as being the parent or carer for a child or children currently attending a nursery or school.

## 4. Response Categories, Issues and Council Reply

### Responses categorised

4.1 All the responses received were read and the individual points raised were recorded and categorised. The points raised fell into 10 broad categories. These were:

- Leisure Centre site (negative)
- Educational Impact of Kirkliston HS (negative)
- Criticism of the Council and/or process
- Queensferry HS (negative)
- Alternative Sites/Options
- General (Wider Kirkliston issues/comment/observations)
- Traffic Impact of Leisure Centre Site/Kirkliston High
- Leisure Centre site (positive)
- Queensferry HS (positive)
- Educational Impact of Kirkliston HS (positive)

4.2 Underneath each category the points raised were summarised into 125 representative issue statements for the Council to respond too. [Appendix 2](#) shows the 10 categories, the issue statements and the number of times that the issue/point was raised in the responses received.

4.3 In summary, the ten most commonly occurring issues/points raised were:

<b>Issue/point Raised</b>	<b>No. of Times Raised</b>
Leisure Centre site is too small with lack of space for facilities or expansion	250
Kirkliston is big enough for its own school; it is the best value solution	228
Proposal will mean increased traffic and congestion (inc. Kirkliston crossroads)	157
Single feeder status limits social mix / catchment area should be bigger	152
Queensferry HS would be too big impacting quality of education	131
Proposals would mean loss of open or green space	107
Small school would mean limited curriculum choice	104
Small site means lack of parking spaces resulting in staff/pupil use of residential	103
A small school will mean multi-level classes and limited resources	95
Proposals will mean increased traffic and congestion and reduced safety on Station Road	93

4.4 [Appendix 3](#) provides the Council's reply to all the points and issues raised.

## **Appendix 1: Response from Kirkliston Primary School's Parent Council**



30<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## **To whom it may concern:**

On behalf of the parent body please find below the Kirkliston Primary School Association's response to the statutory consultation on the proposal to build a high school on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site.

## **Background**

The critical issue of high school provision for Kirkliston has been under active discussion for over 6 years now.

There is little point in revisiting the shortcomings to date but we would be remiss not to recognise again, in this formal consultation, that we feel an entire cohort of children have been failed in the planning of their education by City of Edinburgh Council. Had impetus been maintained on exploring options over the pandemic period, when housebuilding had been delayed, we could be delivering a school in time to avoid overcrowding.

Instead, the same children who were impacted by failures in roll projection methodology and have been in an overcrowded primary school with building work, temporary classrooms and inadequate sport and extracurricular space provision will now experience the same at high school.

Thanks to the skills of the teachers and leadership team the best was made of this situation at Kirkliston Primary School, and no doubt will be at Queensferry High School ('QHS') for the duration of the building work to come – whether this is a new build in Kirkliston or an extension of QHS.

**There is no solution which can be offered in time to avoid overcrowding in the interim period.**

**We cannot change history, we can only now try to get it right for the future.**

## **Should Kirkliston have a High School?**

The outcome of the informal consultation earlier this year indicated that the vast majority of respondents were in favour of Kirkliston getting its own high school - enabling community use, sustainable transport and a secure educational future for the village.

Following this, further consultation was undertaken specifically on the leisure centre site which has proved divisive. While there are those who take the view that the leisure centre site is the better option compared to extension of QHS and/or are of the view that the council would be unable to deliver a better site, equally there are many who strongly object to the current proposal. The



reasons for objection are largely around site size, inadequate explanation of the impact on educational offering, access to leisure facilities for the wider community and environmental issues.

It is therefore evident that whilst respondents are in favour of a Kirkliston high school, care must be taken before extrapolating that degree of positivity towards this facility being provided at the leisure centre site.

As we expressed in our response to the informal consultation, we believe that there are significant benefits to the Kirkliston community and children in having more accessible, local high school provision.

We raised fundamental questions as part of this response and requested these be answered to facilitate us, parents and the wider community understand the likely realities of the options being proposed (Kirkliston high school / Expansion of QHS / West Edinburgh high school).

This was supported by a motion at the meeting of the Education, Children and Families committee in January 2023 (motion 9.2) and answers were to be presented in February 2023, this was subsequently deferred for inclusion in the report presented at the April 2023 meeting.

In the April report it was acknowledged that the extension of QHS was not publicly supported based on the informal consultation and committed to exploring options of a Kirkliston High School at the leisure centre site AND east of Kirkliston; to engage with other local communities about a catchment realignment and to prepare a fully costed educational operating model to allow assessment of the benefits and limitations of a Kirkliston high school.

*Extract from Education Children and Families Committee minutes on 27 April 2023:*

*4.18 Accordingly, before consulting further on the establishment of a new school in Kirkliston an educational operating model for a new Kirkliston High School will be required to help inform people's views. This model will also help the Council to demonstrate the educational benefits and disbenefits of such a proposal and say how the school would be populated. The Council's Educational Benefits statement is a requirement of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and it will be assessed by Education Scotland who will provide their views on the proposal.*

The report brought to the September committee does not mention or contain details of this educational operating model. We, as Kirkliston Primary School's parent council have not been provided with a copy of this report and are not aware of it being publicly available.

The September report also does not mention what happened in exploration of sites to the east of Kirkliston where we understand there is a developer with land and interest in engaging with the Council.

It does however state that the result of a limited engagement exercise with Ratho and Ratho Station communities regarding potentially feeding to a Kirkliston high school was overwhelmingly negative. We question the purpose of this engagement and what other possible outcome would ever have occurred. It is difficult to foresee in what circumstances a parent would ever have answered to the affirmative - indeed if you surveyed the people of Kirkliston if they wanted to remain part of QHS



and have the new Builyeon Road development feed into a new catchment area the results would undoubtedly be similar.

In consideration of catchment for a new school we require the council – elected officials and employed specialists – to consider what best meets the needs of **all** children in the local authority as a whole. Where this necessitates changes to an established feeder relationship it is unreasonable and inappropriate to have this dictated by localised public opinion.

## **The absence of a strong educational vision**

Our primary concern remains first and foremost the quality of educational experience and wellbeing of our children.

The catchment proposal included in the statutory consultation will result in a single feeder high school with a small roll in the region of 350 to 500 pupils.

A school of this size will likely struggle to attract and retain quality staff and deliver breadth of subject choice. Further, it will necessitate multi-level teaching or online / remote learning to deliver the curriculum as confirmed at the public meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October. It also limits our children's social development as there is not the opportunity to expand friendships and meet new peers. We need confidence that these things will be managed without compromising our children's futures or a different solution provided.

We have raised concerns about how such a school will be able to deliver a quality experience in reality and have been asking for clarity on the vision since the possibility of a local high school was presented. Repeatedly this has been stated as being down to the 'educators' not the estate team who are understandably only concerned about ensuring infrastructure to meet the physical need.

Teaching staff we have engaged with agree a single feeder high school and the loss of community links with surrounding cluster schools is a huge pitfall in this proposal. There is an opportunity here to look at more innovative ways to structure education between two high schools in close proximity, be it a junior and senior school or subject hubs / split campus. Such approaches would retain community networks increase the opportunity for social and personal development - giving the benefits of a larger school with significantly more capability to expand to meet future growth in both localities over the long term.

It is unacceptable that Education department's voice has not been more strongly brought forward to confirm and clarify the vision as part of the information being shared for public to opine on. High level indications at the public meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October was too late and not detailed enough.

As mentioned above we have not yet seen an educational operating report or any input from Education Scotland.

Without a more detailed understanding of the ramifications of this, the core purpose of a high school, we cannot reasonably be expected to make a decision on whether we believe this is the right thing for our community and children.



The absence of any strong vision here makes it appear that this will be a 'make the best of it' scenario. **If a Kirkliston high school is not going to deliver a quality education, it is not acceptable for the residents of Kirkliston and it shouldn't be acceptable for the council to commit millions of pounds of taxpayer money on it either.**

## The Leisure Centre as a site

Much has been made of the practicalities of whether a school can be physically located on the leisure centre site.

We consider the design of the physical building to be beyond the scope of our comment. We are placing reliance on the council and engaged experts to ensure that the building, if progression occurs, will appropriately address issues raised during this and the previous consultation:

- Confirmation that the site size is adequate and capable of extension
- Proximity to the motorway – noise, safety and pollution concerns
- Proximity to the early years centre under construction on the same site
- Continued provision of community outdoor pitch space

Beyond this we note that many of the concerns regarding the provision of an excellent educational and social school experience raised in the section above are driven by the small expected roll and the fact this would be a single feeder high school. If the hope is that community growth over time will resolve these issues the leisure centre is an impractical location.

This site is at the western periphery of the village, as close to the border with West Lothian as is possible. Traffic management through Kirkliston is an ongoing challenge due to the bottleneck of the central crossroads. Sites to the North, South and East of Kirkliston would make the practicality of expanding the catchment area to include Ratho and Ratho Station, overflow from Queensferry, West Edinburgh Development and any future growth to the east of the village (e.g. Craigiehall Camp) more accessible and manageable.

We understand the council's position that this is the only site under their control and the benefit of that. The question of compulsory purchase and seeking permission for release of greenbelt land has been raised multiple times and the response on how extensively these have been explored was very limited.

**Time may be of the essence in terms of reaching a solution but this should not be a reason to push a substandard decision, especially given there is no opportunity to deliver a solution in time at any location.**

## Conclusion

We are disappointed, exhausted and mistrustful that our children are going to get the educational experience they deserve. The process to date has been disjointed and compromised by limited vision and desire from the council to challenge its own policies, particularly around planning and green belt land, and deflection over how a quality curriculum will be delivered. All further compounded by the very clear conclusion officials have already made that if a school in Kirkliston



cannot be delivered on the leisure centre site then the extension of QHS is the only alternative (regardless of the issues and opposition within both the Queensferry and Kirkliston communities to this option).

**Ultimately, we believe a local high school could deliver significant benefits to the Kirkliston community but only if there is a robust plan to deliver a high quality education.**

**The academic achievements of a child have real implications on their future educational and employment choices. We cannot underestimate the critical importance of this decision and therefore, based on the limited information on the educational vision provided to date, we cannot support these proposals at present.**

**Temporary expansion at QHS in the short term is already a necessity, permanent expansion is unpopular. Now is the time for CEC to show vision and commitment to properly invest, innovate and deliver fit-for-purpose and fit for the long-term education, leisure and community facilities for Kirkliston.**

**It is clear that until it is established if either option gives good outcomes for children, we must take more time to find the right solution.**

**We implore committee members to reject these proposals and instruct further work to address the concerns raised on education delivery and suitability of the leisure centre site, to consider the viability of alternative sites and/or to explore and encourage alternative, innovative, approaches in detail before making a decision which will impact the children of Kirkliston for decades to come.**

## APPENDIX 2: Response Issue Categories and Summary

The table below shows the 10 categories of points/issues received, a summary of the issues raised and the number of times that issue was raised in the responses received. Click on an issue to see the Council response.

Category	Issue No.	Issue Summary	No. of times raised
<a href="#"><u>Leisure Centre (Negative)</u></a>	1	The Kirkliston Leisure Centre site is too small / not suitable; lacks space for facilities or expansion	250
	2	Loss of Leisure Centre pitches	80
	3	Permanent loss of Kirkliston Leisure Centre	85
	4	Temporary Loss of Kirkliston Leisure Centre (During Construction)	16
	5	New school would provide poor facilities / limited access / sharing with pupils	67
	6	Loss of open and/or green space	107
	7	Proximity of proposed new school to Early Years/PS annexe	70
	8	Location in west of village is not good	16
	9	A new school will result in Anti-Social Behaviour (inc. noise and litter)	42
	10	The height and mass of a new school building (aesthetics, overlooking, out of character)	42
	11	Concerns about noise, pollution and safety due to proximity of motorway	82
	12	A lack of shops /options for pupil lunches	24
	13	Flooding of the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site	11
	14	Construction disruption (inc. to Early Years) from main build and future extension	14
	15	The Leisure Centre site is not owned by Council / land was gifted to be open space only/ land was rezoned without consultation	7
	<a href="#"><u>Traffic Impact of Leisure Centre Site/Kirkliston High</u></a>	16	A school is not appropriate for community use and cannot meet community needs
17		Lack of Parking Space at the proposed school site or locally (staff/pupil use of residential)	103
18		Concerns about impact of pick-up/drop-off times and access to the site on traffic	28
19		Concerns about the safety of pupils and other pedestrians during construction and around the site generally	15
20		The bus gate will need to be removed	11
21		Concerns about the wider impact of increased traffic and congestion across Kirkliston (inc. main crossroads)	157
22		Concerns about school bus parking	6
23		Concerns about lack of public transport links/requests for train station	19
<a href="#"><u>Educational Impact Kirkliston HS (negative)</u></a>	24	Concerns about impact of single feeder primary school on social mix / consider larger catchment area	152
	25	Concerns that smaller year groups will make it difficult to support pupils with Additional Support Needs	1
	26	Concerns that a smaller school will require multi-level classes and have limited resources	95
	27	Concerns that a small school will mean reliance on online and independent learning	24
	28	Concerns that a small school will limit curriculum choice	104
	29	Concerns that a school in Kirkliston will struggle to attract staff (inc. due to poor public transport)	44
	30	Concerns that a Kirkliston HS will have offer poorer quality of education than Queensferry or Winchburgh	30

Category	Issue No.	Issue Summary	No. of times raised
	31	Concerns that a small school will not offer sufficient After School and Sporting opportunities	14
	32	Concerns about the proposal splitting siblings between different schools	4
	33	Concern about opening the new school will open one year group at a time (impact on first S1, lack of support)	12
	34	Concern about narrow curriculum requiring that pupils travel to other schools (transport issues)	3
	35	Request for toilets for pupils not to be mixed gender	1
<b><u>General</u></b>	36	Existing lack of amenities in Kirkliston (inc GP/Dental/Pool )	44
	37	Lack of investment in the village	2
	38	Infrastructure impact across Kirkliston	36
	39	Other facilities should be retained (library, community centre)	13
	40	Kirkliston also needs another primary school	1
	41	Kirkliston is big enough for its own school. Proposal offers best value and future proofing.	228
	42	Kirkliston village is not big enough for a High School	8
	43	Build new school to max capacity from the start to avoid future disruption	2
	44	Excessive cost of running/ staffing a second High School	1
	45	Ensure sufficient capacity for catchment growth	6
	46	Loss of / relocation of recycling facilities	1
	47	Concerns about the temporary capacity required at Queensferry High School	10
<b><u>Alternative Sites/Options</u></b>	48	NPF4 criticism/challenge	4
	49	Buy other land / Compulsory Purchase	50
	50	Greenbelt and Countryside status should be challenged	76
	51	Don't want more housing	3
	52	More housing would be ok	6
	53	More housing inevitable	8
	54	Queensferry HS ( junior school on hub site ),extend into Dundas Park	47
	55	New HS in Queensferry	5
	56	West of M90	8
	57	North of Kirkliston	5
	58	Winchburgh	18
	59	Allison Park for School site or pitches	1
	60	West Edinburgh (inc. Newbridge)	14
	61	Primary on LC Site, HS on PS site	6
	62	Site with wider PS catchment area greater pupil capacity?	30
	63	Include Buiyeon Rd in Kirkliston catchment	1
	64	Include Dalmeny PS in Kirkliston catchment	2
	65	House builders to be responsible for delivering HS and infrastructure improvements	14
	66	Satellite campus with Queensferry, or middle school option for all PS's	16
	67	Newbridge/Ratho	1
	68	Burnshott Road / Army barracks / East of Kirkliston (site G)	42
<b><u>Leisure Centre Positive</u></b>	69	Site size acceptable/only viable option	34
	70	Leisure Centre Underutilized	7
	71	20 Minute Neighbourhood / reduced travel time	21

Category	Issue No.	Issue Summary	No. of times raised
	72	Small school better than over-sized school, more suitable for pupils with additional learning needs	6
	73	A new Kirkliston HS would provide improved pitches	3
	74	A new Kirkliston HS would provide improved Leisure and Sports Facilities	27
	75	A Swimming Pool is required in Kirkliston	10
	76	Using the Leisure Centre site provides opportunities to improve community access to Social Spaces	1
	77	Using the Leisure Centre site provides opportunities to replace existing facilities	2
	78	The Leisure Centre site has then benefit of being on the edge of the village	1
	79	A new Kirkliston HS on the Leisure Centre site would improve Active Travel, reduce traffic and transport costs	56
<b><u>Educational Impact Kirkliston HS (positive)</u></b>	80	Pupils at a new Kirkliston HS would benefit from easier access to After School Activities	4
	81	The Council should consider an all through school in Kirkliston	1
	82	A small village high school would benefit from a strong community connections and support	2
	83	A new Kirkliston HS would be good for pupils with Additional Support Needs	1
	84	A new Kirkliston HS would provide the standard of education Kirkliston pupils deserve	3
	85	A new Kirkliston High School would attract staff	1
	86	St Margaret's RC PS would act as a second feeder to a new Kirkliston HS	1
	87	A new Kirkliston HS would make transitions easier from primary to secondary	2
<b><u>Queensferry HS (negative)</u></b>	88	An extended Queensferry High School would be too big (exceeding agreed capacity), impacting on quality of education	131
	89	Extending Queensferry High School would impact on the suitability of existing spaces/facilities	41
	90	Extending Queensferry High School would create traffic, congestion and safety issues – particularly on Station Road	93
	91	There is no provision for the parking buses from Kirkliston	23
	92	Extending Queensferry HS would cause disruption to pupils and the wider community	44
	93	Extending Queensferry HS would have an impact on surrounding residential areas (anti-social, overlooking)	12
	94	Extending Queensferry HS would create parking issues around the site	31
<b><u>Queensferry HS (positive)</u></b>	95	Extending Queensferry High School will maintain existing community links	5
	96	Queensferry High School will offer greater curriculum choice	4
	97	There is sufficient space for expansion at Queensferry High School (incl. use of Hub)	3
	98	Improve public transport links/cheaper than running cost of a new High School	1
	99	Queensferry High has an established reputation; a new school would not	6
<b><u>Criticism of Council</u></b>	100	Lack of consultation / poor communication /more consultation required	12
	101	Lack of involvement of Queensferry in the statutory consultation process with no feedback from previous consult processes	1
	102	Concerns about the impact of the Queensferry voice in a consultation about Kirkliston	2
	103	The whole process has been too slow / decision too late	21
	104	The consultation process is divisive, splitting communities.	4
	105	Longer term education planning has been poor (inc. size of QHS)	69

Category	Issue No.	Issue Summary	No. of times raised
	106	The Planning system failed Kirkliston from both a housing and infrastructure perspective. A masterplan for village required that includes older people's housing.	64
	107	The Council has a Planning bias for young families, housing of older people is neglected	1
	108	Economic, Social and Children's Rights impact assessments are required.	2
	109	An Educational Benefits/disbenefits analysis is required for a Kirkliston HS or extending Queensferry HS	2
	110	Criticism of Traffic Survey and recommendations which will be ignored	1
	111	A business case is required to demonstrate best value and pros and cons for each option	4
	112	The proposal does not include an assessment of full life cycle greenhouse gas emissions.	1
	113	The Council proposal is a quick fix, 'sticking plaster', last minute, take it or leave it solution.	45
	114	The Council proposal is focused on cost and is the cheap option.	31
	115	A statutory consultation is premature until City Plan has concluded incl. representation from developers proposing new schools	1
	116	Foxhall should not have been developed for Housing but utilised for a High School	1
	117	It was a poor decision by the Council to build the Early Years Centre knowing it was the only site option for a High School	2
	118	Kirkliston is being overlooked. The Council don't care about Kirkliston. The Proposals don't make sense.	44
	119	Information provided through the consultation is misleading and insufficient	11
	120	There is mistrust in the consultation process and a lack of transparency from the Council.	23
	121	The proposed school would have a negative impact on the value of nearby houses	4
	122	The Council has previously committed to projects that are still unfulfilled	18
	123	The Council has a poor attitude: 'If you want better come up with it yourselves'.	3
	124	The decision is already made / Council ignored previous results.	17
<u>Other</u>	125	Residents of Kirkliston do not have the required expertise to make a decision	1

## APPENDIX 3: Council Reply to Responses Received

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
Category: Leisure Centre Site (Negative)		
1	The Kirkliston Leisure Centre site is too small / not suitable; lacks space for facilities or expansion.	250
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>School site sizes are governed by the Schools Premises Regulations, 1967 as amended. These regulations separate out the size of area required for a school building and size of area required for pitches. Pitches do not have to be located on the school site.</p> <p>The Regulations say that a secondary school for 600 pupils requires a site of 2.0 Ha. A school of 1,200 pupils requires a site of 2.6 Ha. These figures exclude space for pitches. The proposed site for a new secondary school in Kirkliston is 1.7 Ha.</p> <p>While the proposed site for a new secondary school in Kirkliston does not meet the requirements of the Schools Premises Regulations, 1967 as amended; we think it is big enough to accommodate all the facilities required and provide space for expansion. We have had an architect undertake feasibility work to demonstrate that all the accommodation and facilities required can be provided on the Leisure Centre site. You can view this study here: <a href="https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/33820/architect-s-viability-report-for-new-school-on-kirkliston-leisure-centre-site">https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/33820/architect-s-viability-report-for-new-school-on-kirkliston-leisure-centre-site</a></p> <p>It is not uncommon for secondary schools to have smaller sites than the 1967 regulations. Thirteen (13) out of 23 secondary schools in Edinburgh do not comply with 1967 site size regulations. Three of Edinburgh's secondary schools are on sites smaller than 1.7 Ha:</p> <p>St Thomas of Aquin's RC HS: Capacity = 750 pupils; site = 0.69 Ha            Boroughmuir HS: Capacity = 1,560 pupils; site = 0.92 Ha            Trinity Academy: Capacity (following extension) = 1,200 pupils; site = 1.37 Ha (excludes Sports facilities which are located 5 minutes walk away at Bangholm)</p> <p>The model adopted at Trinity Academy where Sports facilities are on a different site to the rest of the school could be an approach adopted at Kirkliston if the village were to expand in the future. This will be explored through the design development process should a new school for Kirkliston progress.</p> <p>The Schools Premises Regulations, 1967 as amended do allow a smaller site area for a new school with the consent of the Scottish Government. Accordingly, we have written to the Scottish Government seeking dispensation to allow us to build a school on the smaller Leisure Centre site should the proposals in the consultation paper be approved.</p>		
2	Loss of Leisure Centre pitches	80
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The pitch strategy for a new school is still being developed. The aspiration is that pitches for use by the school and local community will be provided within walking distance of the new school and the detailed proposals will be developed in consultation with representatives for the local community and Edinburgh Leisure.</p>		

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
3	Permanent loss of Kirkliston Leisure Centre	85
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The Councils <a href="#">Learning Estate Strategy</a> sets out the ambition for inclusive lifelong learning hubs, where public services can be co-located within a Learning Campus. Access and security arrangements can be designed in such a way as to provide flexibility and sharing of agreed spaces during and out with school hours. The services and facilities incorporated within the community hub will depend on the needs of the local community which will be explored during the community engagement and design development process if approved.</p> <p>The early viability study for the redevelopment of the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site assumes that a newer, larger and better equipped leisure facility will be delivered as part of a new school to replace the existing Leisure Centre. This will be available for use by the community along with other meeting, social and activity spaces if desired. Given budget and site constraints a swimming pool is not part of the generic brief for a new school. Sport Scotland have previously advised that there are sufficient swimming pool facilities within the local area.</p> <p>How these leisure facilities will be managed is still to be discussed and agreed as part of the early engagement and design, development process. However, it is likely that they will follow a similar model to that adopted at Queensferry High School and be run by Edinburgh Leisure.</p>		
4	Temporary Loss of Kirkliston Leisure Centre (During Construction)	16
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Edinburgh Leisure and Council Officers will work with existing clubs, groups and members to identify alternative facilities and venues within the local area during the construction period where required.</p>		
5	New school would provide poor facilities / limited access / sharing with pupils	67
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The new school would be 'more than a school'. It should be a welcoming, shared space for everyone, shaped by Place Principles that create, develop and contribute to communities. The mix of services will focus on lifelong learning, cross generational activities, health and wellbeing, social services, youth development, family support and community development.</p> <p>Despite site size restrictions the early viability study demonstrates how the core accommodation requirements can be delivered on this site. The development of a Community Hub is not necessarily about bolting on additional space but optimising the usage of school facilities and customer capture to improve access to services and deliver best value for the community it serves.</p> <p>No decision has been made about the relocation of existing Library or Community Services at this stage or what impact that would make on detailed design, scope or operational aspects of a new school. However, this is something that could be explored further through engagement with the community.</p>		
6	Loss of open and/or green space	107

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Whilst the redevelopment of the site will impact on the usage of existing open and green spaces, alternative quality green amenity spaces would be re-provided as part of the emerging pitch strategy. Community representatives will be involved in the development of this strategy and scoping process.</p>		
7	Proximity of proposed new school to Early Years/PS annexe	70
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>When the decision was taken to build a new Early Years facility and Primary 1 annexe on the northern part of the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site (anticipated completion early 2024) the remaining site had not be considered for a new high school. While this facility reduces the space available for a high school, it also provides opportunities to create strong links between Early Years, Primary and Secondary. This could have both social and educational benefits.</p> <p>Further consideration could be given to changing the year group that occupies the new primary annexe ie P6/P7 improve transition from primary to secondary if deemed more appropriate.</p> <p>The co-location of Early Years and secondary school provision is not unusual. In Edinburgh Early Years facilities currently operate from Craigmoynton High School and Drummond High School. There are numerous examples across Scotland, not least of all in all-through schools which provide places for pupils from 3-18 years old.</p>		
8	Location in west of village is not good	16
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Ideally a new community hub would be centrally located within the village. However, the lack of an alternative site means that the Kirkliston Leisure centre site is the only deliverable option. Being located in the West of the village only 500m from Kirkliston Primary School brings with it significant benefits in terms of the potential for sharing resources, shared sibling journeys and improved transition. The model for all-through schools is well established in other areas of Scotland and the co-location of a new secondary school with primary and Early Years and its proximity to the rest of the primary school provide an opportunity to develop this kind of model.</p>		
9	A new school will result in Anti-Social Behaviour (inc. noise and litter)	42
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>As a small school with pupils only from Kirkliston, it will be easier for a new school's Head Teacher to establish and maintain links with the immediate community and develop a culture within the school of respect and consideration for all members of their community. The presence of other members of the community including pupils families at the school site accessing community facilities such as meeting spaces or leisure facilities will make this easier.</p>		
10	The height and mass of a new school building (aesthetics, overlooking, out of character)	42
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>From the outset, the design of a new high school, which would be the subject of separate engagement with the community, would seek to minimise its impact on the surrounding area. The design, including aesthetics and any issues with over-looking residential properties will be a material consideration for Planning, and will only be permitted if it meets planning guidelines.</p>		

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
11	Concerns about noise, pollution and safety due to proximity of motorway	82
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>If the decision is taken to proceed with a new high school on the leisure centre site, the appointed design team will take into consideration the adjacency to the motorway when designing and locating the building on this site. The early concept proposals show how the most noise sensitive teaching areas can be located furthest away from the motorway and the other facilities could be located to block out any environmental factors. An Acoustic Consultant will also be appointed to ensure the school is designed and complies with building regulations specifically BB93 acoustic performance standards for schools.</p> <p>Building Bulletin 101 provides guidelines on ventilation, thermal comfort and indoor air quality in schools. The document describes the factors that affect the indoor environment of schools, setting out the regulatory framework for ventilation in schools and gives recommended performance levels for compliance with UK regulations.</p> <p>The new school would be built to Passivhaus standard. To ensure excellent air quality for building occupants, Passivhaus design puts great emphasis on the need for controlled ventilation with regular, guaranteed, and adequate air exchange. This is achieved through mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) systems, also known as comfort ventilation. MVHR systems are designed and calibrated to ensure the moisture content of the air is neither too wet nor too dry for occupants. Critically for occupants' health, it reduces indoor pollution, such as dust, pollen and diesel particulates, to safe levels by adding filtered fresh air, minimising impurities coming from the outside as well as the inside.</p>		
12	A lack of shops /options for pupil lunches	24
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The capacity of the school's dining area and the catering options offered would be designed to take account of the availability of provision from other local outlets and also the number of pupils likely to go home for lunch. More pupils using the school's dining facilities will create more local employment opportunities for kitchen and servery staff.</p> <p>As a community hub, there is an opportunity to consider whether the school could also offer other food outlets available to the public. The viability of this will be considered through the design process and through community engagement.</p> <p>Relocation of other services to a community hub may provide opportunities for additional commercial outlets in Kirkliston.</p>		
13	Flooding of the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site	11
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The Council are aware of previous flooding issues on the site, if the redevelopment for a new school is approved any appointed design team will need to take any flooding issue into the consideration when developing the detailed design proposals, including proposals to mitigate any future flooding risk.</p>		

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
14	Construction disruption (inc. to Early Years) from main build and future extension	14
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The design team will need to develop a construction logistics plan along with the contractor eventually appointed to the project that takes into consideration health and safety for everyone as well as the ongoing operational needs of the Early Years facility. While some disruption is inevitable, this plan will seek to minimise the impact on residents. The logistics plan will be developed with input from key stakeholders, including school and Early Years users, local residents and the Council’s Road Safety teams.</p>		
15	The Leisure Centre site is not owned by Council / land was gifted to be open space only/ land was rezoned without consultation	7
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The Kirkliston Leisure Centre site is owned by the Council. There was previously a burden on the leisure centre site that restricted the use of the land so that it could “only be used for open space and for public recreational purposes”. This burden was discharged for the entire site in June 2019 by way of application by the Council to the Lands Tribunal as part of the proposed redevelopment for an Early Years campus on the site. There was no intention to redevelop the remainder of the site for any alternative uses at that time. The new title number with the discharge of the restrictive burden is WLN1428.</p> <p>The Lands Tribunal were responsible for neighbour notification of the proposed change, and confirmed there were no responses received to the advert they issued in May 2019.</p> <p>The burden on the land had previously been highlighted by the Council as a restriction that could prevent the delivery of the Early Years campus. This was considered at a public meeting at Kirkliston High School in January 2019.</p>		
16	A school is not appropriate for community use and cannot meet community needs.	24
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Schools are a significant asset within local communities and City of Edinburgh Council, like other authorities, is prioritising the development of schools as community hubs to make more efficient use of its buildings and collocate services in places that are convenient and accessible. There is no one model for what a community hub provides as the needs of every community are different.</p> <p>If the development of a new school is approved on the leisure centre site further engagement will take place with community representatives to determine the future community needs and priorities, whether that be services, facilities, activities and/or access arrangements (i.e. booking systems, opening hours etc).</p>		
<p><b>Category: Traffic Impact of Leisure Centre Site/Kirkliston High</b></p>		
17	Lack of Parking Space at the proposed school site or locally (staff/pupil use of residential)	103

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Planning guidance determines the levels of parking and design standards for a new school and the number of parking places provided and their location will be developed through the design process taking account of Planning requirements. As the proposed site is constrained, the Council will also explore opportunities to provide off-site parking for staff and visitors to the school.</p> <p>As part of any school development the Council would also seek to improve and actively promote active travel: walking, wheeling and cycling to school where possible and discourage the use of the cars. We will also engage with residents to explore other measures that could mitigate any impact on surrounding residential areas.</p>		
18	Concerns about impact of pick-up/drop-off times and access to the site on traffic	28
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>One of the main reasons people identified for having a school in Kirkliston was because of the opportunities it provides to improve children's travel time to school and encourage walking and wheeling rather than vehicular journeys. Accordingly, it is anticipated that drop-off and pick-up of pupils will be limited.</p> <p>A traffic impact assessment will be undertaken at regular intervals to monitor traffic management issues particularly once the new Early Years facility becomes operational. We will consult further with the community to develop appropriate measures to minimise the impact of any traffic congestion around the school and through the village.</p> <p>Until the design of the new school has developed, it will be difficult to assess the true impact it will have on traffic. This is because we do not yet know where vehicles will access the site from or what facilities and services will be on the site.</p>		
19	Concerns about the safety of pupils and other pedestrians during construction and around the site generally	15
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>During and after construction, the safety of pupils, staff, residents and visitors to the school site will be of paramount importance.</p> <p>As outlined in the response to question 14 the design team will need to develop a construction logistic plan along with the appointed contractor that takes into consideration health and safety for everyone as well as the ongoing operational needs of the Early Years facility and minimises the impact on residents. A separate access and egress will be necessary for construction related traffic.</p> <p>The traffic management strategies adopted in the design of the school and surrounding area will be developed through the traffic impact assessment undertaken as part of the design development process. Refer also to answer 18 (above).</p>		
20	The bus gate will need to be removed	11

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>There is no intention to remove the bus gate at this point but traffic management proposals will be discussed in more detail with the community if the proposal is approved.</p>		
21	Concerns about the wider impact of increased traffic and congestion across Kirkliston (inc. main crossroads)	157
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Reference should be made to answers 18 and 19 above.</p>		
22	Concerns about school bus parking	6
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>There are no detailed proposals at this stage. School transport is normally provided for high school pupils who live more than 3 miles from their catchment school or where there is no safe walking route. If a new high school is built on the leisure centre site, it is anticipated that all pupils will be within walking or wheeling distance from the school. The traffic assessment mentioned above will also include any recommendations for active travel improvements if required.</p> <p>Existing school bus arrangement for pupils who already attend Queensferry High School will continue but will be phased out over time once the catchment changes are implemented and the period of sibling guarantee has elapsed (see answer 32).</p> <p>If a high school on the Leisure centre site is approved the school bus pick up and drop off arrangements within the existing car park will be changed to another location once the construction process starts.</p>		
23	Concerns about lack of public transport links/requests for train station	19
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>This is outside the project scope for a new High School. However, the Council is exploring opportunities to improve the public transport networks and active travel around Kirkliston, Queensferry and Ratho. The next Local Development Plan will also provide people with an opportunity to say how their community should develop.</p> <p>Education and Transport departments within the Council will continue to collaborate on this project if proposals for a new school develop.</p>		
<p><b>Category: Educational Impact Kirkliston HS (negative)</b></p>		
24	Concerns about impact of single feeder primary school on social mix / consider larger catchment area	152

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>An all-through campus approach is a strategy that has been implemented in a number of learning communities across the country and many independent schools operate with this model. It has the potential to address the often difficult transition from primary to secondary as relationships are stronger and communication is easier. The potential for staff across both Kirkliston Primary and Secondary schools to embed a more collegiate and collaborative approach to the 3-18 curriculum will no doubt have significant benefits in terms of learners' progress as there will be a greater knowledge and understanding of each child and young person, with appropriate pace and challenge based on prior learning.</p> <p>In regard to the size of a new school's catchment area, reference should be made to answer 62.</p>		
25	Concerns that smaller year groups will make it difficult to support pupils with Additional Support Needs	1
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The Council respond to the learning needs of young people, not the numbers of them. To assume that there would be greater levels of support or learning in a larger school is incorrect. Support is directed where it is needed.</p>		
26	Concerns that a smaller school with require multi-level classes and have limited resources	95
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Multi-level classes are common in schools across the country. They can provide benefits through enabling learners to experience a level of learning that they might not otherwise receive, inspiring and encouraging them to achieve at a higher level through peer support and collaboration. Passionate and skilled teachers are crucial to achieving the best outcomes for learners.</p>		
27	Concerns that a small school will mean reliance on online and independent learning	24
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The City of Edinburgh Council has an Empowered Learning 1:1 Strategy with all learners from P6 upwards provided with an iPad. The educational benefits of this strategy are City Wide and relate to the ability to add breadth and depth to the curriculum for all learners, regardless of individual school context. For example, a learner from a school with a roll of 1,200 could access Mandarin through a digital offer supported through a much smaller school that is delivering it. The perception from those concerned is that the Digital Offer is somehow a replacement for face-to-face learning, when it is actually an enhancement and provides increased choice for all.</p>		
28	Concerns that a small school will limit curriculum choice	104

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>It would be common practice for closely located schools to work together to ensure that opportunities for partnership working are explored. For example, if Queensferry is providing History at AH level and Kirkliston isn't, then the curriculum would be aligned and co-constructed to ensure that learners have increased options across both schools. Curriculum choice is not defined by the size of a school. Enabling relevant and inspirational opportunities with individualised pathways can be developed through creative and innovative approaches to curriculum design.</p>		
29	Concerns that a school in Kirkliston will struggle to attract staff (inc. due to poor public transport)	44
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The Head Teacher of the school community will be crucial in establishing an innovative, creative and inspirational culture of leadership to develop staff and young people across the school. The appeal of being able to build a school community from a new, starting position should not be underestimated. This provides an opportunity to embrace ongoing curriculum review and for professionals to form and co-create learning experiences that are relevant and engaging for the young people. Far from it being a challenge to attract staff, the prospect is a unique and exciting one.</p> <p>Reference should be made to response 23.</p>		
30	Concerns that a Kirkliston HS will have offer poorer quality of education than Queensferry or Winchburgh	30
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The quality of education in any school, regardless of size, is driven by the professionals delivering it (see comments in response 29, above).</p>		
31	Concerns that a small school will not offer sufficient After School and Sporting opportunities	14
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Further options for increasing associated recreation and outdoor learning areas are being explored. The proposed site has a larger area than a number of established Secondary Schools in Edinburgh with larger rolls.</p>		
32	Concerns about the proposal splitting siblings between different schools	4
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>There will be no mandatory transfer of pupils from Queensferry High School to a new school in Kirkliston. The new school will grow from a single S1 intake with new stages added in subsequent years. Pupils already attending Queensferry High School may choose to transfer to the new school if their stage of education is available.</p> <p>When the new secondary school opens it would become the catchment secondary school for anyone living in the Kirkliston Primary School catchment area at that time. This means that P7 pupils from Kirkliston Primary School would attend the new secondary school when they reached S1.</p>		

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p>A P7 child entering S1 and with an older sibling already in Queensferry High School could apply to go to Queensferry High School if they wanted. Through standard placing processes a non-catchment placing request from pupils with older siblings already attending Queensferry High School would be prioritised.</p> <p>However, it is too early to confirm whether a sibling a guarantee would be offered if a new Kirkliston High School were to open. We will need to assess the impact a sibling guarantee would have on both Queensferry High School and the new school based on numbers and circumstances closer to the time. Too many pupils continuing to attend Queensferry High School from Kirkliston may make establishing the new school more difficult and may prolong the requirement for temporary accommodation at Queensferry High School.</p> <p>This position would be reviewed closer to the time when a new school was opening.</p>		
33	Concern about opening the new school will open one year group at a time (impact on first S1, lack of support)	12
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The Council has a responsibility to ensure all learners have access to the full curriculum and the necessary resources and learning experiences will be in place to achieve this for Kirkliston young people, from the time of its opening and onwards. For the beginning S1 cohort, the timetable will be devised and structured to enable enhanced opportunities for interdisciplinary learning. Subject specialists will work and plan together to provide thematic learning experiences for young people to achieve and attain within the BGE. Skills development and application of skills in different contexts will enhance and ensure pace in learners' progression.</p>		
34	Concern about narrow curriculum requiring that pupils travel to other schools (transport issues)	3
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Curriculum design and timetabling will be co-constructed in partnership with stakeholders to minimise any need for learners to travel. The Consortia arrangements in previous years - where learners have travelled to other schools to undertake courses not delivered in their schools - are rapidly being replaced by more creative, efficient and digital solutions.</p>		
35	Request for toilets for pupils not to be mixed gender	1
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>New school build designs generally include toilet blocks that feature full privacy individual/enclosed cubicles, with washing facilities that are more visible to mitigate against issues that schools often face with completely enclosed toilet facilities. As such, there is no specific gender considerations in the design and it is for the school community to determine how to sign and operate them.</p>		
<p>Category: General</p>		
36	Existing lack of amenities in Kirkliston (inc GP/Dental/Pool)	44

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The aim is that access to new high school facilities will improve and enhance existing service provision and activities on offer in the town/village. The flexible design and use of space will allow for other Council services and partner agencies to deliver services from the school that meets the needs of the community, either in face-to-face settings or digitally.</p> <p>The Council will work with other agencies including the NHS and Police to explore partnership opportunities as part of the development of a community hub.</p>		
<b>37</b>	Lack of investment in the village	2
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The proposal to build a new secondary school in Kirkliston would be a significant investment in the community, reducing pupils travel time to school and improving leisure and other community facilities. A £10m investment in new, improved Early Years facilities and expansion of the primary school is currently under way. Accordingly, this proposal and the work already under way represents considerable investment in Education and community facilities in Kirkliston.</p>		
<b>38</b>	Infrastructure impact across Kirkliston	36
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The impact on other infrastructure across Kirkliston could help address many of the concerns raised by those who feel that Kirkliston is lacking in amenities. The potential to relocate other services to a community hub at the school site could make available premises for alternative uses – either by other service providers or for commercial use. Accordingly, views will be sought during the design development process on the opportunities that a new community hub may present to address wider issues in the community.</p> <p>In regard to transport infrastructure, reference should be made to answers, 17, 18 and 19.</p>		
<b>39</b>	Other facilities should be retained (library, community centre)	13
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Responses from the informal consultation process have indicated that many people would like to retain the existing library and community facilities in the heart of the village. No decision has been made but could be explored in more detail as part of the community engagement process to determine the pro's and con's of these options (eg. increased opening hours/access to library services as part of the school or challenges for older people accessing the library if located to the west of the village.)</p> <p>Reference should also be made to answer 38.</p>		
<b>40</b>	Kirkliston also needs another primary school	1
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>A second primary school in Kirkliston was previously rejected by the community. For more information, reference should be made to answer 106.</p>		

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
41	Kirkliston is big enough for its own school. Proposal offers best value and future proofing.	228
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The proposal for a new secondary school in Kirkliston is based on the opinion that there is sufficient population of secondary age pupils within Kirkliston to support its own school. In the long term, a new school in Kirkliston is likely to offer better value than the only remaining alternative option, extending Queensferry High School. As a solution, a new school in Kirkliston is consistent with the Council's Corporate Property Strategy.</p>		
42	Kirkliston village is not big enough for a High School	8
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Between 2002 and 2022 the number of secondary age pupils living in Kirkliston Primary School's catchment area and attending a City of Edinburgh Council school has increased from 220 to 393. Projections for a new Kirkliston High School suggest that the number of pupils attending a Kirkliston High School would exceed 400 by 2036. In 2023, 13% of secondary schools in Scotland had rolls of less than 400 pupils. Accordingly, Kirkliston is of sufficient size to support a small secondary school.</p>		
43	Build new school to max capacity from the start to avoid future disruption	2
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Expansion of a new Kirkliston High School in future years would only take place if more housing were to be constructed in Kirkliston and this required that additional capacity be made available. This expansion would be funded by the new housing development(s). Accordingly, to construct a new Kirkliston High School with as much capacity as possible from the outset would presume that new housing will be delivered and also would be on the basis of unknown numbers of additional pupils. The current proposal for expansion is up to 1,200 pupils. However, the actual expansion requirement may be significantly less. Ultimately, expansion may never be required.</p>		
44	Excessive cost of running/ staffing a second High School	1
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The establishment of a new school would introduce new revenue costs for staffing and building running costs. It is the most expensive option.</p> <p>However, regardless of the solution identified, the Council will incur additional running and staffing costs. Expansion of Queensferry High School would also mean expansion of the school's management team, additional staffing allocations (teaching and non-teaching) and additional building running costs. Expansion of Queensferry High School would also require that current transport costs for pupils are retained.</p> <p>Reference should also be made to answer 114.</p>		
45	Ensure sufficient capacity for catchment growth	6
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Reference should be made to answers 42 and 43.</p>		

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
46	Loss of / relocation of recycling facilities	1
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>We will work with the relevant Council departments to identify an alternative site for recycling facilities.</p>		
47	Concerns about the temporary capacity required at Queensferry High School	10
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Once a decision has been made on the recommendations set out in the Consultation Outcomes report, work will commence on the development of solutions to allow the projected roll of Queensferry High School to be accommodated. Planning temporary arrangements that might be necessary before achieving clarity on the long-term solution risks abortive costs and missing opportunities to mitigate their impact. Solutions will be developed with Queensferry High School's management team and shared with the Parent Council ahead of any implementation.</p>		
<p><b>Category: Alternative Sites/Options</b></p>		
48	NPF4 criticism/challenge	4
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>A plan-led approach is the basic principle of the planning system. This means planning decisions must be made in accordance with the development plan, unless "material considerations" indicate otherwise.</p> <p>Changes to green belt boundaries can be reviewed as part of the preparation of a new local development plan (LDP). A new LDP (replacing the proposed City Plan 2030) will have to be in place by May 2028 and the Planning Department have started the first stage – 'Evidence Gathering' – of that process. There is no published timetable outlining the expected milestones towards the adoption of a new LDP.</p> <p>NPF4 was adopted by the Scottish Ministers on 13 February 2023 and forms part of the Council's Development Plan, along with the Edinburgh Local Development Plan (LDP 2016).</p> <p>NPF4 Policy 8 (Green belts) and LDP 2016 policy Env 10 (Development in the Green Belt and Countryside) control and manage development in the green belt to promote and facilitate compact urban growth, protect landscape quality and rural character and to improve biodiversity. Development in the green belt is very restricted and does not include schools.</p> <p>Applications for proposals that are contrary to the development plan are likely to be refused.</p> <p>The Council's Planning Department advised there are no material considerations that justify a departure from green belt policies.</p> <p>Accordingly, an application to build a school on the green belt would represent a 'challenge' to the green belt designation and could potentially be refused.</p>		
49	Buy other land / Compulsory Purchase	50
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p>		

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
	<p>The land around Kirkliston is in the green belt or countryside, where the development of a school is contrary to planning policy.</p> <p>The timescales to complete a CPO process are not fixed and it is likely to be refused if there is uncertainty around whether the intended use can be delivered. Accordingly, unless there is planning permission in place or an allocation in an adopted LDP an application to CPO any land is likely to be considered premature and will be refused.</p>	
50	Greenbelt and Countryside status should be challenged	76
	<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>See response to 48.</p>	
51	Don't want more housing	3
	<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>During the engagement of the proposed new LDP, City Plan 2030, communities were consulted in 2020 on the spatial strategy, including housing growth, across the city in a document called “Choices for City Plan”.</p> <p>The consultation included a proposal to allocate land to the east of Kirkliston for housing and included a new primary school and secondary school.</p> <p>Around 1,800 representations were received across the whole city. Kirkliston accounted for 810 of these representations – significantly more than any other area of Edinburgh – with 654 objections to a proposal to allocate a large site east of Kirkliston for housing.</p> <p>In response to the ‘Choices’ consultation, the proposed City Plan, approved by the Council for the statutory period of representation in September 2021, did not allocate any land around Kirkliston for housing (or a new school) and retained the green belt and countryside designations.</p> <p>During the representation period landowners promoted four sites as suitable for housing development around Kirkliston: ‘Almondhill, Kirkliston East, Land at New Liston Road and East Foxhall’.</p> <p>The proposed City Plan was submitted to the Scottish Ministers for Examination in December 2022 with no significant modifications. This means the sites promoted as suitable for housing by landowners are ‘unresolved representations’ that are now being considered by a Reporter(s) who is examining the proposed City Plan on behalf of Scottish Ministers.</p> <p>Since the proposed City Plan was submitted for examination, the Scottish Government published NPF4 which includes policy 8 Green Belts which restricts development in the green belt.</p> <p>This may make it unlikely that the Reporter(s) will propose any changes to the land around Kirkliston in their examination report. Accordingly, the land around Kirkliston may remain designated and protected as green belt, preventing development for housing.</p> <p>The examination report is expected to be published in February / March 2024.</p>	

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
52	More housing would be ok	6
<p data-bbox="129 338 497 365"><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p data-bbox="129 409 620 436">Reference should be made to answer 51.</p>		
53	More housing inevitable	8
<p data-bbox="129 528 497 555"><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p data-bbox="129 600 1501 667">As explained in responses to 48 and 51, the land around Kirkliston is designated as green belt and countryside that prohibits development for housing.</p> <p data-bbox="129 707 1517 775">A new local development plan is required to be in place by May 2028 and green belt boundaries can be reviewed as part of its preparation. Communities will have the opportunity to participate and influence its shape.</p> <p data-bbox="129 815 1517 918">Accordingly, it seems unlikely that land around Kirkliston will be released for housing in the short-term. However, a new school in Kirkliston would be built with a 60-year lifespan and it must have the flexibility to respond to changes in circumstances. For this reason, it will be designed with an expansion strategy.</p>		
54	Queensferry HS ( Junior school on hub site ),extend into Dundas Park	47
<p data-bbox="129 1008 497 1034"><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p data-bbox="129 1079 1501 1214">Dundas Park, located on the west side of the B800 between Kirkliston and Queensferry, is designated green belt and is also a 'Historic Garden and Designed Landscape' and a 'Special Landscape Area' with additional planning policies (Env 7 Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Env 11 Special Landscape Areas) that further restrict development.</p>		
55	New HS in Queensferry	5
<p data-bbox="129 1319 497 1346"><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p data-bbox="129 1391 1501 1525">Effective estate management requires that the Council make the best use of existing capacity. Development of a new secondary school in Queensferry that is in addition to the existing Queensferry High School would require that significant sections of Queensferry be aligned with the new school. This would leave significant spare capacity in Queensferry High School.</p> <p data-bbox="129 1570 1501 1637">Additionally, a site would be required in Queensferry for a new secondary school. Current pressures on land inside Queensferry's urban area mean that this would be challenging.</p>		
56	West of M90	8
<p data-bbox="129 1744 497 1771"><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p data-bbox="129 1816 1485 1883">The land west of the M90 is designated 'Countryside' and under planning policy is of equivalent importance as green belts where most development, including schools, is prohibited. See response to 48 for more information.</p>		
57	North of Kirkliston	5

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The land north of the Kirkliston is 'Green belt' and under planning policy development, including schools, is prohibited. See response to 48 for more information.</p>		
58	Winchburgh	18
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>In late 2017 the Council consulted with the Kirkliston community on three potential solutions including realigning Kirkliston with a new secondary school in Winchburgh. This option was rejected due to differing term dates between Edinburgh and West Lothian and because many people felt that Kirkliston is part of Edinburgh and should be served by an Edinburgh school.</p>		
59	Allison Park for School site or pitches	1
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Allison Park is not owned by the Council. It belongs to the Hopetoun Estate. Council officers have been in contact with the Hopetoun Estate to discuss the use of Allison Park for pitches and will continue to develop this as an option should engagement with the community suggest that this is a potentially valuable discussion.</p> <p>Allison Park is listed as Open Space by the Council and so its development for anything other than pitches would be contrary to existing Planning policy.</p>		
60	West Edinburgh (inc. Newbridge)	14
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>In late 2017 the Council consulted with the Kirkliston community on three potential solutions including realigning Kirkliston with a new secondary school on a site in Ratho Station. This option was rejected by the Kirkliston community due to concerns about travel routes to a school in this area.</p>		
61	Primary on LC Site, HS on PS site	6
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>This solution would have significant cost and timescale implications. It would require that a statutory consultation be progressed – this would take approximately 6 months. If it were successful, it would then be necessary to build a new primary school before work on a new secondary school could begin. This would delay the secondary school solution by approximately four years.</p> <p>The cost of building two schools rather than one would also be a consideration.</p>		
62	Site with wider PS catchment area greater pupil capacity?	30
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>As part of the consultation undertaken in June 2023, limited consultation was undertaken with the Hillwood and Ratho Primary School communities. Neither community saw value in being part of a new Kirkliston High School catchment area. Just as Kirkliston rejected travelling to Ratho Station when consulted on a school there in 2017, parents from Hillwood expressed concern about travel to Kirkliston.</p>		

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p>Hillwood is a small school in Ratho Station with a year group of approximately 10 pupils. Accordingly, its inclusion in a Kirkliston High School catchment would make little impact on the overall school roll. Hillwood currently feed to Craigmount High School but will most likely feed to a new West Edinburgh High School in the future.</p>		
<b>63</b>	Include Buiyeon Rd in Kirkliston catchment	1
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>This would not make effective use of the capacity available at Queensferry High School. It would also require that pupils who can walk to their current school be bussed to a school in Kirkliston. This would be contrary to the Council's Living Well Locally policy and remove one of the key benefits of locating a school in Kirkliston which is to encourage active travel.</p>		
<b>64</b>	Include Dalmeny PS in Kirkliston catchment	2
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The distances between Dalmeny and Queensferry High School and Dalmeny and Kirkliston are not comparable. It would require that pupils who can walk to their current school be bussed to a school in Kirkliston. This would be contrary to the Council's Living Well Locally policy and remove one of the key benefits of locating a school in Kirkliston which is to encourage active travel.</p>		
<b>65</b>	House builders to be responsible for delivering HS and infrastructure improvements	14
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The Council can only secure contributions from developers when an application for planning permission is decided, known as developer contributions secured under section 75 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act.</p> <p>Developer contributions cannot be used to address existing deficiencies in infrastructure and must be proportionate and relate in scale and kind to the development proposed.</p> <p>The decision to grant planning permission, and secure any contributions, was issued in May 2009 (Development Management Sub-Committee approved the application in April 2008, ref: 06/05149/OUT). At that time there was sufficient capacity at Queensferry High School to accommodate the development and therefore contributions were sought to provide additional primary school accommodation only because there was no evidence base, at that time, to justify contributions towards secondary school accommodation.</p> <p>Limited funding was secured from housing developments in Queensferry to increase the capacity of the secondary school, this was in line with construction costs at the time and in proportion to the impact of the developments being approved.</p> <p>Any future applications for housing development in Kirkliston will be required to make a contribution towards additional primary and secondary accommodation.</p>		
<b>66</b>	Satelite campus with Queensferry, or middle school option for all PS's	16

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>There is no clear rationale for a proposal that would require pupils from Queensferry travel to Kirkliston. Pupils in Queensferry, whether at primary or secondary level can currently walk or wheel to their school. This proposal would require the daily bussing of children from Queensferry to Kirkliston, adding to traffic and is contrary to the Council's Living Well Locally policy. The educational benefits for the majority of pupils and families affected are unclear.</p>		
67	Newbridge/Ratho	1
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>In late 2017 the Council consulted with the Kirkliston community on three potential solutions including realigning Kirkliston with a new secondary school on a site in Ratho Station. This option was rejected by the Kirkliston community due to concerns about travel routes to a school in this area. The site in Ratho Station is now no longer available.</p>		
68	Burnshott Road / Army barracks / East of Kirkliston (site G)	42
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The Burnshott Road site has been proposed and offered as a solution by a housing developer, this is one of the unresolved representations being considered by the Reporter(s) during the examination of the proposed City Plan (see response to 51 for more information).</p> <p>Other land to the east of Kirkliston is designated green belt and under planning policy development, including schools, is prohibited. See response to 48 for more information.</p> <p>The Army Barracks at Craigiehall is approximately 3 miles from the eastern edge of Kirkliston, a similar distance to Queensferry High School. The road between Kirkliston and Craigiehall Barracks is a single carriage road with no pavements and would require significant investment. Furthermore, Craigiehall is located in the green belt and to the east of Edinburgh Airport's runway. In a response to an application to develop the site for housing and a school (reference: 18/10545/PPP) Environmental Protection recommended, in the strongest possible terms, that the application is refused because noise levels would exceed all relevant guidance from exposure to aircraft noise.</p>		
<p><b>Category: Leisure Centre Positive</b></p>		
69	Site size acceptable/only viable option	34
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The viability study produced by the Council demonstrates a fit of all the core facilities on the Leisure Centre site and it is currently the only site in Kirkliston where a new school could be delivered.</p>		
70	Leisure Centre Underutilized	7

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The aim is for future schools to be ‘more than a school’. They should be welcoming, shared space for everyone, shaped by Place Principles that create, develop and contribute to communities. The mix of services will focus on lifelong learning, cross generational activities, health and wellbeing, social services, youth development, family support and community development. The provision of quality, flexible, shared facilities will likely improve footfall and utilisation and deliver best value for the Kirkliston community as a whole.</p>		
71	20 Minute Neighbourhood / reduced travel time	21
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The Councils Learning Estate Strategy sets out the ambition for inclusive lifelong learning hubs, where public services can be co-located within a Learning Campus. Access and security arrangements can be designed in such a way as to provide flexibility and sharing of agreed spaces during and out with school hours. The services and facilities incorporated within the community hub will depend on the needs of the local community which will be explored during the community engagement and design development process but will allow for the appropriate services to be delivered locally and avoid the need to travel to other localities for access to these services.</p>		
72	Small school better than over-sized school, more suitable for pupils with additional learning needs	6
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>A school should provide a high-quality learning and teaching experience for all its pupils. The elements needed to achieve this in any school, irrespective of its size, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the quality and flexibility of the learning and teaching environment;</li> <li>• the quality of leadership available in the school;</li> <li>• the level of parental engagement forthcoming for individual pupils; and</li> <li>• the school’s overall ethos and culture.</li> </ul> <p>While City of Edinburgh Council believe that the size of a school will not necessarily determine its success, it does think that larger schools provide more potential for learners to thrive.</p> <p>A larger school roll requires more staff. More staff provides greater opportunities for leadership roles, and in terms of professional learning, greater collaboration and sharing of practice.</p> <p>With more teaching staff available, with a wider range of skills, and with larger numbers of learners, there is greater likelihood that a larger school will be able to offer a wider range of courses and wider achievement opportunities.</p> <p>They also provide the opportunity to create truly personalised and flexible pathways for learners through maximising partnership working and vocational pathways.</p> <p>With greater numbers, smaller classes can also be created in targeted areas, and good practice, such as mentoring and peer collaboration, can be maximized through the development of a stronger shared ethos. There can also be greater opportunities for staff to develop the skills required to meet the needs of pupils with additional support needs.</p>		

<b>Issue No.</b>	<b>Issue Summary</b>	<b>Occurrences</b>
<b>73</b>	A new Kirkliston HS would provide improved pitches	3
<u>Council Response / Comments</u>		
The pitch strategy for a new school would be developed to comply with Sport Scotland's guidelines through consultation with Edinburgh Leisure and community representatives.		
<b>74</b>	A new Kirkliston HS would provide improved Leisure and Sports Facilities	27
<u>Council Response / Comments</u>		
The aim of the proposal is that the existing leisure centre facilities will be replaced with newer, larger and better equipped leisure facilities similar to Queensferry which will be available for use by the community along with other meeting, social and activity spaces if desired. In regard to swimming pool provision, refer to answer 75.		
<b>75</b>	A Swimming Pool is required in Kirkliston	10
<u>Council Response / Comments</u>		
Sport Scotland have advised that there is sufficient swimming pool provision in the local area. Winchburgh and Queensferry both have pools available for public use. The significant capital costs and ongoing running costs associated with a swimming pool also mean this is not part of the generic brief for a new school in Kirkliston.		
<b>76</b>	Using the Leisure Centre site provides opportunities to improve community access to Social Spaces	1
<u>Council Response / Comments</u>		
The integration of a community hub within the school campus will improve access to quality meeting and social spaces for all to access.		
<b>77</b>	Using the Leisure Centre site provides opportunities to replace existing facilities	2
<u>Council Response / Comments</u>		
Whilst it is the intention to replace and improve the leisure centre facilities as part of the proposal, no decision has been made about the relocation of existing Library or Community Services at this stage or what impact that would make on detailed design, scope or operational aspects of a new school. However, this is something that could be explored further with relevant stakeholder representatives as part of the design development process.		
<b>78</b>	The Leisure Centre site has then benefit of being on the edge of the village	1
<u>Council Response / Comments</u>		
It would be preferable for a community hub to be located in the centre of a village as this is usually the place most readily accessible for residents. However, a central location is not available and a site on the edge of the village is the only deliverable option.		
<b>79</b>	A new Kirkliston HS on the Leisure Centre site would improve Active Travel, reduce traffic and transport costs	56

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The proposal would promote active travel by bringing secondary provision within easy walking and wheeling distance for children in Kirkliston. This would, eventually, reduce the requirement for school buses between Kirkliston and Queensferry, reducing costs and carbon emissions. The design development process would include consideration of how active travel could be better supported through infrastructure improvements if deemed necessary.</p>		
<p><b>Category: Educational Impact Kirkliston HS (positive)</b></p>		
80	Pupils at a new Kirkliston HS would benefit from easier access to After School Activities	4
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>A new school in Kirkliston would provide opportunities for a variety of after school clubs and activities to be based in Kirkliston. This would be developed as the facilities on offer at the new school were agreed and operational plans for a new school were established. The Council would consult further with the local community, sports and other groups to determine the after school activities and clubs offered.</p>		
81	The Council should consider an all through school in Kirkliston	1
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>While an all-through school is not proposed; the proximity of Early Years, primary and secondary provision would make a campus approach a likely model for a new school. This could have significant transition, learning and teaching advantages as resources are shared and colleagues across sectors are able to share best practise. It would make supporting children through their learning easier and build continuity and consistency. This campus approach will be the subject of discussions with the Kirkliston community as part of the design development process.</p>		
82	A small village high school would benefit from a strong community connections and support	2
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>It is widely accepted that some of the advantages of small schools can be the stronger sense of community and the strong connections between teachers and learners. However, reference should be made to answer 72.</p>		
83	A new Kirkliston HS would be good for pupils with Additional Support Needs	1
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The Council respond to the learning needs of young people, not the numbers of them. To assume that there would be greater levels of support or learning in a larger school, or better levels of support in a smaller school is wrong. Support is directed where it is needed.</p>		
84	A new Kirkliston HS would provide the standard of education Kirkliston pupils deserve	3
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Regardless of where they are from or the school they attend, the Council endeavours to provide all pupils with inclusive, equitable and valuable learning opportunities.</p>		

<b>Issue No.</b>	<b>Issue Summary</b>	<b>Occurrences</b>
<b>85</b>	A new Kirkliston High School would attract staff	1
<u>Council Response / Comments</u>		
Reference should be made to answer 29.		
<b>86</b>	St Margaret's RC PS would act as a second feeder to a new Kirkliston HS	1
<u>Council Response / Comments</u>		
Pupils from schools other than Kirkliston Primary School will be able to make an out of catchment placing request to attend a new high school in Kirkliston. This would include pupils from West Lothian. Primary school pupils currently attending St Margaret's RC Primary School in Queensferry and living in the Kirkliston Primary School catchment area would be able to attend a new Kirkliston High School as their designated catchment non-denominational school.		
<b>87</b>	A new Kirkliston HS would make transitions easier from primary to secondary	2
<u>Council Response / Comments</u>		
Reference should be made to answer 81.		
<b>Category: Queensferry HS (negative)</b>		
<b>88</b>	An extended Queensferry High School would be too big (exceeding agreed capacity), impacting on quality of education	131
<u>Council Response / Comments</u>		
While City of Edinburgh Council believe that the size of a school will not necessarily determine its success, it does think that larger schools provide more potential for learners to thrive.		
In 2021 James Gillespie's High School had Edinburgh's highest school roll (1,524 pupils). As of 2021 there were 15 schools in Scotland with a roll exceeding 1,500 pupils and 4 exceeding 1,800 pupils. The largest schools in Scotland were Larbert High School in Falkirk (2,021 pupils) and Holyrood Secondary School in Glasgow (2,210 pupils).		
Refer to answer 72 for more information.		
<b>89</b>	Extending Queensferry High School would impact on the suitability of existing spaces/facilities	41
<u>Council Response / Comments</u>		
If Queensferry High School were to be extended, some class spaces and social spaces such as the dining room and assembly spaces would be adapted and refurbished. These would need to be bigger to accommodate higher numbers of pupils.		
<b>90</b>	Extending Queensferry High School would create traffic, congestion and safety issues – particularly on Station Road	93

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>If Queensferry High School were to be extended a Traffic Assessment would be submitted as part of any planning application.</p>		
<b>91</b>	There is no provision for the parking buses from Kirkliston	23
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>If Queensferry High School were to be extended, the space provided for buses picking up and dropping off pupils from Kirkliston would be reviewed. This would be developed as part of the design process and in conjunction with a Traffic Impact Assessment if required.</p>		
<b>92</b>	Extending Queensferry HS would cause disruption to pupils and the wider community	44
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>If Queensferry High School were to be extended a new building would be constructed adjacent to the existing school. This would mean that the main school building could continue to operate as normal while construction took place.</p> <p>The design team would develop a construction logistics plan along with the contractor eventually appointed to the project that would take into consideration the operation of the school and seek to limit disruption to surrounding properties.</p>		
<b>93</b>	Extending Queensferry HS would have an impact on surrounding residential areas (anti-social, overlooking)	12
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>If Queensferry High School were to be extended any concerns relating to the look of the building and its proximity to surrounding properties would be addressed through the planning process.</p>		
<b>94</b>	Extending Queensferry HS would create parking issues around the site	31
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>If Queensferry High School were to be extended the impact on parking provision and an assessment of requirement would be undertaken as part of a wider Traffic Assessment if requested through the planning process. If necessary, the Council would work with the school and the adjacent Community Sport Hub to consider parking arrangements.</p>		
<p><b>Category: Queensferry HS (positive)</b></p>		
<b>95</b>	Extending Queensferry High School will maintain existing community links	5
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>A new secondary school in Kirkliston would not mean the end of links between the two communities. The need for partnership working between the two schools could provide the opportunity to develop on existing relationships to the benefit of both communities.</p>		

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
96	Queensferry High School will offer greater curriculum choice	4
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>With more teaching staff available, with a wider range of skills, and with larger numbers of learners, there is greater likelihood that a larger school will be able to offer a wider range of courses and wider achievement opportunities. However, through partnership working there is no reason why smaller schools cannot offer a curriculum that meets the needs of its pupils.</p>		
97	There is sufficient space for expansion at Queensferry High School (incl. use of Hub)	3
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Initial feasibility work shows that extension of Queensferry High School can be achieved and that there is sufficient room to do this. This would be based on a separate building being constructed either in the carpark at the front of the existing building or behind the school on the existing basketball court.</p>		
98	Improve public transport links - cheaper than running cost of a new High School	1
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Improved public transport, while desirable, would not avoid the requirement for pupils from Kirkliston to travel to Queensferry High School. Extending Queensferry High School would also require significant capital investment and increase the running costs of the school.</p>		
99	Queensferry High has an established reputation; a new school would not	6
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Every new school will require time to establish its reputation, however, we are sure that a new high school in Kirkliston would be a success.</p>		
<p><b>Category: Criticism of the Council</b></p>		
100	Lack of consultation / poor communication /more consultation required	12
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The Council has spent more than six years exploring multiple options, solutions and variations with the Kirkliston community. This has included public meetings and information events; attendance at meetings of the Community Council and Kirkliston Primary School's Parent Council; flyering homes around the Leisure Centre site and numerous engagements with landowners, developers and planners. The options consulted on to date have included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A new secondary school in West Edinburgh at the International Business Gateway (IBG) site.</li> <li>2. Alignment with Winchburgh Academy.</li> <li>3. A new secondary school at Ratho Station.</li> <li>4. A new secondary school at the Burnshot Road site.</li> <li>5. A new secondary school in West Edinburgh at the West Town site.</li> <li>6. Extend Queensferry High School</li> </ol> <p>These options have all been rejected by the community or, in the case of the Burnshot Road site, are undeliverable due to Planning restrictions.</p>		

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p>Additionally, in response to the Council’s CityPlan 2030 “Choices” consultation in 2020 the Kirkliston community overwhelmingly rejected the release of land for housing, resulting in the proposal for the release of land for housing and a new secondary school being left out of the final CityPlan 2030 document approved by the Council in November 2022.</p> <p>The latest consultation was advertised in Kirkliston using lamp-post wraps, emails to parents of pupils in early years, primary and secondary school, to the community Council and Parent Council’s. Posters were put up in the local library, in the local Scotmid and other local businesses and an advert was placed in the local press. Accordingly, every reasonable effort has been made to make people aware of the consultation and give them the opportunity to have their say.</p>		
101	Lack of involvement of Queensferry in the statutory consultation process with no feedback from previous consult processes	1
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>While the area principally affected by the proposals in this consultation is Kirkliston, parents of pupils in early years, primary and secondary schools in the Queensferry area were notified of the consultation. Additionally, the Community Council were advised and had been involved in previous engagement leading up to this consultation. Copies of the documents were made available in Queensferry library and the consultation was advertised in the local press.</p> <p>Extending Queensferry High School was not specifically included as an option as this does not require statutory consultation. Previous engagement highlighted the lack of support for this as an option.</p>		
102	Concerns about the impact of the Queensferry voice in a consultation about Kirkliston	2
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>This statutory consultation is open to all residents within the catchment area of Queensferry High School which is directly affected by these proposals. The consultation is not a ‘first past the post’ vote for one option or another but is a way for officers to elicit the views and ideas of individuals and groups to help inform the decision-making process.</p>		
103	The whole process has been too slow / decision too late	21
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The pace of the process reflects the significant levels of engagement that the Council has undertaken in its exploration of options with the Queensferry and Kirkliston communities. Section 105 (below) describes the process since approval of the replacement Queensferry High School.</p> <p>Council Officers are of the view that all alternative deliverable options have now been exhausted and that a decision is now required to give people certainty about the future of secondary school provision for Kirkliston.</p>		
104	The consultation process is divisive, splitting communities.	4

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>It is recognised that there are several communities affected by any decisions made through this process and that views will differ between communities and between individuals. It is not the intention to divide communities but to offer communities and individuals equal opportunities to represent their views, needs and priorities through this process. Accordingly, the process has sought to present the facts and options available in as fair and balanced a manner as possible to all affected stakeholders.</p>		
105	Longer term education planning has been poor (inc. size of QHS)	69
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Section 106 (below) provides more comment on Education infrastructure planning in Kirkliston more generally. However, in regard to the planning of secondary school provision for Kirkliston, it has been the case since the replacement Queensferry High School was approved that another solution was required for secondary pupils from Kirkliston.</p> <p>Queensferry High School was designed in 2016 to accommodate pupils from Queensferry, including those from new housing. However, its design did not include for pupils from Kirkliston. This is because when the funding for the new school was approved by Council in <a href="#">November 2016</a>, it was on the basis that a catchment change would be required so that pupils from Kirkliston would go to a different secondary school.</p> <p>In late 2017 the Council consulted with the Kirkliston community on three alternative secondary school options for Kirkliston:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A new secondary school in West Edinburgh at the International Business Gateway (IBG) site;</li> <li>2) A new secondary school in Winchburgh;</li> <li>3) A new secondary school at Ratho Station.</li> </ol> <p>These options were rejected by the community.</p> <p>In 2018 a new school in Kirkliston was proposed as an alternative option for pupils from Kirkliston. The problem has been finding a site for a new secondary school in or around Kirkliston as most of the land is privately owned. The other issue has been that the release of 'greenfield' sites around Kirkliston has not been supported by Planning policy. The Council's Education Department have waited for the release of the CityPlan 2030 to see if it would change Planning Policy to support the development of a new school in Kirkliston.</p> <p>However, in response to the CityPlan 2030 "Choices" consultation in 2020 the Kirkliston community overwhelmingly rejected the release of land for housing, resulting in the proposal for the release of land for housing and a new secondary school being left out of the final CityPlan 2030 document approved by the Council in November 2022.</p> <p>This latest statutory consultation follows a period of extensive informal engagement beginning in 2022.</p> <p>Accordingly, the planning of education provision for Kirkliston has been a long process that has responded to, and been shaped by, engagement with the community.</p>		
106	The Planning system failed Kirkliston from both a housing and infrastructure perspective. A masterplan for the village is required that includes older people's housing.	64

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>These comments relate specifically to Planning processes that are beyond the scope of this consultation. However, it is worth noting that the Education infrastructure planned in Kirkliston as part of successive Local Development Plans has been the subject of various consultations with the wider community.</p> <p>The Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan was adopted by the Council in June 2006. The plan allocated land for new houses on the north side of Kirkliston. A brief for the site was included as part of the Local Plan and this stated that “due to the scale of development proposed, a new single stream primary school will need to be provided to serve the new housing”. However, a consultation with the community on the draft development brief in July/August 2006 identified the delivery of a new primary school as the community’s greatest concern. The Parent Council of Kirkliston Primary School objected to the new primary school as they were concerned that a new primary school would divide the community. As a result the proposal was changed and instead the existing school was extended.</p> <p>Further expansion of the Primary School has since been necessary and this was the subject of informal engagement and then a statutory consultation process in 2019. Details of this process are available here: <a href="#">Proposal to Establish an Annexe of Kirkliston Primary School at Kirkliston Leisure Centre - City of Edinburgh Council - Citizen Space</a></p>		
<b>107</b>	The Council has a Planning bias for young families, housing of older people is neglected	1
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>This statement has been passed to the Council’s Planning department for consideration.</p>		
<b>108</b>	Economic, Social and Children’s Rights impact assessments are required.	2
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Until the design of a new school has progressed further and it is clearer what services beyond education a new secondary school might offer, how it could be accessed by the community and what facilities it would provide, the social and economic impact a new secondary school could have are difficult to assess. This level of design requires significant community input.</p> <p>An Integrated Impact Assessment would be prepared as part of the Business Case which would be required to secure funding for a new secondary school in Kirkliston once further design development has taken place. This would consider the impact of a decision to progress with the proposal on people with protected characteristics, including children.</p>		
<b>109</b>	An Educational Benefits/disbenefits analysis is required for a Kirkliston HS or extending Queensferry HS	2
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The statutory consultation proposes a new secondary school in Kirkliston. An Educational Benefits statement in relation to this proposal is included as part of the consultation paper. This statement has been reviewed by Education Scotland who have provided their own report detailing their views on the Council’s Educational Benefits statement. Further information on this, including the Council’s responses to points raised in Education Scotland’s report are provided in the <a href="#">Consultation Outcomes Report [LINK]</a></p>		

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p>Extending Queensferry High School is not specifically given as an option. There is no statutory requirement to consult on an extension to an existing school (unless this would introduce additional stages of education). Furthermore, regardless of whether the proposal for a new secondary school in Kirkliston is progressed or not, it is likely that some degree of temporary extension may be required at Queensferry High School.</p>		
<b>110</b>	Criticism of Traffic Survey and recommendations which will be ignored	1
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The traffic survey work undertaken to date is high level and would be developed further if the proposal to establish a secondary school on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site were to progress. In these circumstances, traffic impact assessments would be undertaken at regular intervals to monitor traffic management issues particularly once the new Early Years facility becomes operational. We would consult further with the community to develop appropriate measures to minimise the impact of any traffic congestion around the school and through the village.</p>		
<b>111</b>	A business case is required to demonstrate best value and pros and cons for each option	4
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Regardless of the solution finally adopted to address accommodation pressures at Queensferry High School, a business case will be required to secure funding for the project. This will require approval by the Council's Finance and Resources Committee. Accordingly, while approval of the current proposal following the outcome of this consultation would provide the Council with the legal right to establish secondary education on the Leisure Centre site; it would not guarantee the delivery of this as a solution. Other permissions, such as Planning and approval from the Scottish Government for dispensation from site size regulations would also be required.</p>		
<b>112</b>	The proposal does not include an assessment of full life cycle greenhouse gas emissions.	1
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Environmental impact studies would be undertaken as part of the design development process.</p>		
<b>113</b>	The Council proposal is a quick fix, 'sticking plaster', last minute, take it or leave it solution.	45
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The proposal put forward is for a school that can be extended from a 600 pupil capacity up to 1,200 pupils if Kirkliston were to grow in the future. Accordingly, it is not a "sticking-plaster" solution but is a future-proofed proposal for the long-term and offers a more strategic solution than the alternative which is to extend Queensferry High School with only limited ability to respond to any future growth in Kirkliston.</p> <p>It is not a "quick-fix" solution. It will take 5 years to design and build a new school. There would then be a significant period of transition as the new school grows. Establishing a new school is significantly more time consuming and expensive than extending an existing provision.</p> <p>Taking our time and waiting for an alternative option to appear is a possible course of action. However, the timescales for when or if an alternative school site would be available are unknown. The response from Kirkliston</p>		

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
	<p>residents to the City Plan 2030 Choices makes clear that there would be little support for the release of greenbelt land around Kirkliston for more housing.</p> <p>The greenbelt status of the land around Kirkliston means that, currently, the only way in which an alternative site option could be secured and a new secondary school in Kirkliston could be more than single-feeder would be through the construction of an additional primary school and a secondary school to support pupil generation from new housing.</p> <p>However, it appears unlikely that the Scottish Government examination of City Plan 2030 will result in any changes to the recommendation that the status of land around Kirkliston be protected. Accordingly, the only deliverable site for a new secondary school at this time is the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site.</p> <p>The proposal is also not a “last minute” solution. The Council has been engaging with the Kirkliston community on this issue since 2017. During that time the Council has proposed and explored seven different options and invited alternative solutions and ideas from the community. The options rejected by the Kirkliston community are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new secondary school in West Edinburgh at the International Business Gateway (IBG) site.</li> <li>• Realignment with Winchburgh Academy.</li> <li>• A new secondary school at Ratho Station.</li> <li>• A new secondary school in West Edinburgh at the West Town site.</li> <li>• Extension of Queensferry High School.</li> </ul> <p>The proposal is not ‘take it or leave it’. However, a solution to accommodation pressures at Queensferry High School does need to be found. If the proposal is rejected then, in the absence of any alternative, it will be necessary to extend Queensferry High School. This could be extension on a temporary basis with a view to exploring any alternative options that may appear in the future or it could be on a permanent basis to provide some degree of certainty.</p>	
114	The Council proposal is focused on cost and is the cheap option.	31
	<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The proposal put forward is not a cheap option and is not driven by cost. Extending Queensferry High School is likely to be cheaper in terms of the capital costs incurred constructing the building and would almost certainly be cheaper in terms of the ongoing revenue costs associated with staff and building running costs.</p> <p>The proposal is almost certainly more expensive than the Council contributing to the construction of a new secondary school in West Edinburgh which would be principally funded by housing developers.</p> <p>Accordingly, in terms of the options explored to date, the proposal put forward is likely to be one of the most expensive. However, the proposal has been made because while it may be more expensive, it is an investment that is likely to offer the greatest value in terms of what it contributes to the entire Kirkliston community.</p>	
115	A statutory consultation is premature until City Plan has concluded incl. representation from developers proposing new schools	1

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The proposed Local Development Plan, City Plan 2030, was consulted on in 2020 via the “Choices for City Plan” document. Around 1,800 representations were received across the whole city. Kirkliston accounted for 810 of these representations – significantly more than any other area of Edinburgh – with 654 objections to a proposal to allocate a large site east of Kirkliston for housing giving “the Council an opportunity to secure a site in Kirkliston for a new secondary school as well as significant financial contributions from developers for its delivery.”</p> <p>Given the significant objection from the Kirkliston population to the “Choices for City Plan” proposal the Education department considered that it is highly unlikely that through the Scottish Government’s examination process, any changes to City Plan 2030 affecting Kirkliston will be required.</p> <p>Additionally, one of the themes that has come back through the informal process is simply a request that a decision be made quickly. There has been enough delay and waiting.</p>		
116	Foxhall should not have been developed for Housing but utilised for a High School	1
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The 2016 Local Development Plan changed the allocation of the Foxhall site from green belt to urban area. An application for planning permission in principle for housing development was submitted in October 2017 (17/04571/PPP) and the Development Management Sub-Committee agreed on 12 September 2018 that the site was suitable for housing.</p> <p>Accordingly, by the time the discussions about a site for a new secondary school were under way, the site had already been allocated for housing.</p>		
117	It was a poor decision by the Council to build the Early Years Centre knowing it was the only site option for a High School	2
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>When the Early Years building was progressed in 2019, the Council did not consider the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site to be an option for the delivery of a new High School. However, following suggestions from within the Kirkliston community that the Leisure Centre should be considered as a site and considering the lack of deliverable alternatives, the Council has developed the Leisure Centre site as an option.</p> <p>While the presence of the Early Years campus reduces the size of the available site for a High School, it also presents excellent opportunities to create a true learning and community campus. Refer also to response 7.</p>		
118	Kirkliston is being overlooked. The Council don’t care about Kirkliston. The Proposals don't make sense.	44

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The proposal to build a new secondary school in Kirkliston would be a significant investment in the community, reducing pupils travel time to school and improving leisure and other community facilities. A £10m investment in new, improved Early Years facilities and expansion of the primary school is currently under way. Accordingly, Kirkliston is not being overlooked where provision of school places is concerned.</p>		
119	Information provided through the consultation is misleading and insufficient	11
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The Council has endeavoured to present the available information in as balanced a way as possible to allow people to make up their own minds about the proposals. However, the proposal presented is the only currently deliverable option and so alternative options are not presented. This follows extensive informal engagement during which other options were dismissed by the Kirkliston community.</p> <p>The design of a new secondary school in Kirkliston – what it would look like, the services it could provide, the access people would have to it and the location of pitch space are all issues that need to be resolved <i>with</i> the community through a design development process. Accordingly, the information provided by the Council has sought to illustrate what a new secondary school in Kirkliston could be like, without pre-empting community input in any final design solution.</p>		
120	There is mistrust in the consultation process and a lack of transparency from the Council.	23
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The Council has been engaging with the Kirkliston community on this issue since 2017. During that time the Council has proposed and explored seven different options and invited alternative solutions and ideas from the community. The options rejected by the Kirkliston community are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new secondary school in West Edinburgh at the International Business Gateway (IBG) site.</li> <li>• Realignment with Winchburgh Academy.</li> <li>• A new secondary school at Ratho Station.</li> <li>• A new secondary school in West Edinburgh at the West Town site.</li> <li>• Extension of Queensferry High School.</li> </ul> <p>The Council has made available all the information it has collected on these options – particularly in relation to the Leisure Centre site proposals. Council officers have met with representatives of the Kirkliston Primary School Parent Council, Kirkliston Community Council and various landowners and service providers in the area – not to mention similar groups in Queensferry – whenever that has been requested and as options have appeared.</p> <p>The Council have held three separate consultations on options in the last year alone, all of which included public meetings and/or drop-in sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 2022/January 2023 - <a href="#">Future Secondary School Provision for Kirkliston and Queensferry Areas</a></li> <li>• June 2023 - <a href="#">A New Kirkliston High School on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre Site</a></li> <li>• October 2023 - <a href="#">A New Non-Denominational Secondary School in Kirkliston and associated Catchment Changes</a></li> </ul> <p>The current consultation follows a statutory process. The way in which this consultation is conducted is set out in The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.</p>		

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
121	The proposed school would have a negative impact on the value of nearby houses	4
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>The Council has a statutory requirement to provide school places and a duty to provide local services. The impact this has on house prices – whether positive or negative – is not a material consideration for the Council in developing these proposals.</p>		
122	The Council has previously committed to projects that are still unfulfilled	18
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>This is a project that requires a solution and, having consulted extensively now requires that decisions are made to provide certainty about the future of secondary provision for Kirkliston.</p>		
123	The Council has a poor attitude: 'If you want better come up with it yourselves'.	3
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>As part of the informal engagement processes and the statutory consultation the Council have sought the views of the affected communities to help shape proposals. During the informal process there was an opportunity for local views and knowledge to help identify alternative solutions. In fact, it is through this process that the use of the Leisure Centre site was identified – a site that the Council had previously ruled out. However, having considered all other suggestions and explored numerous alternative sites and options, the proposals set out in the statutory consultation paper are the only option that would allow the delivery of a new secondary school in Kirkliston.</p>		
124	The decision is already made / Council ignored previous results.	17
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>A decision has not been made. A proposal that responds to previous consultation and engagement has been developed people's views on these proposals have been sought. The response to the consultation will inform the decision-making process. Ultimately, the decision on whether to approve the proposals will be made by all elected members at a meeting of the Council.</p> <p>There are a number of reasons why a statutory consultation on these proposals has been progressed despite the outcomes of the previous informal engagement process suggesting that they would be overwhelmingly rejected:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Previous engagement also suggests that there is clear support for a new secondary school in Kirkliston.</li> <li>2) The Leisure Centre site is currently the only site that a school can be built on due to restrictions on all other potential sites.</li> <li>3) The timescales for delivery of a school on the Leisure Centre site are within the Council's control.</li> <li>4) The major concerns expressed in previous engagements – transport, site size and outdoor facilities can be addressed through a detailed design process.</li> <li>5) If a new school in Kirkliston is not deliverable, then Queensferry High School will require to be extended – by far the least popular option in Kirkliston and in Queensferry.</li> <li>6) It can be demonstrated from experience elsewhere that a new secondary school in Kirkliston would work and would be very successful.</li> </ol>		
<p><b>Category: Other</b></p>		
125	Residents of Kirkliston do not have the required expertise to make a decision.	1

Issue No.	Issue Summary	Occurrences
<p><u>Council Response / Comments</u></p> <p>Consultation is undertaken to allow peoples views to be heard and <i>inform</i> the decision-making process. Ultimately the decision on whether to approve the proposals will be made by elected members at a meeting of the Council. In reaching their decision Councillors will consider the views expressed through the consultation process and the recommendations made by Council officers. These recommendations will be based on technical and professional input from relevant departments and consultants; statutory limitations and requirements and the degree to which the proposals meet the Council’s strategic and policy objectives.</p>		

**APPENDIX 3: Education Scotland Report**

# **Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**

**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The City of Edinburgh Council to build a new Kirkliston High School on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site.**

November 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 The City of Edinburgh Council's proposal to build a new Kirkliston High School on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site. 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 10 October 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;
- consideration of further representations made directly to Education Scotland on relevant educational aspects of the proposal including staff and pupil questionnaires; and
- visits to the site of Queensferry High School and Kirkliston Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

## 2. Consultation process

2.1 The City of Edinburgh Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The public consultation period ran from 11 September to 31 October 2023. The council published the proposal paper on its website. Paper and electronic copies of the proposal paper were made available to a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties. A well-attended public meeting with approximately 200 members of the public was held in Kirkliston Primary School on 10 October 2023. A number of concerns regarding the proposal were raised by attendees at the meeting.

2.3 Edinburgh City Council received 752 responses to their online questionnaire. Almost half of respondents, 49% said they do not support the proposal, with 43% agreeing and 7% undecided. A significant number of objections, including some from people who support or are undecided about the proposal, relate to the location of the new school. Respondents raised a variety of concerns including that the proposed site is too small, the potential loss of green space or leisure centre facilities, and that it could result in increased traffic congestion. A number of respondents suggested that the council should explore alternative locations, such as greenbelt land. A significant minority commented that Kirkliston is big enough to sustain its own secondary school rather than continue to be aligned with Queensferry High School. However, a significant minority of respondents are also concerned that having only one associated primary will limit the benefits for young people of mixing with a wider group of peers.

2.4 The council also carried out a separate online consultation with children and young people from Kirkliston Primary School and Queensferry High School. Almost half of children and young people, 44% support the proposal, 40% do not support the proposal, and 16% are unsure. In their responses, children and young people highlighted three key things that they liked about the proposal, namely; it would stop Queensferry High School becoming overcrowded; it would be closer to home, and; have improved sports facilities. Children and young people highlighted some things that they are worried about. Mostly, that the new school would be linked with only one primary school. A few were also unhappy about the loss of the current leisure centre facilities, the impact on traffic congestion, and the potential limitations of being in a smaller school. The two schools also carried out some additional consultation with pupils. The issues raised were broadly similar to the online survey. Children in P4-7 Kirkliston Primary School were mostly against the proposal, with 27 saying yes and 171 saying no. An internal staff survey, in this school, showed the majority were against the proposal.

### 3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The council have set out a number of educational benefits in the proposal. HM Inspectors agree that the proposed solution has the potential to help to address the current capacity issues at Queensferry High School. HM Inspectors also agree that a new school can offer modern facilities for learning. The proposed site would provide a school geographically closer to the community it serves. However, HM Inspectors consider that further detail is required to demonstrate fully how many of the educational benefits laid out in the proposal will be realised. In addition, a number of risks have been identified that might diminish the educational experience of young people, particularly as there will only be one associated primary school.

3.2 A majority of stakeholders who spoke to HM Inspectors, including staff, are unclear how many of the educational benefits the council has laid out in the proposal will be achieved. They raise a number of concerns. There is currently insufficient detail on how the use of new technology, to capitalise on remote learning and shared resources, will be delivered and be an improvement on current arrangements. Stakeholders are concerned that the proposed location provides a limited area for recreation and outdoor learning. They also have concerns about the room available for subjects which require specialist equipment. In its final report, the council needs to more fully demonstrate how the educational benefits in the proposal will be achieved to address the concerns raised.

3.3 The proposal outlines how the new school will offer a wide curriculum in partnership with neighbouring schools, including Queensferry High School. Senior leaders and staff in the nearby school that HM Inspectors spoke to have yet to be fully engaged in exploring how this will work. Neighbouring schools are close to or at capacity which may limit how fully this plan can be implemented. HM Inspectors consider that it is important for the council to ensure that senior leaders and staff are fully involved in planning ways to ensure a wide curriculum can be realised.

Well-developed partnership working in place from the outset will help to mitigate against these concerns.

3.4 Stakeholders raised a few other concerns. Parents and carers are concerned about air quality standards at the new site given its proximity to a major road network. The council is proposing to populate the new school gradually over time. In the first year with only the new S1, adding a new year group every year for the next five years. Most respondents are worried that potentially smaller staff numbers, in the first few years, may result in fewer lunchtime and after school clubs; insufficient specialised support for young people with particular needs; difficulty in providing supported study after school; and a limited level of subject expertise readily available in the school. Many stakeholders also said that almost all of the benefits of a new build would also be available should the council reconsider the option to extend Queensferry High School.

## 4. Summary

Overall, HM Inspectors do not believe that the council has explained sufficiently how all of the educational benefits, outlined in the proposal, can be fully realised on the chosen site. There are a number of issues, particularly in the short term, which may diminish the learner experience. The proposal does not provide sufficient detail on how partnership working, the use of technology and access to resources will provide the educational benefits set out. The potential limitations of the proposed site and likely staffing levels may present challenges in providing the quality of education that the council aspires to. In finalising the proposal, the council needs to say how identified concerns will be addressed and explain more clearly how all of the educational benefits will be realised. If approved, the council should ensure that there is appropriate planning and consultation on its implementation with Queensferry High School staff and senior managers.

**HM Inspectors  
November 2023**