

10am, Thursday, 29 June 2017

## Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Process on the Proposal to relocate Victoria Primary School to a new building in the Western Harbour

Item number

Report number

Executive/routine

Wards

4 (Forth); 12 (Leith Walk); 13 (Leith)

### Executive summary

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On [13 December 2016](#) the Education, Children and Families Committee approved that a consultation be undertaken proposing the relocation of Victoria Primary School to a new building in the Western Harbour area. The Committee also approved that the consultation propose the realignment of Victoria Primary School's catchment area to incorporate a section of Trinity Primary School's catchment and sections of the Western Harbour which are currently not within any school catchment area. Committee also approved that the consultation included proposals to realign the catchment areas of Holy Cross RC Primary School, St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School and Trinity Academy to include all areas of the Western Harbour.

A statutory consultation was undertaken between 30 January 2017 and 17 March 2017. The purpose of this report is to advise on the outcome of the consultation.

It is recommended that the proposal to relocate Victoria Primary School to a new building in the Western Harbour area be progressed and that the school catchment changes outlined in the statutory consultation paper are implemented.

### Links

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Council outcomes [CO1](#) and [CO2](#)

Single Outcome Agreement [SO3](#)

## **Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Process on the Proposal to relocate Victoria Primary School to a new building in the Western Harbour**

### **Recommendations**

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- 1.1 Approve that the proposal to relocate Victoria Primary School to a new building in the Western Harbour is progressed.
- 1.2 Approve that the changes to the Trinity and Victoria Primary School catchment boundary outlined in the statutory consultation paper are implemented in the November prior to the new building opening.
- 1.3 Approve that, with immediate effect, the catchment areas of Victoria Primary School, Holy Cross RC Primary School, Trinity Academy and St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School be extended as set out in the consultation paper to include the entire Western Harbour area.
- 1.4 To refer the budget requirements for delivery of the new school to full council for consideration as part of the council's capital budget setting process in February 2018.
- 1.5 Note that Council Officers will continue to provide support to community groups wishing to consider community ownership of the existing Victoria Primary School building through the Community Asset Transfer process.
- 1.6 Note the intention to progress, with immediate effect, the transfer of ownership of the proposed school site from Forth Ports to the Council and to undertake the necessary survey works on that site.
- 1.7 Note that the provision of temporary classrooms on the Victoria Primary School site may be required from August 2018 until such time as the new building becomes operational.
- 1.8 Note that should funding not be identified during the 2018-19 budget setting process, the delivery date for the new building would be delayed beyond August 2020 which will require that the temporary measures put in place at Victoria Primary School be extended pending the opening of the new school.

## Background

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- 2.1 Trinity Primary School and Victoria Primary School were identified as schools facing potential accommodation pressures for August 2017 and August 2018 respectively in the “Primary School Estate Rising Rolls” report to Education, Children and Families Committee on 24 May 2016. The report noted that while both schools faced pressures in the short-term from their existing catchment populations, the continuing development of the Western Harbour site would place a significant future pressure on Victoria Primary School while long-term proposals through the Local Development Plan for new residential development in the North Leith area around Forth Ports and the Scottish Government building may represent a significant future pressure on Trinity Primary School’s accommodation.
- 2.2 On [13 December 2016](#) the Education, Children and Families Committee approved that a consultation be undertaken regarding the proposed relocation of Victoria Primary School to a new building in the Western Harbour area. The Committee also approved that the consultation propose the realignment of Victoria Primary School’s catchment area to incorporate a section of Trinity Primary School’s catchment and sections of the Western Harbour which are currently not within any school catchment area. Committee also approved that the consultation included proposals to realign the catchment areas of Holy Cross RC Primary School, St Thomas of Aquin’s RC High School and Trinity Academy to include all areas of the Western Harbour.
- 2.3 In summary, the statutory consultation paper proposed the following:
- A new double stream (14 class) primary school would be established on the identified site in the Western Harbour.
  - The new school would be built with an expansion strategy, allowing up to a further 8 classroom spaces to be built at a future stage, if this should ultimately prove necessary.
  - All staff and pupils from Victoria Primary School would relocate to the new school building on its completion.
  - The new Victoria Primary School would include nursery classes.
  - All areas of Trinity Primary School’s catchment north of Lindsay Road and Commercial Street would become the catchment area of the new Victoria Primary School.
  - The date from when the catchment change above would be effective is the school year at the start of which the new primary school could be completed and opened and is entirely dependent on when that happens; the pupil registration process would be progressed on that basis. The new Victoria Primary School would become the non-denominational catchment school for

all P1 pupils living in the revised catchment area at the time of P1 registrations in the preceding November.

- The catchment changes affecting Trinity Primary School would only apply to new P1 pupils. However, younger siblings of pupils attending Trinity Primary School who attend the school at the time the catchment change is implemented and who are resident in the part of Trinity Primary School catchment proposed for transfer would be guaranteed a place at Trinity Primary School. This policy would only apply if, when the younger sibling was registering at P1, he/she continued to be resident in the part of the Trinity Primary School catchment which would transfer to Victoria Primary School and would still have an elder sibling at Trinity Primary School in the coming academic year.
- The catchment areas of Victoria Primary School, Holy Cross RC Primary School, Trinity Academy and St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School would be adjusted to include the sections of the Western Harbour area currently not contained within any catchment area. These catchment changes are not predicated on the provision of a new Victoria Primary School and would be effective immediately following Council approval.
- The existing Victoria Primary School site would be subject to the Council's standard disposal process. However, the Council will consider alternative uses of the Victoria Primary School building and make recommendations as part of this paper.
- The requirement for additional classroom space at Trinity Primary School would continue to be assessed through the Rising Rolls process.

2.4 It is currently expected that the new Victoria Primary School building would open in August 2020, although this is dependant on funding being identified through the current budget process to allow the project to be initiated.

## Main report

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- 3.1 The statutory consultation period ran from 30 January 2017 to 17 March 2017. The full statutory consultation paper is available online and a summary paper is provided in Appendix 1. A copy of the full statutory consultation paper is also available in the Elected Members lounge for reference.
- 3.2 Two public meetings were held during the consultation period: one at Trinity Primary School on 21 February 2017 and one at Victoria Primary School on 27 February 2017. Each public meeting was independently chaired. Council officials answered questions following a short presentation. Records of each meeting are included in Appendix 2.
- 3.3 Representations on the proposal were invited by letter, email or through a specifically designed online response questionnaire. 171 representations were

received. The number of completed online questionnaires was 162 (excluding 6 duplicates), with 9 comments received by email. The tables in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 list all the representations received and a summary of the issues that were raised. The full submissions are available in the Elected Members lounge for reference.

- 3.4 The majority of representations made were from parents or local residents. Local organisations including the Parent Councils of Trinity and Victoria Primary Schools, the Parent Council of Trinity Academy and Trinity Victoria After School Club Management Committee also made representations.
- 3.5 Those who responded using the online questionnaire were asked whether they supported the proposal as detailed in the statutory consultation paper. 128 (79%) responded that they did and 28 (17%) responded that they did not. A further 7 (4%) did not respond to this question.
- 3.6 It is worth noting that support from those residing within the Victoria Primary School catchment area was lower, with 65% responding that they supported the proposal and 30% responding that they did not. It is also worth noting that, within the Victoria Primary School catchment area support from people residing in the Western Harbour area stood at 85% compared to 54% in the rest of the catchment.
- 3.7 Two of the comments received by email expressed support for the proposal, one did not support the proposal and the remaining six did not specifically express a view either way but sought further details, made a specific point in relation to an element of the consultation or felt that insufficient information had been provided through the consultation process to allow a view to be formed.
- 3.8 A consultation exercise with P4 pupils was also carried out at Trinity Primary School and Victoria Primary School. The exercise was focused on what the pupils thought a new primary school building should be like. All comments that were submitted by pupils are available in the Elected Members lounge for reference.

### **Key Themes and Issues and Council Responses**

- 3.9 This section draws out the main themes and issues that were raised during the consultation period and sets out the Council's response.
- 3.10 A number of issues and points were raised, often recurrently, during the public meetings, in the responses received during the consultation period and through the consultation undertaken with pupils. These have been drawn out and aggregated into a number of themes which are identified in the table below which shows the percentage of responses received (where a comment was made) which contained a point or issue relating to that theme. Appendix 4 provides details of the various issues and points raised under each theme together with the Council's response.

## 3.11

Theme	% of Responses
Future Use of the existing Victoria Primary School building	22.8%
Traffic, Parking and Safety	18.7%
Secondary School Issues	17.5%
Trinity Primary School	14.0%
Western Harbour: Planning, the Environment and New School Design	12.9%
Alternative Options and Other Buildings	11.1%
New Victoria Site Size	8.8%
School Roll Projections	6.4%
Victoria Community, Identity and Ethos	4.1%
Temporary Solutions at Victoria Primary School	2.9%
The Consultation Process	1.8%
Catchment Change	0.6%

3.12 In summary, the three issues most commonly raised by respondents to the consultation were:

***The future use of the existing Victoria Primary School building***

The majority of respondents commenting on the future use of the Victoria Primary School building requested/suggested its continued use as a community asset should it no longer be required to serve as a school.

***Traffic, Parking and Safety***

Concerns were principally focused on the ability of the existing transport infrastructure in the Western Harbour to support the additional traffic generated by a school in the area.

## **Secondary School Issues**

Respondents noted that the consultation did not address the issue of rising rolls at Trinity Academy or the suitability of the facilities available at that school to support increasing demand.

### **Education Scotland**

- 3.13 As required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, all of the responses received during the public consultation were made available to Education Scotland for consideration. Education Scotland visited Trinity and Victoria Primary School and discussed the educational aspects with staff, pupils and parents before producing their final report. Education Scotland's report on the educational aspects of the proposals was received by the Council in April 2017. This report is attached in Appendix 5.
- 3.14 The conclusion of Education Scotland is that the proposal has clear educational benefits. The report states that '*The planned new building for Victoria Primary School has the potential to provide children who will attend the new school with a purpose-built learning environment well-suited to their learning needs. At the same time, the proposal will help to ensure that the increasing roll at Trinity Primary School is kept manageable, reducing the possibility of overcrowding.*'
- 3.15 Education Scotland noted that almost all stakeholders they met with support the proposal. However, they did note that parents of children at Victoria Primary School did not fully support the proposal.
- 3.16 Accordingly, Education Scotland did comment that in taking the proposal forward, the Council should continue to engage with stakeholders regarding the design of the new school building and its site and clarify further its projections for the new Victoria Primary School and how it will monitor the potential requirement for additional classroom space.
- 3.17 Furthermore Education Scotland requested that the Council take into account the concerns raised by parents at Victoria Primary School around safer routes to schools and traffic congestion should the proposals be progressed.

#### *Response to Education Scotland*

- 3.18 The Act requires that the Council's consultation report include 'a statement of the authority's response to Education Scotland's report'. The Council's response to the three key issues is provided in the following table.

<b>Issue Raised</b>	The council should continue to engage with stakeholders regarding the design of the new school building and its site. In doing this, the council should clarify further its projections for the new school's roll
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	and how it will monitor the possible need for additional classroom space.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	In taking its proposal forward, the council should continue to work with parents, pupils and staff at Victoria Primary School to ensure that the best possible transitional arrangements are in place for the period before the new school building is in operation.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>Appropriate processes and support will be put in place to facilitate the transfer of pupils, staff and resources from the existing to the new school and will include significant engagement with pupils, parents and staff. This process will ensure smooth and effective transition processes for those people affected by catchment change proposals and provide all stakeholders with clarity about what the new school building will mean for them.</p> <p>A new double stream Victoria Primary School will be sufficient to support demand within the new Victoria Primary School catchment area until at least 2026 when projections suggest the school will be operating at 85% of its available capacity. It is not anticipated that the significant development proposed in the North Leith area which <i>may</i> require that Victoria Primary School be extended beyond double stream will be completed until beyond 2030. Given the uncertainty around the development it is not possible at this time to give definitive timescales as to when an assessment of school capacity requirements would be necessary.</p> <p>However, should a more detailed proposal come forward for North Leith, the progress made in securing the necessary permissions will be monitored by the Communities and Families Department and the necessary contributions for the provision of school places will be sought. At this stage a working group including parent and other stakeholder representatives would be convened to review projections for the school in light of the information available and consider the actions necessary.</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The council should take the issues raised by parents, including concerns over possible traffic congestion, into account when it draws up a strategy for safe routes to school.
<b>Council Response</b>	A strategy to ensure the provision of safe routes to the new school will be developed at the same time as the design of the new school building. Following the completion of the new school building parents will continue to be involved in the process of monitoring these routes and identifying where improvements may be made through the agreement of the School Travel Plan.



	Many of the responses to this consultation which raised the issue of traffic congestion came from residents rather than parents and the Council is committed to identifying a means by which local residents can feed into the process prior to the submission of a Planning application so that issues relating to traffic, increased volumes of pedestrians and public amenity can be addressed where possible.
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## Conclusions

- 3.19 It is concluded that within the wider Trinity and Victoria communities there is significant support for the proposal. It is also clear that the proposal addresses accommodation pressures at both schools and, as set out in Education Scotland's response to the proposals, offers significant educational benefits for Victoria Primary School in particular.
- 3.20 The representation made by Victoria Primary School Parent Council offers "conditional support" for the proposal illustrating that support within the community most directly affected by the proposal is less overwhelming. This is reflected in the representations received with the greatest opposition to the proposal coming from within the more established areas of the Victoria Primary School catchment.
- 3.21 The concerns raised principally relate to the lack of certainty on the design of the new school building, traffic around the new school and the capacity of the identified school site to accommodate projected demand.
- 3.22 However, the Council believes that the size of the available site is appropriate for the level of provision to be made and the Scottish Government have agreed, granting the Council approval for dispensation from the School Premises (General Requirements and Standards) (Scotland) Regulations 1967 which prescribe the size of site for any new (or replacement) school. The Council believes that the concerns raised may be addressed through a collaborative working approach between the Council and the local community in the design of the new Victoria Primary School and the facilities that it will be provide. Accordingly, it is recommended that the proposal be approved to allow this more detailed consideration of the design to be progressed.
- 3.23 It is currently expected that the new Victoria Primary School building would open in August 2020. The catchment change affecting the boundary of Victoria Primary School and Trinity Primary School would be implemented in November 2019.
- 3.24 The catchment areas of Victoria Primary School, Holy Cross RC Primary School, Trinity Academy and St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School should be extended with immediate effect as set out in the consultation paper to include the entire Western Harbour area.

## Measures of success

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- 4.1 The provision of sufficient classroom accommodation to meet current and future demand for primary school places within the Victoria and Trinity Primary School catchment areas.

## Financial impact

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- 5.1 The financial implications on future capital and revenue budgets of the adopted LDP Action Programme, which includes the new Victoria Primary School, were reported to the Finance and Resources Committee on [19 January 2017](#). This report identified the risks associated with securing developer's contributions for LDP education infrastructure and requested that the initial budgets required to progress this new school project were established in the Capital Investment Programme through the Council's budget setting process in 2017. This was undertaken and an LDP capital budget is now available to cover the costs of progressing delivery of the school during 2017/18.
- 5.2 If it is agreed by Council that the new school should progress to construction, the identification and approval of the required additional capital and revenue funding would require to be established by Council as part of future budget processes in order for the school to be delivered by August 2020.

## Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

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- 6.1 The implementation of the proposal will address the Council's policy of ensuring sufficient accommodation for catchment pupils to secure a place at their catchment school. It will also address the Council objective of ensuring the suitability of the school estate by the withdrawal from a school building rated as "weak" by HMIE to a new, fit for purpose facility.
- 6.2 The implementation of the proposal will also officially confirm the catchment status of pupils in the Western Harbour area facilitating improved school estate management.
- 6.3 Discussions with Forth Ports regarding the transfer of the school site are progressing and access to the site has been granted for the purpose of undertaking survey work. It is assumed that the cost of the site acquisition will be nil due to provision made in the existing section 75 agreement with Forth Ports for the site identified for a new school. However, until the legal transfer of the site is concluded, there remains a significant risk to the delivery of the proposal.
- 6.4 Although the Council is able to collect financial contributions towards delivering the new Victoria Primary School from developers through Section 75 agreements, this is unlikely to lead to full cost recovery. There is a risk both on

the timing and achievement of developer contributions which could create a short-term or overall funding pressure. There is currently no provision in the Council Capital Investment Programme from 2018-19 onwards for the £14.270m capital funding required to allow the delivery of the infrastructure proposed and it will be necessary for Council, as part of the Council budget setting process to identify and approve the sources of this additional capital funding. The delivery of this proposal will be contingent on this capital funding, and also the necessary additional annual revenue funding, being secured.

## **Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 There are no negative equality or human rights impacts arising from this report.
- 7.2 The Council will continue to ensure that the needs of pupils who have a disability are met by the accommodation available at the schools affected by these proposals. The provision of facilities offered to school users with learning and behavioural support needs will be unaffected.
- 7.3 Accordingly, these proposals have no significant impact on any equalities groups and provide greater opportunities for catchment pupils to attend their catchment school. For these reasons, the overall equalities relevance score is 1 (out of a possible 9) and a full Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

## **Sustainability impact**

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- 8.1 Whilst progressing the proposal would see the creation of a new, larger building, the purpose is to create fit for purpose accommodation to meet demand. The new building would be designed to minimise the impact on carbon emissions and energy consumption.
- 8.2 The relocation of Victoria Primary School to a location in the Western Harbour will reduce the distance that the majority of the catchment population are required to travel to school, thereby promoting the use of sustainable methods of transport. Accordingly, it is anticipated that the implementation of the proposal will result in reductions in carbon emissions.

## **Consultation and engagement**

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- 9.1 The statutory consultation process ran from 30 January 2017 to 17 March 2017 and has been undertaken according to the procedures set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

## Background reading/external references

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- 10.1 On [13 December 2016](#) the Education, Children and Families Committee approved that a consultation be undertaken regarding the proposed relocation of Victoria Primary School to a new building in the Western Harbour area.

### Alistair Gaw

#### Executive Director of Communities and Families

Contact: Crawford McGhie, Acting Head of Operational Support, Communities and Families

E-mail: [crawford.mcghie@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:crawford.mcghie@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 469 3149

## Links

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<b>Council outcomes</b>	<a href="#">CO1</a> and <a href="#">CO2</a>
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	<a href="#">SO3</a>
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1 – Summary of the Statutory Consultation Paper Appendix 2 – Minutes of the Statutory Consultation Public Meetings Appendix 3 – Summary of Representations Appendix 4 – Issues Raised and Council Response Appendix 5 – Education Scotland Report

**Consultation on Proposal to relocate Victoria Primary School to a new building in the Western Harbour and undertake catchment changes affecting Victoria Primary School, Trinity Primary School, Holy Cross RC Primary School, Trinity Academy and St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School**

**Summary Paper**

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

**What is being proposed?**

- The relocation of Victoria Primary School from its existing building to a new, larger building on a site in the Western Harbour.
- Catchment changes so that the area identified for significant housing development in North Leith which is currently in Trinity Primary School's catchment area is realigned with the new Victoria Primary School.
- A minor change to the catchment boundaries of Victoria Primary School, Holy Cross RC Primary School, Trinity Academy and St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School so that they include the sections of the Western Harbour area currently not contained within any catchment area.

The existing and proposed catchment areas have been included within this summary paper.

**Where will the new Victoria Primary School be located?**

The site for a new primary school was identified in the masterplan for the Western Harbour development agreed in 2003 with Forth Ports. The site is shown in the maps at the back of this paper. The new Victoria Primary School would be double stream (14 classes) with capacity for 420 primary pupils. However, it would be built in such a way that, if it were ever to be required, additional classrooms could be constructed on the school site.

**Why do we need to replace the existing Victoria Primary School building?**

Recent P1 intakes at Victoria Primary School have been high and are likely to increase as more housing is built in the Western Harbour. The school is small and does not have the classroom space or supporting facilities to accommodate this level of intake. It is projected that Victoria Primary School will breach its current capacity in 2018. In addition, proposed housing developments in Trinity Primary School's catchment area are projected to cause accommodation issues at Trinity Primary School. The new school building would be built so that it could address both these issues.

## **What will happen to the existing Victoria Primary School building?**

If the proposal is approved it may be necessary for the existing Victoria Primary School building to be sold to provide funding for the new school building. However, the Council is investigating whether alternative uses of the Victoria Primary School building may be possible. The implications any alternative uses of the existing Victoria Primary School building may have for the proposals will be considered as part of the Outcomes of the Consultation report to the Council meeting in June 2017.

## **Why does the proposal include changes to the catchment area of Trinity Primary School?**

Trinity Primary School is currently experiencing pressure for places from its existing catchment population and may need a small extension to meet this demand. However, Trinity Primary School does not have sufficient space on its existing site to also provide the additional accommodation which would be necessary to support the number of pupils projected to be generated by the significant housing developments proposed for North Leith. The catchment change proposed between Trinity Primary School and Victoria Primary School would mean that the proposed housing developments in the North Leith area of Trinity Primary School's catchment area are realigned with Victoria Primary School which could accommodate these new pupils within its new school building.

## **Why does the proposal include changes to the catchment areas of Holy Cross RC Primary School, Trinity Academy and St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School?**

School catchment boundaries in the north of the city have not been changed for many years and do not extend far enough to incorporate the northern section of the Western Harbour development which, until recently, did not exist. While they are not officially within any catchment area, the pupils from the northern and eastern sections of the Western Harbour have been treated by the Council as being within the non-denominational catchment areas of Victoria Primary School and Trinity Academy and, for Roman Catholic provision, within the catchment areas of Holy Cross RC Primary School and St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School. The proposal would simply formalise this arrangement.

## **Who will the catchment changes affect?**

The addresses of the properties which will be directly affected by the proposal are listed at the back of this summary paper.

There would be no mandatory transfer for pupils already attending another school. The catchment changes will only apply to new P1 pupils. However, younger siblings of pupils attending Trinity Primary School at the time the catchment change is implemented and who are resident in the part of Trinity Primary School proposed for

transfer to Victoria Primary School would be guaranteed a place at Trinity Primary School if they wished to take it. Further details of this policy are included in Section 4 of the full consultation paper.

### **When would the changes come into effect?**

If the proposal is approved by the Council, the minor catchment changes affecting the area at the north of the Western Harbour would be effective from 1 November 2017.

The date from when the transfer of the North Leith area of Trinity Primary School's catchment area to Victoria Primary School would be effective is the November prior to Victoria's new school building opening, in time for the P1 and S1 registration process. Victoria's new school building is currently expected to be open in August 2020.

### **Why are we consulting?**

We want to hear the views of anyone affected by the proposals. There is also 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.

### **How will I know if my views have been considered?**

All comments made during the statutory consultation period will be recorded and represented in a final 'Outcomes of the Consultation Report' that we expect to be considered by Council in June 2017. The report will be published three weeks in advance of the Council meeting and parents of pupils attending affected schools and anyone who has responded to the consultation will be notified of its publication.

### **How can I find out more about the proposals or make my views heard?**

If you want more information you can find the full consultation papers, along with background reports, maps, address lists and other supporting information at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/newvictoriaschool](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/newvictoriaschool).

We have also organised two public meetings, as below:

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Trinity Primary School	Tuesday 21 February 2017	6.30pm – 8.30pm
Victoria Primary School	Monday 27 February 2017	6.30pm – 8.30pm

Each meeting will open with a short presentation about the consultation and what is proposed, followed by a question and answer session. We will take a note of the meeting and all of the points made will be captured in the final 'Outcomes of the Consultation Report'. You can attend any meeting which suits you. Please telephone (0131) 469 3161 by Monday 6 February 2017 if you need translation services or childcare at the meeting.

**Tell us your views: public consultation period closes 5pm on Friday 17 March 2017**

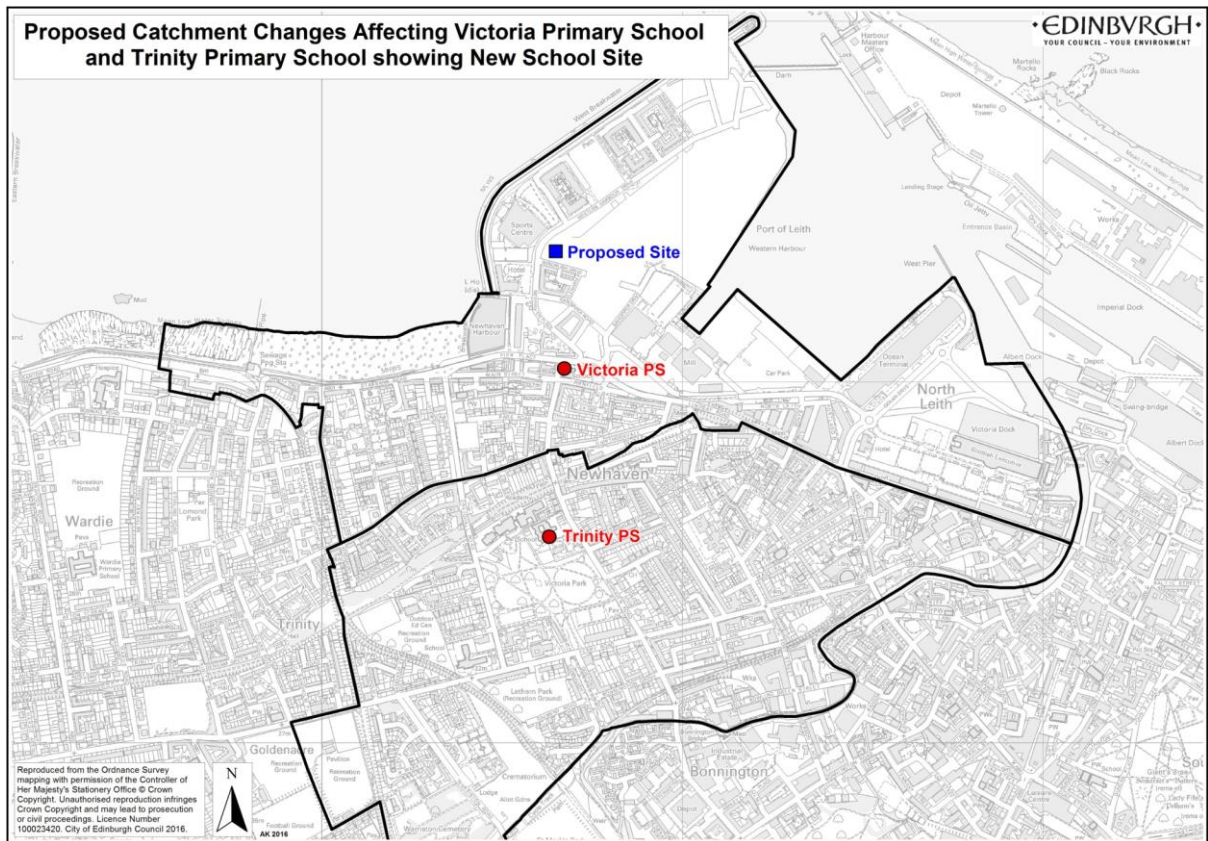
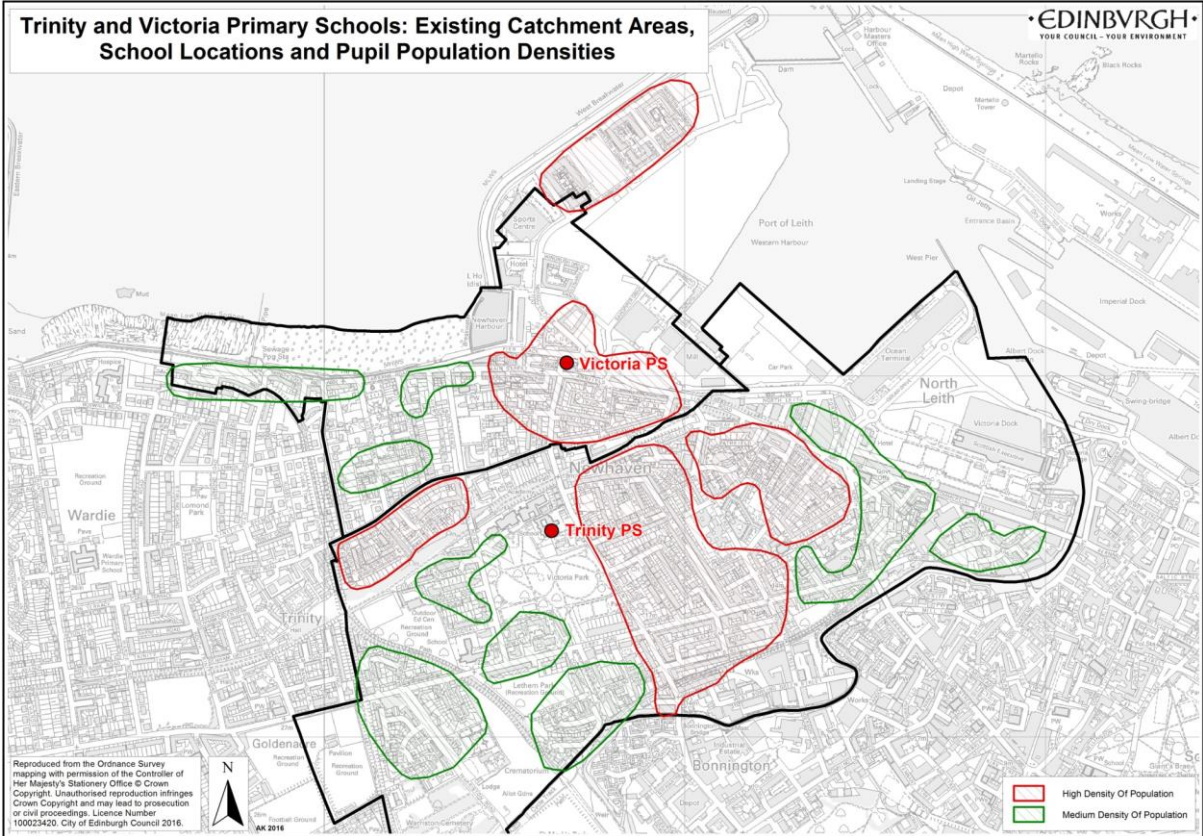
It would be helpful if you could take time to complete our short survey – you can find it easily online at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/newvictoriaschool](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/newvictoriaschool). If you don't have internet access then you can view the full consultation paper at one of the affected schools, Leith Library, Central Library or the Council Offices at Waverley Court.

You can also email comments to us directly at [new.victoriaschool@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:new.victoriaschool@edinburgh.gov.uk) or if you prefer they can be posted to:

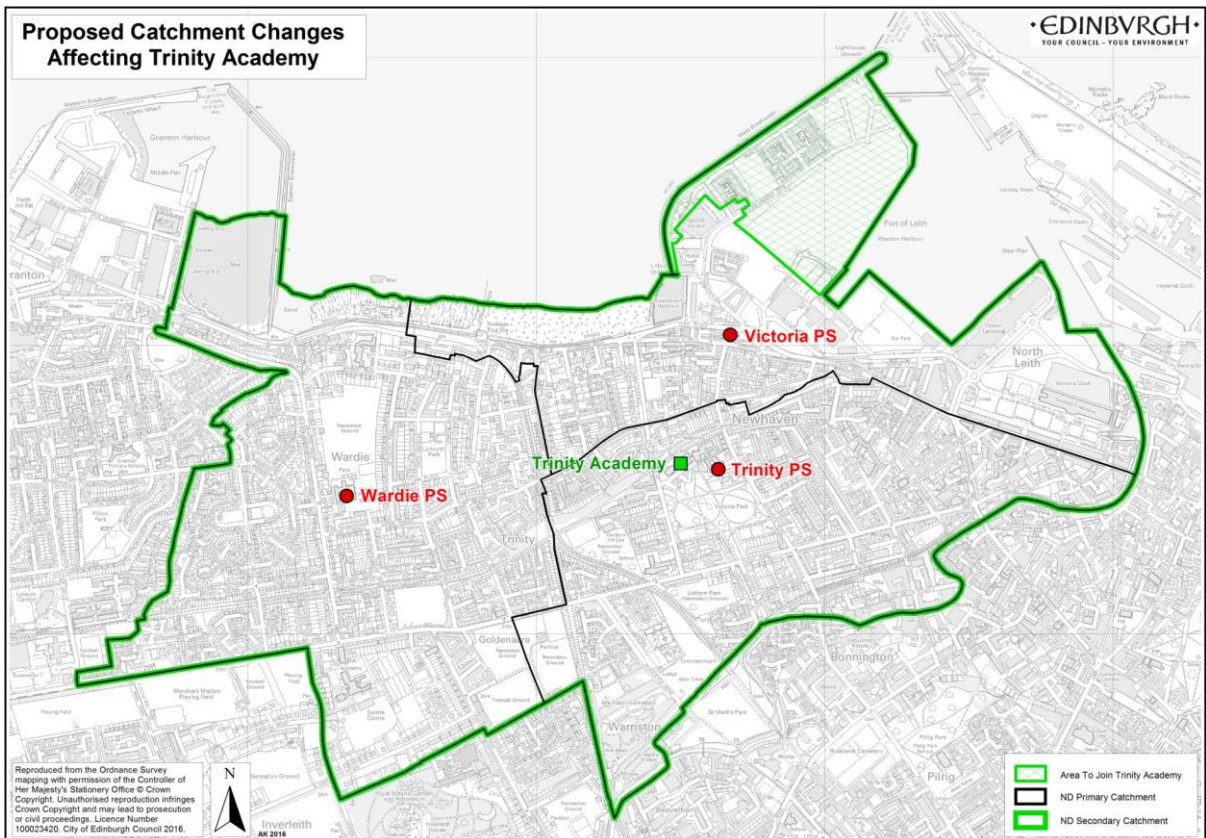
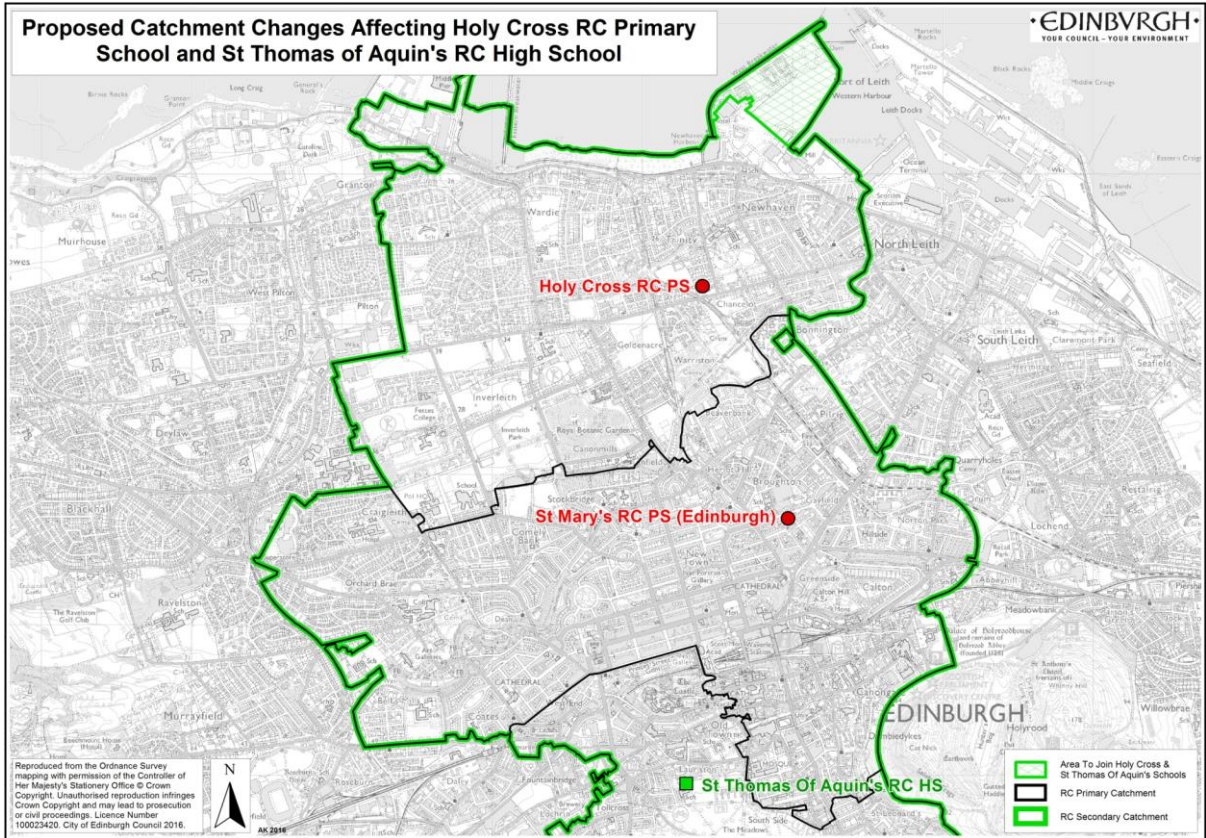
Alistair Gaw  
Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families  
The City of Edinburgh Council  
Waverley Court  
Level 1:2  
4 East Market Street  
Edinburgh  
EH8 8BG

All comments should arrive by 5pm on Friday 17 March 2017.









## List of affected addresses

The addresses listed below are properties which were registered with the Council as at January 2016 and will be directly affected by the proposals. For confirmation of which catchment area will apply to properties not listed below please refer to the proposed catchment area maps in Appendices 4, 5 and 6 or email [new.victoriaschool@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:new.victoriaschool@edinburgh.gov.uk) or call 0131 469 3161.

The first table below shows the addresses affected by the proposed transfer of a section of the Trinity Primary School catchment to Victoria Primary School. The second table shows all the addresses in the northern and eastern section of the Western Harbour affected by the establishment of catchment boundaries for non-denominational, Roman Catholic, primary and secondary school provision.

### Proposed Transfer from Trinity Primary School to Victoria Primary School

Street	Properties
Commercial Street	67, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 92, 96, 98, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150
Dock Place	1A, 1C, 2, 3, 6, 11, 12, 12A, 14
Lindsay Road	195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200
North Leith Sands	1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
Ocean Drive	100, 101, 102, 116, 118, 120
Portland Gardens	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9A
Portland Row	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8A, 8B, 8C
Rennie's Isle	1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21
Sandport	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
Victoria Quay	1

### Addresses in Western Harbour to be aligned with Victoria Primary School, Holy Cross RC Primary School, Trinity Academy and St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School

Street	Properties
Western Harbour Breakwater	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11
Western Harbour Midway	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Western Harbour Place	2, 4, 6
Western Harbour Terrace	2, 4, 6, 8, 10
Western Harbour View	1, 3, 5, 7, 9
Western Harbour Way	1, 3, 5



## HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

ترجمہ کے لئے حاضر آئیں اور ہمیں سہجے انوباد کران

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## **Proposal to relocate Victoria Primary School to a new building in the Western Harbour**

**Public Consultation Meeting held at 6.30 pm, Tuesday, 21 February 2017, Trinity Primary School, Edinburgh**

**Present: Approximately 30 members of the public**

**In Attendance:** Tom Wood (Independent Chair), Councillor Cammy Day (Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee), Crawford McGhie (Acting Head of Operational Support, Communities and Families), Robbie Crockatt (Acting School Estate Planning Manager, Communities and Families), Ben Wilson (Development Plan Manager), Ian Tame (School Estate Planning Officer), Elaine Watson (School Estate Planning Officer), Therese Laing (Quality Improvement Officer, Communities and Families), Jacqueline Scott (Head Teacher, Trinity Primary School), and Laura Millar (Committee Services).

### **1. Introduction**

Councillor Cammy Day, Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee welcomed everyone to the consultation meeting and advised that this would be the first of two meetings on this proposal. He stated that due to housing developments anticipated in the Western Harbour area, the current Victoria Primary School did not have sufficient capacity to meet existing or future demand for places. Trinity Primary School would also not be able to accommodate the level of housing development proposed within its catchment area.

Councillor Day hoped that the proposals presented would meet the needs of pupils and parents in the local community. Officers were present to answer questions; Councillor Day assured parents that if officers were unable to give an immediate answer, they would issue a response as quickly as possible. Councillor Day then handed over to Tom Wood, independent chair of the meeting.

Tom Wood introduced himself and advised that he had been invited by the City of Edinburgh Council as an independent person to chair the consultation meeting. The consultation was based on the proposal to relocate Victoria Primary School to a new building in the Western Harbour.

The Schools (Consultation Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to conduct a public consultation ahead of a report on the proposals going to the City of Edinburgh Council for consideration in June 2017. The public consultation would provide people with the opportunity to express their views and feed directly into the consultation process.

Members of the audience were advised that this was the first of two public consultation meetings. The second meeting would be held on Monday, 27 February, 2017 from 6.30pm until 8.30pm at Victoria Primary School. Reassurance was given that no decision had been made in terms of the proposed changes, and the consultation process would encompass the views of parents and the public to ensure that the final decision would reflect these views. A decision would be taken by elected members at the meeting of the Full Council in June 2017. The decision would be based on a report that incorporated all the views expressed by parents and members of the public.

Officers that represented the Council were introduced and a presentation was given, as described below.

## **2. Presentation/Proposal**

Robbie Crockatt (Acting School Estate Planning Manager, Communities and Families) delivered a presentation that provided some background information on the reasons behind the proposal to relocate Victoria Primary School to a new building in the Western Harbour.

### **Requirement for Change**

The roll at Victoria Primary School has increased steadily; as a result, the existing building no longer has sufficient capacity to meet existing needs. This would be exacerbated further by the expansion of housing within the Western Harbour area of around 1,860 homes.

Trinity Primary School had also been affected by expansion of housing and the closure of the Fort Primary School. The school will increase from 19 to 21 class rooms in August 2018. Demand is also projected to increase further by the earmarking of land for housing development around central Leith Waterfront and Ocean Terminal with approximately 2,000 homes forecast.

### **Proposal**

Mr Crockatt reported that, in December 2016, the Council agreed that a statutory consultation proposing the relocation of Victoria Primary School to a purpose built facility within the Western Harbour area should take place. The new facility would initially host 14 primary classes and 40 nursery places with potential to increase the number of classes by 7 should that ultimately be required. There would be no changes to secondary catchments.

The indicative master plan of the Western Harbour showed that the footprint of the new Victoria Primary School would be around 1.2 hectares, a large increase from the existing site of 0.37 hectares. The design of the new school building and the services it provides would be the subject of further consultation with the local community and pupils.



Trinity Primary School's catchment runs to the North of Leith, covering Victoria Quay. Should the new build progress it is proposed that the catchment boundary between Victoria Primary School and Trinity Primary School would be realigned so that Victoria Primary included the North Leith area effective from the November prior to the new building school opening.

If the current proposal is approved by Council in June 2017 the catchment areas of Victoria Primary School, Holy Cross RC Primary School, St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School and Trinity Academy would immediately be extended to incorporate the full extent of the Western Harbour development, the northern section of which is currently not covered by any catchment area.

It is anticipated that the new school would open in August 2020; all classes would relocate to the new Victoria Primary School. Siblings of pupils at Trinity Primary School at the time of the catchment change would be guaranteed a place at Trinity Primary School.

### **Next Steps**

A second public meeting will be held at Victoria Primary School on Monday, 27 February 2017. The statutory consultation will conclude on 17 March 2017. All comments made during the statutory consultation period will be recorded and represented in a final report which it is anticipated will be considered by the Council in June 2017.

## **3. Questions/Comments**

**Question 1** – We have recently moved to Western Harbour and have a baby who will start at Nursery before the new Victoria Primary School Nursery is open. Will there be places at the new Nursery to transfer into as this would be more convenient?

**Answer 1** – (Crawford McGhie) – Yes, I can see no problem with that. There will be spaces as it will be brand new.

**Question 2** – Looking at the proposal, I think it is clearly laid out and reasonable. The roll at Trinity Primary School is increasing within the current catchment area. What is the projection for the future impact on Trinity Primary School and the accommodation of pupils? How will this feed through and affect the High School?

**Answer 2** – (Robbie Crockatt) – Trinity Primary School is not projected to exceed 21 classes, assuming the proposal goes ahead and the catchment changes are made. Part of the reason the Trinity roll has increased has been to accommodate pupils affected by the closure of Fort Primary School which has now plateaued.

In terms of citywide trends, birth rates, which are a large driver in growth, have levelled off. Areas experiencing significant growth are places where there are housing

developments. To accommodate rolls in Trinity Primary School, we need to deliver an additional 2 classrooms. A rising rolls working group has been established to look at this issue and what this might mean for the school.

We are developing the proposal for 2 additional classrooms and anticipate these will be delivered in August 2018. We will review this requirement based on the 2017/18 roll numbers' at the moment it looks like the additional classrooms will be needed.

For Trinity Academy, the projections will be affected by the numbers that come forward from new housing developments but not to the same extent as Primary level. There are a number of reasons for this. Firstly, Trinity Academy has large numbers of non-catchment pupils within its numbers, accounting for around one third of the school. As demand for catchment places increases, the number of places available for non-catchment pupils will reduce. There is therefore scope for increased numbers of catchment pupils.

Secondly, the effect of new housing developments on secondary schools tends to be delayed as people move to these areas before the start of primary school, therefore having more impact at early years levels. People moving to these developments will often already live in Edinburgh and may not wish to move children already in secondary school.

(Crawford McGhie) In terms of buildings aspects of Trinity Academy, it is one of four schools where we are carrying out building surveys to investigate replacement or refurbishment options should funding become available in the future.

The core facilities have also been identified as insufficient for current capacity. As part of our feasibility study, this will be taken into consideration when asking for short-term investment for these facilities and would be managed to co-ordinate with any future investment.

We will also examine the campus arrangements between the two schools as has been the arrangement at James Gillespie's between the Primary and High School.

**Comment** – We welcome the consultation and options presented which supports the views of the Parent Council. We would also like the current, poor condition of Trinity Academy noted.

**Question 3** – What would be the alternative if the Council were to reject the plan?

**Answer 3** – (Crawford McGhie) At this stage, this is a proposal and will not be finalised until the City of Edinburgh Council Meeting in June 2017. All consultation questions will receive a response from officers and all responses and comments will be put before Elected Members for consideration. There seems to be support so far so we are



hopeful for Council approval. If the proposal was rejected by the Council, officers would have to consider other solutions as both Trinity and Victoria need new classrooms.

(Councillor Day) It is my role as a politician to convince the elected members who will vote on this matter. As of right now, nobody is against the proposal. Officers have worked from initial options to where we are now and the community, officers and Councillors all seem to be on the same page. I don't perceive any problems going forward.

**Question 4** – For both Victoria and Trinity, how much weight is given to the outdoor play space?

**Answer 4** – (Robbie Crockatt) Outdoor space is important. For Victoria, this is one of the driving factors as both the outdoor space and indoor facilities are small. Officers have been working with the Parent Council at Trinity to discuss the possibility of extending the existing play area to offset any loss as a result of installing additional classroom spaces. I can't provide any guarantees about if/when/how this would take place. We are also looking into the opportunities available from having such a large green area near the school.

**Question 5** – What is the current size of the Trinity site in hectares?

**Answer 5** - (Robbie Crockatt) I don't know, but can get back to you about this. The size of the site has benefitted from the inclusion of the secret garden area. We acknowledge that with the additional classroom space there will be a loss of play area due to the footprint of the new building and will consider how the quality of the surrounding space can be improved to offset this loss.

**Tom Wood** - For any questions that the Council cannot answer, we will take your details at the end and get back to you.

**Question 6** – With the reduction of the outdoor space, how is this managed within the school?

**Answer 6** - (Jacqueline Scott) – Rolls increased considerably over the past 10 years. The secret garden has helped provide more outdoor space. We have changed lunch times to stagger when the children go out so there is not too many at one time and to make best use of the dining hall. However, I insist that the whole school has the opportunity to get together as a community which they do at break time.

There does still seem to be a lot of space even with 520 children out in the playground at one time. It's about being creative and making the best use of the space, some pupils choose to spend time in the indoor courtyard; there is a football club in the main hall.

As a school, we are trying to think what would work best. I'd also like to point out that due to recent risk assessments, we have had to close the secret garden during breaks/lunchtime as this must be supervised by 2 members of staff which we do not have the capacity for.

**Question 7** – Have you looked into the possibility for taking part of Victoria Park for the playground?

**Answer 7** – (Robbie Crockatt) – We are looking at the area behind the school and whether there would be any way we could use part of the park. There are hurdles with the parks status as it is a public amenity and it comes under the Common Good. Any proposal for including part of the park would have to be a community effort which is why I'm working alongside the Parent Council to investigate this.

Any physical structure on the park is currently not part of the proposal and it is anticipated would draw a large amount of objections. We are going to meet local Community Groups to discuss how this could work and any issues around it.

**Question 8** - As someone from the Victoria catchment area, the new school looks fantastic for the area. Development at the Western Harbour is going to have an impact on the Newhaven community. In the proposals, it was detailed that the old Victoria Primary would be sold to help finance the new building, is there any possibility that it could be retained to use as a Community Hub?

**Answer 8** – (Councillor Day) I have met with a number of Community Groups, Parent Councils and Council Officers to investigate the possibility of using the building as a community hub, for me it's a no brainer for the Newhaven area. This will be addressed in the paper coming back in June. If we can get the various groups registered as a body to apply to have the building released as a community asset transfer, I would fully support this.

(Robbie Crockatt) A strength of Victoria Primary is the surrounding community and ethos which we want to take to the new school. We are keen to have a consultation with the community on the design of the new school and what can be done with the old building to ensure the needs of the area are met.

**Question 9** – Is the timescale realistic for the planning application, design, construction etc? How much slippage has been factored in?

**Answer 9** – (Crawford McGhie) The timing is reasonable based on experience with previous projects. There could be issues in any project of this size which would incur delays but it's reasonable. Initial designs are already being taken forward as far as possible without pre-judging any decision to be taken in June.

**Question 10** – What will happen to siblings of non-catchment pupils at Trinity Academy?

**Answer 10** - (Robbie Crockatt) There is a pecking order in which catchment pupils are given priority followed by non-catchment with siblings then non-catchment. This is specified in application forms that there is no guarantee of a place for siblings if your child is granted a place in a non-catchment school.

**Question 11** – How aware are parents of non-catchment pupils that there is no sibling guarantee?

**Answer 11** - (Robbie Crockatt) As secondary schools tend to have lower rolls at present, there is more scope to move to a non-catchment school. However, rising rolls has resulted in a greater awareness of reducing capacity and no guarantee that non-catchments siblings will be granted a place.

**Comment** – Can we make a plea to plan for the wave of non-catchment pupils now rather than later.

**Question 12** – How can you guarantee the new school building will be safe?

**Answer 12** - (Crawford McGhie) The construction of the new school building will be subject to statutory building standards. The Council are developing an action plan to address all the recommendations within the report on PPP Schools, therefore there is increased scrutiny on building projects.

**Question 13** – Speaking as an employee at Boroughmuir High School, we have been informed that the new building does not have sufficient capacity for the demand. There is a lot of pressure on secondary schools from non-catchment pupils and what I am hearing is that parents are supported by the Council when applying for non-catchment places. Often Head Teachers have to appear at Placing in Schools Appeals and it seems only recently that schools are winning the common case. This may be the case at Trinity Academy, can you expand on that?

**Answer 13** - (Crawford McGhie) The national policy for out of catchments pupils is if the school has the capacity, requests for places must be granted. The amount of available places will reduce as catchment numbers increase.

Boroughmuir is more of an exceptional case in terms of demand for places. Over time the percentage of catchment pupils at Trinity Academy will increase. High school classes are taught in sets so must be in groups of no more than 20, therefore if an appeal is granted this can cause complexities.

(Robbie Crockatt) The Placing in Schools Appeal Committee are made up of an independent panel therefore the Council have no power over whether these places are

granted. It is the right of any parent to appeal against the decision to refuse a school place.

**Question 14** – What will happen if there is no funding allocated for improvements to Trinity Academy? There was a swimming pool which has now closed; do you know what will be happening with that?

**Answer 14** - (Crawford McGhie) If there was funding available for school replacement/refurbishment, this would be allocated to schools based on priorities identified during feasibility studies. We are conducting these studies now so there would be plans in place should funding become available. Funding sources are through the Scottish Government's Future Schools Programme and the Council Capital Programme. There also is a budget in place to counteract the effects of rising school rolls. Committee decides how this money should be allocated annually based on pupil numbers and forecasts. We are now seeing this in effect at high school level and Trinity should be tapping into this. There is however no guaranteed funding at the moment for wave 4 schools.

**Question 15** – Is there any deadline for when Trinity Academy will be refurbished?

**Answer 15** - (Crawford McGhie) The feasibility study for Trinity Academy will conclude by June 2017 however there is no deadline for refurbishment/replacement until the funding becomes available.

**Question 16** - What are the issues within Trinity Academy that need to be addressed? Is it the size of the building, the class rooms, the technology?

**Answer 16** - (Crawford McGhie) There are 3 categories of issues in terms of buildings we use when looking at Schools. These are: the condition of the building (fabrics etc), sufficiency (i.e. the number of classrooms available to meet demand) and the suitability of facilities (i.e. the core spaces such as gym halls and social spaces).

The rising rolls budget is there to combat sufficiency; primary schools tend to use this money to invest in classrooms. Trinity Academy as with other high schools use this for investment in core facilities. The gym, dining hall and assembly room need investment and the swimming pool is closed. We would want to coordinate any investment with any available longer term funding should this come up. There is enough space for classrooms to deal with projections however this is not future proof.

**Comment** - This is not encouraging. From what you are saying there are problems which will take a long time to resolve. The children will be coming from a state of the art new primary school to a tired secondary school which may not provide a stimulating environment for learning.

(Crawford McGhie) In the shorter term, Trinity Academy is the secondary school in our estate most in need of rising rolls investment; the outlook is good in that sense. We have not yet concluded the prioritisation based on the feasibility studies yet but Trinity is certainly up there.

The Scottish Government will provide more funding so the work we are doing will ensure we are ready to make our bid when it becomes available. We have a very good track record when it comes to getting funding from the Scottish Government so it's not all doom and gloom.

**Comment** – I am on the Parent Council for Trinity Academy, we are engaging with the Council and are working well together. We obviously have to work within the budget we have but we are working together.

**Question 17** – If Trinity Academy does pass the feasibility study and prioritisation, what would the timeframe for improvements or even a replacement be?

**Answer 17** - (Crawford McGhie) It is impossible to say as this would depend on when we secured the funding. We are basing this on Government funding and the current Future Schools Programme concludes in 2020. Feasibility studies for a high school takes 4 years to complete, the government won't wait until 2020 to announce the next funding programme and we don't know if their criteria will change. We just have to be prepared.

**Question 18** – Are catchment primary school pupils guaranteed a place?

**Answer 18** - (Robbie Crockatt) There are no catchment areas for nursery places and entry in nursery does not guarantee you a place in the adjoining primary school. All accommodation plans are based on accommodating all catchment demands. If you are registered before the cut off date, you are guaranteed a place in your catchment school.

**Question 19** – When speaking earlier about feasibility work, you mentioned examining the campus arrangements between the high school and primary school and sharing these facilities. Can you expand on that?

**Answer 19** - (Crawford McGhie) If we were providing new core facilities at the high school i.e. new gym, dining hall, would there be scope for the primary school and wider community to access these at certain times? Officers are investigating how schools and parks could link up.

**Question 20** – Would you be looking at the heating system?

**Answer 20** - (Crawford McGhie) That would come under the refurbishment and would be examined under the longer term whole school plan.

**Question 21** – What are the rolls at Wardie Primary School?

**Answer 21** - (Robbie Crockatt) Wardie Primary School has been expanded but pupil numbers have dipped slightly in recent years in line with our projections.

**Question 22** – Are Roman Catholic Schools considered?

**Answer 22** - (Robbie Crockatt) Yes, Holy Cross Primary School is the Roman Catholic catchment school for the area. As part of the Local Development Programme, it was identified that 2 extra classes were required; we are discussing with the School how to deliver this. The impact on St Thomas of Aquin's High School is not quite as great but we will continue to monitor rolls.

**Question 23** – Why would minor changes to the catchment areas come into effect immediately?

**Answer 23** - (Robbie Crockatt) The Western Harbour area development would officially become included in the catchment area for Victoria Primary School. This can happen immediately as pupils in this area are already treated as catchment pupils and it does not affect the proposal for the new school so no reason to delay this aspect. The catchment boundary between Victoria Primary School and Trinity Primary School would not change until the November prior to the completion of the new school.

**Question 24** – The catchment for the new flats and houses in North Leith is Trinity at the moment. Could this cause a minor increase in numbers for a couple of years depending on how quickly the new houses are built?

**Answer 24** - (Robbie Crockatt) Any application for new houses is not expected soon so having the new school in place by 2020 would be sufficient to capture these people.

(Ben Wilson) Any housing would be built in phases so we wouldn't suddenly have a flood of people at one time, it generally takes 18 months from work starting on site to people actually moving in. The land in question is also mixed use so would be used for offices as well as homes.

**Question 25** – I cycle in the area and have noticed many of the buildings in the Western Harbour area are used as party flats. How confident are you that the new development will be for families?

**Answer 25** - (Robbie Crockatt) There are a number of pupils coming forward from the development already as it currently exists. We expect it to continue to develop in that way.

**Comment** – We live in the area and the developers do have strict rules in place regarding leasing of flats and use for airbnb. There is an active community forum for all residents. The flats which are used for rentals are in the furthest away block.

**Question 26** – Are the core facilities still sufficient for the rising school roll?

**Answer 26** - (Robbie Crockatt) Yes and, while the focus of the rising rolls budget is classroom space, here it has already been used to extend dining facilities.

(Jacqueline Scott) We manage our space in the school by using all areas, not necessarily just classrooms. We also make use of the space outside the school and in the local area. As Head Teacher, I would always want more space but we are making best use of what we have and are looking at how to teach children in 2017. At one time, we would have had separate IT suites but these are now incorporated into classrooms, we have to keep looking at the changing need of education.

**Question 27** – What is the future of the old Victoria Primary School building?

**Answer 27** - (Councillor Day) I am having a meeting with various local groups to examine taking the building on for community use. The scout group, after school clubs, early years projects and the museum are looking into developing a business plan for this. The Council will need to have something back in exchange for the building whether this is a capital receipt or a community asset transfer and officers have met with groups to support them doing so. I would encourage everyone to get involved with this.

**Question 28** – There were plans for a new school years ago which fell through with the property crash, do developers have any responsibility to provide funding for this increase in roll?

**Answer 28** - (Ben Wilson) Where there is significant growth planned which would put pressure on existing infrastructure, the Council can seek contributions or land for schools from developers. If the contribution sought is too high it may not make the development viable. The developer makes a contribution but often this will not meet the full cost of the project.

### **Final Comments**

Councillor Day thanked everyone for coming along and reiterated the report on the proposal will come to Council in June 2017.

He highlighted that most issues raised tonight have been regarding investment in Trinity Primary and Academy. Councillor Day has asked to meet with the Deputy First Minister to discuss Edinburgh's need for funding for Schools, based on recent surveys, Trinity Academy should be at the top of the list.

He would like to encourage everyone to sign up to the campaign to maintain the old Victoria Primary School building for community use.

## **4. Conclusion**

Councillor Day thanked everyone for attending and for their high quality contributions and questions. The Council was keen to hear the views of the community and all views/comments would be reflected in the report to the full Council which would be considered in June 2017. Written submissions were also encouraged on the proposed options and all feedback would be considered.

## **Proposal to relocate Victoria Primary School to a new building in the Western Harbour**

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**Present: Approximately 90 members of the public**

**In Attendance:** Tom Wood (Independent Chair), Councillor Cammy Day (Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee), Crawford McGhie (Head of Operational Support, Communities and Families), Robbie Crockatt (Acting School Estate Planning Manager, Communities and Families), Maria Plant (Quality Improvement Officer, Communities and Families), Alison Kirkwood (Planning Team Manager), Laura Thompson (Head Teacher, Victoria Primary School), and Stuart McLean (Committee Services).

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Councillor Day hoped that the proposals presented would go some way towards meeting the needs of pupils and parents in the local community. Officers were present that would be able to answer questions that arose from parents, and Councillor Day assured parents that if officers were unable to give an immediate answer they would get back to parents as quickly as possible. Councillor Day then handed over to Tom Wood, independent chair of the public consultation.



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It is anticipated that the new school would open in August 2020; all classes would relocate to the new Victoria Primary School. Siblings of pupils at Trinity Primary School at the time of the catchment change would be guaranteed a place at Trinity Primary School.

### **3. Questions/Comments**

#### **Engagement/Consultation**

**Question 1** – We were informed when we purchased our property that the development of a new school would not happen for at least 4 years, this was 4 years ago. We were not told of this meeting, and were only notified in passing by neighbours which is distressing as the site is directly opposite my property.

When are the plans going to be available to comment on?

**Answer 1** – (Crawford McGhie) – The redevelopment of Western Harbour has been a longstanding project. The site for the school was identified in 2001. The Master plan has reflected this intention for a school development since that time.

We have a statutory obligation to consult and notify certain people which we have done. This meeting was advertised to the community by Community Councils and notices in Council properties, including libraries and adverts in the press. All statutory obligations have been met.

**Question 2** – I live directly opposite the site, why didn't you put letters through the doors of those directly affected? It is a fluke I am here.

**Answer 2** – (Alison Kirkwood) From a planning point of view the site of the school is shown in the Local Development Plan.

This consultation is part of the wider education process. When a new school is built there will be a planning application, which will refer to the material to be used and access to the site. People are welcome to comment on the details of the application as and when they are available.

### **Permanent new built annex**

**Question 1** - In 2014 we tried to highlight the flawed statistics used to justify building the new annex. The Council were sure that the new building would alleviate pressure within the existing building. We were sceptical of this approach and asked if it would not be better to build a new school. How did the 'new' statistics come to light and why are they different from the 'old'?

**Answer 1** – (Robbie Crockatt) In 2014 we examined the existing and projected school roll and recognised the need to increase classroom provision at the school [Victoria Primary School]. We came to the conclusion that we should expand the existing school. This decision was taken in consultation with the Parent Council. At this time the community was split on building a new school and expanding the existing one.

We are now at the stage where we cannot extend the existing school, the site is too small. The facilities are limited and restrict the learning and teaching that can take place. We feel now is the right time for a new school. In 2014 we respected the demand of the community to expand the existing school, this is no longer an option.

**Question 2** - At the time of the new building we were told this would last for 60 years. Why undertake this expense when only 3 years later we are looking at moving to a new school, why was something more temporary not considered?

**Answer 2** – (Robbie Crockatt) 60 years is a long period of time, I don't recall that conversation. At that time there were 2 options, either a permanent annex or temporary accommodation. We reached the conclusion that a more robust, quality annex was the best option.

**Question 3** – If plans were in place for a new school why was the decision not taken to build a new school 2 years ago when the new annex was built?

**Answer 3** – (Crawford McGhie) At that time we were dealing with certain circumstances, the housing market hadn't picked up and the Local Development Plan was not final. We are now in a position to adopt a strategic, long term approach to the issues faced.

### **Existing Victoria Primary School**

**Question 1** - I live across from the existing school; do you anticipate this will be expanded?

**Answer 1** – (Crawford McGhie) Yes, short term we feel there is an expectation to provide temporary accommodation at this school by August 2018. This would involve a planning application which you would be welcome to comment on.

**Question 2** – Victoria Primary School is highly regarded as a real community school with a strong sense of community ethos.

- What guarantee is there that the additions to the existing school will be built to a high quality considering the budget constraints the Council is currently facing?
- Will the school culture be affected by expansion to a three stream school?
- We have been told the existing school would be retained for community use, yet we are also being told the site will be sold to pay for the new school, which one is correct?

**Answer 2** – (Crawford McGhie) There have been very public issues around the finish of some of the existing school estate. The quality of the finish in any new school will be as good as it has to be.

There is some capital within the existing site but the sale of this is not key to financing a new school, we hope to encourage the community to take ownership of this property as part of the community asset transfer process. The proposed new school is part of a bigger programme associated with the Local Development Plan.

The funding package for the existing and new school will be determined by the Council.

(Maria Plant) – We recognise the work the teachers do, especially when a new family joins the school community. Staff work to ensure all children are made to feel welcome and ensure they feel part of the school community. There is an opportunity to make time in a larger school to gather in smaller groups, we don't want to lose the community feel of this school.

(Laura Thomson) – I started here 10 years when there were 90 students, we now have 250. The culture has not changed during that time. I have confidence that the staff and the community will work together to take the ethos of a village school to any new site.

**Question 3** – Who has responsibility for the existing building, will this be allowed to sit empty, vacant and not be looked after like many of the original buildings in Newhaven?

**Answer 3** – (Crawford McGhie) Community and Families would continue to have responsibility for this building until such a time as it was declared surplus. It then falls to Estates to make it available to the market. Councillors and Officers have made a commitment to work with the community to develop plans for this building.

### **Trinity Academy**

**Question 1** – The Council's own figures project an increase of the school roll by around 100, yet are proposing 3000 homes by 2026. I am not against the proposal but I am worried roll projections are conservative.

- Further housing developments are envisaged at the Fort and Trinity, how will this affect Trinity Academy?

- You have got the school rolls wrong in the past, is the site large enough to host a 3 stream school?
- The existing building is valued at £0.8m, is this not merely stripping assets from the Council?

**Answer 1** – (Robbie Crockatt) The projected school rolls for Victoria Primary School run until 2026, a lot of housing development has been identified in North Leith however this will be developed over a much longer period. The projected school roll, until 2026, doesn't reflect the full nature of this development. The delivery of these houses could take to 2030 as set out in the Local Development Plan.

The projections are worked on with colleagues in Planning and reflect increases in school rolls of existing and new developments. We are confident the projected numbers are right but these are projections, using what we know now.

However, if we have underestimated the rolls there is flexibility such as potential to expand the new school to a three stream facility. We have built flexibility into the master-plan rather than adding bits on as and when required.

In terms of the valuation of the existing site, this is established by colleagues in Estates and is based on the market value, the fact that it is a listed building and the restrictions this places on the future development of it.

(Crawford McGhie) Trinity Academy currently has a large percentage of out of catchment pupils, as numbers of catchment pupils rise the number of non-catchment pupils able to go into Trinity will reduce.

The current projections suggest that school roll limits will be breached at Trinity Academy by 2023. Trinity is a restricted site, short term investment could be combined with long term funding to refurbish the entire school. However, there is no funding for this at the moment but we expect this to be available in the future.

Long term, strategic planning is currently underway to address the rising school roll at Trinity Academy. We are also preparing for another round of Scottish Government funding and are looking at a 4 school cluster to establish where any future resources could be spent.

New developments will inevitably mean that new people are moving into the area in advance of their children starting school. Young families tend to move to new properties; however there is a time lag before that will impact directly on secondary schools. A lot of people are already within Edinburgh, will have children at schools and don't want to move, therefore the impact on secondary schools is not as great as early years.

**Question 2** – What is the current roll at Trinity Academy?

**Answer 2** – (Crawford McGhie) As of September 2016 there are 812 pupils at Trinity Academy, over a third of which are out of catchment pupils. There remains space at Trinity for catchment pupils.

The money required to build a new school is part of much wider strategic programme, some budget aligned with Local Development Plan is in place. The cost of a new school is around £12m, we are confident the money will be secured.

### **Shape and design of Housing Development**

**Question 1** – Given the number of flats being built we would anticipate young professionals moving into the area. We have since been told that due to the cost of housing in Edinburgh these smaller units will be occupied by families. Is retaining Victoria Primary School an option, while accommodating other kids at the new site?

**Answer 1** – (Robbie Crockatt) The proposal is that Victoria Primary School would move to the new site with other, as yet to be determined, uses for the existing building. There are families moving into flats at the Western Harbour developments which are affecting Victoria Primary School.

At the moment the school roll is 250, a double stream school would be a healthy population and would allow growth. If we built a school for the Western Harbour area alone it would be a small school.

Additional costs would be incurred from running 2 smaller schools close together. There would also be further complexities regarding catchment areas and where boundary lines would be drawn.

### **Developer contributions**

**Question 1** – The development of Western Harbour started 15 years ago, a school was meant to be built during this time. The new plan doesn't seem coherent?

**Answer 1** – (Crawford McGhie) The proposals for a new school were being developed during that time, however the financial crisis in 2007 put that on hold, it also affected the financial contributions from the developers for the new school. Some funding for the new school will come from developers but not all of the costs. The position is complicated due to the fact that the Council is bound by legal agreements set up all these years ago.

As part of the strategic plan, we believe developing a new school will offer greater benefits to the school and staff and will also be flexible enough to support rising rolls. It is the best strategic approach.

**Question 2** – Why are the Council still bound by agreements signed many years ago? The school wasn't developed.

**Answer 2** – (Alison Kirkwood) Planning agreements are attached to outline planning applications. An outline planning application was submitted for Western Harbour in 2001; legal agreements established then still apply.

When detailed approvals are submitted under the terms of the outline permission, there is no opportunity for the Council to revisit the level of contributions until the original outline planning permission has lapsed. In the case of Western Harbour, the

outline permission runs until March 2019 . If there is a funding gap the Council will need to meet this.

### **Community lets and After School Clubs**

**Question 1** - Newhaven Scout Group have had a let in the school since 1910, will existing lets be transferred to the new school?

**Answer 1** – (Councillor Cammy Day) Yes they will transfer.

**Question 2** – As a member and organiser for Trinity Victoria After School Club can I ask what space would be available for after school clubs, as well as associated kitchen and office space?

**Answer 2** – (Crawford McGhie) I would use the example of the new building at St John's. We have built space into the design for dedicated office space for after school clubs. The core facilities, kitchen, hall, gym etc would be available to after school clubs.

The crucial thing is that the office space would be smaller than a class room, which means that after school clubs won't lose space if an additional classroom is required. Building sustainable space for after school clubs is an important element of any future design.

### **Design and footprint of new Victoria Primary School**

**Question 1** – You have said that the plot size would allow for a three stream school, yet the foot print doesn't seem large enough to allow this. The Scottish Government is enthusiastic to ensure that outdoor space is available to encourage children to be active.

Has any consideration been given regarding the sports facilities, would you consider installing a 3G astro-turf pitch that could be used by the wider community? There would also be scope for this to be self funding if adequate lighting was installed.

**Answer 1** – (Crawford McGhie) The size of any primary school is set out in regulation. The regulation states that for a school with a roll of 420 a site of 1.3 hectares should be used, however Local Authorities can seek approval from the Scottish Government to use a smaller site. We have sought approval for a site measuring 1.2 hectares.

In terms of sporting facilities we would design these in consultation with the local community. This could involve a 7 a side pitch, it is also across the road from a park which is currently being designed.

**Question 2** – The sporting facilities should be attached, not separate from the school. I would also ask that lottery funding be considered for funding these facilities.

Why are the Council reducing the land and not using the required size of site as per Scottish Government recommendations?

**Answer 2** – (Crawford McGhie) The site we have is determined by the master plan and is Forth Ports land. We will try and push to a 1.3 hectare site but at the moment we are guaranteed 1.2 hectares.

The 3G pitch at St John's will be open to the community, as per Council policy.

**Question 3** – A number of years ago the Council said the ideal school roll for this new site would be 400. Has the Council revised its guidelines in this respect?

Also, can you continue to expand a primary school but still maintain a safe environment for pupils during the construction period and what contingency plans are in place if the funding is not available?

**Answer 3** – (Crawford McGhie) We believe that the best size of the new school to be 420 double stream. If it was to be a triple stream school this would be around 620 pupils, however we believe a 2 stream model to be the most effective. Other models such as a four stream school as well as all through 3-18 do deliver high quality education, but in this instance a 2 stream will work well.

Trinity Academy has a capacity of 950; this is projected to be breached in 2023. We will look at ways to increase capacity if required.

**Question 4** – Has a campus style facility been considered and where do you expect Trinity Academy pupils to go during the construction phase?

**Answer 4** – (Crawford McGhie) The campus and all through school approaches are becoming increasingly popular. The current location at Trinity may lend itself to this approach, we will examine every opportunity to make schools aligned to allow greater interaction.

Feasibility studies suggest we don't have funding to replace 4 schools just now but we are getting ready for this if it becomes available. This process involves looking at all potential solutions. Some schools have scope for additional buildings such as Queensferry High School. Trinity is a smaller site and may not suit a campus approach but more work has to be done to firmly establish this.

The Council will look at opportunities for alternative sites; we don't expect this to be easy. We are not in ownership of any sites and may not have funding to secure land. We will look at all options; these options will be included within the report to Council in June 2017.

Any refurbishment at any school will involve decanting pupils to alternative facilities. We have experience of decanting pupils and are confident we can execute this if required in future.

**Question 5** – What percentage of the site would be taken up if the new school was a 2 or a 3 stream? Is there scope to increase the nursery provision?

**Answer 5** – (Crawford McGhie) I don't have a direct answer, it depends on the design of the school and whether it is a single, double or triple story building.



There is an ongoing review into early years provision within the city. This will consider the existing birth rates and the changes to increased hours in nursery provision.

**Question 6** – The space available for the new school is limited, what thought has been given to the mix of buildings? There are a lot of developments in the pipeline, would it not make more sense to stop building houses until such a time as the infrastructure is in place? There is a severe lack of community facilities, what thought goes into limiting housing development building?

**Answer 6** – (Alison Kirkwood) The master plan for the Western Harbour is one of mixed development, the creation of a local centre, smaller units such as cafes and dentists will also be developed to create a sense of community within the area. The Council wants to create a place, plans and supporting policies are there to facilitate this.

Developers can get permission but don't use it; we will work with Forth Ports to promote mixed use development. Plans are in place to develop mixed housing stock. What had been built in the past was generally 2 bedroom flats, this being a consequence of the time. As times have changed, the market has changed. The Council can only deal with applications as they are submitted; it is an ongoing challenge to encourage mixed use developments, we are aware of the issues and welcome feedback.

**Question 7** – What about the height of the new school?

**Answer 7** – (Alison Kirkwood). The Local Development Plan only identifies the site for the school. It is only when an application is submitted that this level of detail would be provided.

**Question 8** – Do the Council own the land identified for the new school?

**Answer 8** – (Alison Kirkwood) No, this is still to be purchased.

### **Traffic Management Arrangements**

**Question 1** – If there was always going to be a school at that plot, do you know what main access will be to the new school? The roads are too narrow and congested already, without a new, bigger school.

**Answer 1** – (Crawford McGhie) No, not as yet. As the process develops this will be discussed and will involve traffic management arrangements.

**Question 2** – We have been told that the future strategy was to move traffic away from the area, what measures would be put in place and how would this be enforced?

**Answer 2** – (Crawford McGhie) The School Streets scheme has been piloted at some schools. This scheme to reduce traffic around pick-up and drop-off times tends to involve signage and enforcement by fines. These zones are being rolled out across the city. Only those holding a permit are allowed to enter.

**Question 3** – There is no loop to allow effective traffic flow to and from the proposed school site?

**Answer 3** – (Crawford McGhie) This issue has been faced by other schools where the pilot schemes has been developed.

**Question 4** - The roads at the moment are not fit for purpose never mind the additional traffic associated with a larger school?

**Answer 4** – (Crawford McGhie) Any new school route would undergo a traffic assessment to make sure infrastructure is correct and proper. It would also take into consideration the objectives of the school streets project; we would build this in from the start. We would also look at pushing traffic away from the school; this would be undertaken in consultation with the public.

### **Newhaven Museum**

**Question 1** – Newhaven is a village with a distinctive history which is greatly valued. The heritage museum at the harbour gives a sense of this being a special place. Some of the material previously exhibited is now housed in this school, but some have ended up in storage. Will there be an opportunity to safeguard the history?

**Answer 1** – (Councillor Cammy Day) We would hope that the new school could host exhibits. The hope is to retain a sense of history in the new school; discussions to this effect are ongoing. I would hope the new school would host a Newhaven Museum, however there is no firm commitment to this but I would welcome a campaign to support this.

### **Education and Resources**

**Question 1** – Victoria Primary School has some of the most talented, hard working teachers within the Trinity Academy catchment area. I get the impression that they are being taken for granted and don't have adequate resources. What plans are in place to ensure they are adequately resourced?

**Answer 1** – (Crawford McGhie) There is a formula in place regarding the resourcing of schools, these allocations are specifically aligned to a school, the more pupils the more staff and resources.

### **Transition to new Victoria Primary School**

**Question 1** – I have 2 daughters at this school, I have concerns about the capacity, where would the temporary accommodation be sited, would this result in a loss of playground and as such how would kids be active? Also, I don't believe that 2020 is an achievable target, what contingencies are in place?

**Answer 1** – (Crawford McGhie) There is an established working group that involves the PTA and teachers to look at options to allow additional temporary class rooms to be introduced. This will result in a loss of footprint but we are working to minimise this.

There is a need for additional class rooms before the new school is open. Any proposals will be open for consultation. We will likely need the temporary solution from 2018.

We recognise that the schedule for completion is tight but we have done this in the past and are confident we can deliver the new school on time.

### **Further Engagement**

**Question 1** – Victoria Primary School PTA attended the Education, Children and Families Committee in December 2016. We have concerns that we were not consulted in advance of any options being launched. Parental views regarding the shape of the school are crucial to the success of it. Would Councillor Day welcome a meeting with the PTA and local MSPs?

**Answer 1** – (Councillor Cammy Day) Yes.

**Question 2** – The new Community Council is in its infancy which means we haven't had the time to fully consider the proposals or begin engaging with the wider community. The consultation is due to finish on 17 March 2017. The proposals, should they be agreed, will have significant consequences for Newhaven Village both historically and practically. Could the consultation be extended to reflect the concerns voiced here tonight?

**Answer 2** – (Crawford McGhie) This consultation has been undertaken in a manner in keeping with the schools consultation act. The period will not be extended. I would invite all parties to feed into the consultation via the website or e-mail us directly. Should any material be submitted following the closure of the consultation we would consider it.

Further periods of consultation would be arranged around the design of the new school.

**Question 3** – How much can the community articulate what they want to happen? The final design should not be based on what the developers and Forth Ports want. Community empowerment is there to help us articulate our voice.

**Answer 3** – (Alison Kirkwood) This would be something for individuals to consider. I would imagine the best way forward is partnership working. Forth Ports are the largest owner of land in the area and it is open to individuals and community groups to contact them to discuss the future development of the area. i. The Council don't own the land so it also has to work with Forth Ports.

### **Planning Process**

**Question 1** – When will plans be available to look at? Robbie said it may be 2 storeys. We were told it would be 1; this would affect the outlook of many properties.

**Answer 1** – (Crawford McGhie) Following consultation the proposals for a new school would need to go to Council before any plans could be progressed. If the proposals are approved in June 2017 we would expect to submit a planning application between 6-8 months later.

**Question 2** – It is expected that flats would hold families but there were no flats within the original plan. How much of the master plan is coming up for re-examination?

**Answer 2** – (Alison Kirkwood) Until something is built, revised proposals can be submitted. . There is nothing to stop the community contacting Forth Ports to discuss ideas for land at Western Harbour. .

The outline planning permission runs until n March 2019. However The Local Development Plan identifies all of Western Harbour for housing led regeneration. This also includes a park and a school.

Any new application submitted after 2019 would be assessed against the Local Development Plan and any other considerations.

### **Other**

**Question 1** – When will the park for the kids be built?

**Answer 1** – (Alison Kirkwood) The park is part of the master plan and Local Development Plan. I'm not aware of any pressure to build on this land; Further conversations will be held with Forth Ports regarding the delivery of the aprk..

### **Final Comments**

Councillor Gordon Munro outlined his support for continuing community access to the existing Victoria Primary School and recognised that there was some within the community that were feeling swamped by the amount of redevelopment at Newhaven.

Councillor Munro added that the new school had the potential to transform the area and that all elected members and the community should work together to ensure that the redevelopment was a success.

Councillor Cammy Day thanked people for attending and stressed the importance of community engagement in shaping what the new Victoria Priamry School would look like. While the consultation period ends on 17 March 2017 there will be further opportunities to lobby the Council such as when the report outlining the proposal is considered at the Council in June or when the planning application is formally submitted.

Councillor Day added that he appreciated that the proposals will not please everyone but the Council will try and meet the needs of as many people as possible.

Ben Macpherson MSP said he would like to meet with all interested parties and has written to the Scottish Government on behalf of Trinity Academy in an attempt to secure future, addition funding.

Mr Macpherson highlighted that the Scottish Government is currently undertaking a public consultation on the planning process and that this was open to 4 April 2017, adding that he would continue to work with Newhaven Action Group to promote what elements of the school design are important and to ensure the building works for the wider community.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Councillor Day thanked everyone for attending and for their high quality contributions and questions. The Council was keen to hear the views of the community and all views/comments would be reflected in the report to the full Council which would be considered in June 2017. Written submissions were also encouraged on the proposed options and all feedback would be considered.

### Appendix 3 – Summary of Representations

Reference	Traffic, Parking and Safety	Western Harbour: Planning, the Environment and New School Design	New Victoria Site Size	Victoria Community, Identity and Ethos	Future Use of the existing Victoria Primary School building	Catchment Change	Alternative Options and Other Buildings	The Consultation Process	School Roll Projections	Secondary School Issues	Temporary Solutions at Victoria Primary School	Trinity Primary School
001, ANON-56DS-Y69F-G	X		X		X		X		X	X	X	
002					X							
003										X		
004		X	X		X							
005		X										
006					X							
007					X							
008	X		X				X	X				
009												
ANON-56DS-Y6VD-B												
ANON-56DS-Y6VH-F, ANON-56DS-Y6V9-Z		X			X							
ANON-56DS-Y6VR-S	X	X										
ANON-56DS-Y6VW-X												
ANON-56DS-Y6VK-J												X
ANON-56DS-Y6VQ-R		X										
ANON-56DS-Y6VJ-H												
ANON-56DS-Y6V8-Y												
ANON-56DS-Y6VZ-1					X							
ANON-56DS-Y6V5-V												
ANON-56DS-Y6VU-V					X							
ANON-56DS-Y6V3-T				X			X					
ANON-56DS-Y6VG-E	X		X									
ANON-56DS-Y6VY-Z	X											
ANON-56DS-Y6VM-M							X					
ANON-56DS-Y6VS-T					X							
ANON-56DS-Y6VA-8					X							
ANON-56DS-Y6VX-Y									X			
ANON-56DS-Y6VV-W							X					X
ANON-56DS-Y6RP-K, ANON-56DS-Y6SW-U									X			X
ANON-56DS-Y6RN-H		X										
ANON-56DS-Y6R6-S									X			
ANON-56DS-Y6RR-N									X			
ANON-56DS-Y6RT-Q						X	X		X		X	
ANON-56DS-Y6RW-T									X			X
ANON-56DS-Y6RK-E		X	X	X			X					
ANON-56DS-Y6RC-6	X		X									
ANON-56DS-Y6RQ-M												
ANON-56DS-Y6R9-V					X							
ANON-56DS-Y6RJ-D, ANON-56DS-Y6RZ-W					X							
ANON-56DS-Y6R8-U					X							

	Traffic, Parking and Safety	Western Harbour: Planning, the Environment and New School Design	New Victoria Site Size	Victoria Community, Identity and Ethos	Future Use of the existing Victoria Primary School building	Catchment Change	Alternative Options and Other Buildings	The Consultation Process	School Roll Projections	Secondary School Issues	Temporary Solutions at Victoria Primary School	Trinity Primary School
Reference												
ANON-56DS-Y6RB-5					X							
ANON-56DS-Y6R4-Q					X							
ANON-56DS-Y6R5-R												
ANON-56DS-Y6R3-P	X	X										
ANON-56DS-Y6RG-A												
ANON-56DS-Y6RY-V					X							
ANON-56DS-Y6RM-G	X	X										
ANON-56DS-Y6RA-4	X	X										
ANON-56DS-Y6R1-M					X							
ANON-56DS-Y6R7-T												
ANON-56DS-Y64E-A												
ANON-56DS-Y64P-N					X							
ANON-56DS-Y64D-9					X							
ANON-56DS-Y64T-S		X										
ANON-56DS-Y646-U												
ANON-56DS-Y64R-Q									X			X
ANON-56DS-Y64F-B	X											
ANON-56DS-Y64K-G					X		X	X	X			
ANON-56DS-Y64C-8												
ANON-56DS-Y64Q-P					X							X
ANON-56DS-Y649-X												
ANON-56DS-Y64J-F												
ANON-56DS-Y648-W												
ANON-56DS-Y64Z-Y												
ANON-56DS-Y644-S									X			
ANON-56DS-Y645-T												
ANON-56DS-Y643-R												
ANON-56DS-Y64G-C												
ANON-56DS-Y64Y-X												
ANON-56DS-Y64M-J												
ANON-56DS-Y64A-6												
ANON-56DS-Y64X-W									X			
ANON-56DS-Y64V-U												
ANON-56DS-Y641-P									X			X
ANON-56DS-Y642-Q												X
ANON-56DS-Y6SE-9												
ANON-56DS-Y6SP-M												
ANON-56DS-Y6SN-J												X
ANON-56DS-Y6SD-8	X									X		X
ANON-56DS-Y6SH-C	X											
ANON-56DS-Y6ST-R												
ANON-56DS-Y6S6-T												
ANON-56DS-Y6SR-P												
ANON-56DS-Y6SF-A										X		X

	Traffic, Parking and Safety	Western Harbour: Planning, the Environment and New School Design	New Victoria Site Size	Victoria Community, Identity and Ethos	Future Use of the existing Victoria Primary School building	Catchment Change	Alternative Options and Other Buildings	The Consultation Process	School Roll Projections	Secondary School Issues	Temporary Solutions at Victoria Primary School	Trinity Primary School
Reference												
ANON-56DS-Y6SK-F, ANON-56DS-Y67A-9												
ANON-56DS-Y6SQ-N												
ANON-56DS-Y6SC-7												
ANON-56DS-Y6S9-W												X
ANON-56DS-Y6S8-V					X							
ANON-56DS-Y6SB-6										X		X
ANON-56DS-Y6S4-R										X		
ANON-56DS-Y6S5-S										X		X
ANON-56DS-Y6SG-B												
ANON-56DS-Y6SY-W										X		X
ANON-56DS-Y6SS-Q		X										
ANON-56DS-Y6SA-5												X
ANON-56DS-Y6SX-V	X	X										
ANON-56DS-Y6S1-N					X							
ANON-56DS-Y69E-F												
ANON-56DS-Y69D-E							X					
ANON-56DS-Y69H-J	X											
ANON-56DS-Y696-Z	X											
ANON-56DS-Y69W-1				X			X					
ANON-56DS-Y69K-N				X	X							
ANON-56DS-Y69C-D	X											
ANON-56DS-Y69Q-U												
ANON-56DS-Y69J-M	X											
ANON-56DS-Y698-2, ANON-56DS-Y697-1		X			X							
ANON-56DS-Y69Z-4	X											
ANON-56DS-Y69B-C												
ANON-56DS-Y695-Y				X	X							
ANON-56DS-Y69U-Y			X		X		X	X				
ANON-56DS-Y69S-W	X								X	X		
ANON-56DS-Y69A-B		X		X								
ANON-56DS-Y69V-Z	X		X		X							
ANON-56DS-Y692-V	X		X				X		X			
ANON-56DS-Y69X-2					X		X					
ANON-56DS-Y6RD-7		X	X		X						X	
ANON-56DS-Y6BP-3					X					X		X
ANON-56DS-Y6BN-1										X		X
ANON-56DS-Y6BD-Q	X	X	X				X				X	
ANON-56DS-Y6BH-U	X									X		
ANON-56DS-Y6BT-7										X		
ANON-56DS-Y6BR-5									X	X		
ANON-56DS-Y6BF-S												
ANON-56DS-Y6BW-A										X		X
ANON-56DS-Y6BK-X					X							
ANON-56DS-Y6BC-P	X											



	Traffic, Parking and Safety	Western Harbour: Planning, the Environment and New School Design	New Victoria Site Size	Victoria Community, Identity and Ethos	Future Use of the existing Victoria Primary School building	Catchment Change	Alternative Options and Other Buildings	The Consultation Process	School Roll Projections	Secondary School Issues	Temporary Solutions at Victoria Primary School	Trinity Primary School
Reference												
ANON-56DS-Y6BQ-4												
ANON-56DS-Y6B6-9					X							
ANON-56DS-Y6B9-C												X
ANON-56DS-Y6BJ-W	X		X				X					
ANON-56DS-Y6B8-B												
ANON-56DS-Y6B5-8												
ANON-56DS-Y6B3-6												
ANON-56DS-Y6BU-8												
ANON-56DS-Y6BG-T												
ANON-56DS-Y6BS-6												
ANON-56DS-Y6B4-7												
ANON-56DS-Y6BM-Z												
ANON-56DS-Y6BV-9												
ANON-56DS-Y6B1-4		X										
ANON-56DS-Y6B2-5					X							
ANON-56DS-Y6B7-A												
ANON-56DS-Y67E-D												
ANON-56DS-Y67P-R											X	X
ANON-56DS-Y67N-P	X											
ANON-56DS-Y6BX-B							X					
ANON-56DS-Y67H-G									X			X
ANON-56DS-Y67T-V					X				X			
ANON-56DS-Y676-X												
ANON-56DS-Y67R-T												
ANON-56DS-Y67W-Y									X			
ANON-56DS-Y67F-E				X								
ANON-56DS-Y6BA-M	X											X
ANON-56DS-Y679-1								X				
ANON-56DS-Y67J-J					X				X			
ANON-56DS-Y678-Z												
ANON-56DS-Y67B-A					X							
ANON-56DS-Y674-V												
ANON-56DS-Y675-W												X
ANON-56DS-Y673-U									X			
ANON-56DS-Y67U-W												
ANON-56DS-Y67G-F	X											
ANON-56DS-Y67Y-1	X	X	X									
ANON-56DS-Y67V-X		X										
ANON-56DS-Y67X-Z					X		X					
ANON-56DS-Y671-S	X						X		X			
ANON-56DS-Y672-T	X	X	X						X			
ANON-56DS-Y677-Y									X			
ANON-56DS-Y67E-A	X	X	X		X		X	X	X			

## Appendix 4 - Key Themes and Issues and Council Responses

### Traffic, Parking and Safety

<b>Issue Raised</b>	The consultation paper does not comment on the suitability of the transport and infrastructure as it currently is. Growing congestion in the Western Harbour area will be compounded by the addition of a new school. The Western Harbour has only a single arterial road in and out of Lindsay Road.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Where will the vehicle entrance to the new school be located? No strategy for safer routes to the new school are proposed.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	There is no space for dropping off and the bus route makes crossing the road hazardous.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Double yellow lines should be used to stop cars parking adjacent to the school and suitable methods used to stop vehicles dropping off children in residential roads.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The route to the new school will be longer and more dangerous for existing catchment pupil, discouraging walking and cycling.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The route to the new school will be longer and more dangerous for existing catchment pupil, discouraging walking and cycling.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Lindsay Road is particularly busy and children will have to cross this road to reach the new school site.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	No consideration has been given to the requirement for parking for school staff and after school groups. Parking in the areas will not cope as it is already stretched.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Accessing the site from Newhaven Place would cause safety problems as the junction is too small.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Will the existing no 10 bus stops near Sandpiper road be moved further away from or closer to the new school site to ease traffic flow/congestion? Will Lothian Buses revert to driving along Sandpiper Road past ASDA?
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Originally there was to be a Western Harbour one-way system, (running past ASDA to the top of the Western Harbour Peninsula and down Western Harbour Drive) in place for Western Harbour traffic. Should this idea now be reconsidered? Should the road

	linking ASDA to the Western Harbour be built as part of the school development?
<b>Issue Raised</b>	If the new school opens directly on to Western Harbour Drive near Western Harbour Place, it could make it difficult for traffic to exit or enter Platinum Point at peak times and for the two large flatted developments beyond Platinum Point.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The Council need to come up with a solution to the likely congestion at drop-off and pick-up times which does not push the problem onto surrounding narrow residential streets.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	A speed camera should be installed on the main road as much of the traffic does not adhere to the 20mph limit.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>The new school would be the subject of a planning application which would require that a transport impact assessment or statement be prepared. This assessment would consider the existing infrastructure and identify any measures which may be necessary to limit the impact of the traffic generated by the new school on the surrounding roads. This may include the installation of additional infrastructure to make safe the routes by which pupils will access the school. It may also be necessary to consider the schools inclusion in the “School Streets” scheme which would restrict access to the streets around the school at key points during the school day (e.g. at drop-off and pick-up times) to residents only.</p> <p>The means by which the school site is accessed by vehicles and by pedestrians will be determined during the design process and will be informed by the outcomes of the transport study undertaken as part of the planning process.</p> <p>The school will not include a purpose designed drop-off zone as this would encourage the use of cars and would therefore be counter to Council policy which encourages the use of alternative and sustainable means of transport. Provision of parking spaces for staff and visitors at the new school will be made according to the standards set out in the Design Guidance published by the Council’s Planning Department.</p> <p>The relocation of the school from its present site to the Western Harbour would reduce the distance to school the majority of the catchment population are required to travel and would reduce the</p>

	number of pupils having to cross major roads such as Lindsay Road.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Opening up a new road on the north side of the proposed site may help reduce the impact of school traffic.
<b>Council Response</b>	The master plan for the Western Harbour includes the provision of a road on the north side of the school.

### **Western Harbour: Planning, the Environment and New School Design**

<b>Issue Raised</b>	When will the park in the masterplan for the Western Harbour be built? Areas of green space are essential for residents and school children.
<b>Council Response</b>	The timescales by which the park in the master plan is to be delivered will be determined by the developer, Forth Ports.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Will trees near Windrush Drive be retained to divide the school from residential properties?
<b>Council Response</b>	The design of the new school will include proposals for landscaping. These proposals will focus on providing an environment which benefits both school users and the surrounding community.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Has the impact on residential properties of noise from a new school been considered?
<b>Council Response</b>	An assessment of the impact a new school building may have on the surrounding environment would be made as part of the design process and this would form part of the planning application process.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Some areas of the Western Harbour are not child/young family/school friendly.
<b>Council Response</b>	The majority of Victoria Primary School's catchment population live in the Western Harbour area. It is anticipated that the availability of a new school building in the area will not only provide the children living in the area with fit for purpose facilities – for before, during and after school hours – but will also act as a catalyst for the delivery of the remaining sections of the masterplan.

<b>Issue Raised</b>	No reference is made in the consultation documents to the West-East Road from Queensferry to Seafield or to tram routes.
<b>Council Response</b>	The consultation document focused on safe routes to school as appropriate. The tram routes and West-East road are strategic transport issues and when implemented it would be necessary to ensure safe routes to the new school are maintained.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The need for a new school and sufficient affordable housing cannot be derailed by people concerned about their own property values.
<b>Council Response</b>	All arguments put forward for and against the implementation of the proposal set out in the consultation paper are considered in reaching the recommendations set out in this outcomes report. However, the impact of a new school on the value of property in the area is not considered to be relevant in reaching those recommendations.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Consideration should be given to community use of the new school building including use of sports facilities outside school hours.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The provision of retail space in the Western Harbour should be considered as well as the school.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The design of the new school should reflect the history of the school and its links to the harbour area.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>The Council would like the new primary school to be a whole community asset. This means that through the design process the broader community will be consulted on what services and facilities the new building could provide.</p> <p>It is also important that the design of the new building connects the established and newer part of the community it serves by recognising and celebrating the history of the school and the area.</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The Council should be focusing on providing more housing and creating nice walks and green spaces rather than a school.
<b>Council Response</b>	Through developments such as the Western Harbour and the approved and proposed developments set out in the Council's Local Development Plan, the Council intends to meet its

	<p>obligations to provide the housing necessary to support a growing population. However, infrastructure such as schools are required to support this new housing. Where possible the Council will seek to make the most efficient use of existing capacity but this is not always possible and it will be necessary in many areas, including the Western Harbour to make available additional, new capacity.</p> <p>The masterplan for the Western Harbour includes a significant area of park land and the Council is in discussion with the developer, Forth Ports, about the timescales by which this element of the masterplan will be delivered.</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	New buildings are not as robust as older ones as demonstrated by the PFI schools issues.
<b>Council Response</b>	The Council accepts fully the findings of the Report of the Independent Inquiry into the Construction of Edinburgh Schools which was necessitated following the collapse of the wall at Oxfangs Primary School. The Council has adopted all the recommendations made in the Inquiry report and believes that this will ensure that all new school designs will provide a safe, comfortable, fit for purpose and enduring community asset.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The proposed site is currently one of the few landscaped areas within the Western Harbour and, as the masterplan was developed over a decade ago, an alternative site should be considered.
<b>Council Response</b>	The masterplan for the Western Harbour includes a significant area of park land and the Council is in discussion with the developer, Forth Ports, about the timescales by which this element of the masterplan will be delivered.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	How big will the school car park be and would parents/carers have access to the school car park?
<b>Council Response</b>	The size of the school car park would be determined according to the Planning Department's Design Guidance which sets out the number of parking spaces required. Parking provision at a school is usually only for staff and visitors.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Will the Brakewater path and railings be made safe with the lifelbelts reinstated? Will there be increased patrols to remove dog muck and rubbish from this area and for Lighthouse Park?

<b>Council Response</b>	The proposals in this consultation relate only to establishing a school in the Western Harbour area. However, these comments have been passed to the Neighbourhood Team for consideration.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The building of the school should be overseen by more than the education department in the Council so that it is part of a coordinated plan for the area. Council departments responsible for transport, environment and education, should be coordinating, consulting and taking feedback from people living nearby who will inevitably be impacted.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>The Planning process for a new school building necessarily involves colleagues from across the Council including those responsible for transport planning and infrastructure and the built environment. The Planning process also provides a means by which anybody can have their say on the proposals. However, before a Planning application is submitted it is the Council's intention to undertake an informal consultation process which will allow members of the school community and the wider community to feed into the design process for the school so that it best reflects the needs of the community it will serve.</p> <p>The provision of a school on the site proposed in this consultation was made in the masterplan for Western Harbour when it was first made publicly available in 2005. This masterplan was developed as a condition of the original outline planning permission granted in 2002. Several Council departments are working with the developer in a co-ordinated manner to secure the delivery of the masterplan.</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Will there be sufficient accommodation provided within the new school building to provide an After School Club service? Can space also be provided for other community groups who make use of the existing building such as the local Scout Group?
<b>Council Response</b>	The new school building will include space for After School Club provision. The types of spaces made available to the After School Club and other community groups will be developed through the design process which will be undertaken with the school community.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	When will the new school open?

<b>Council Response</b>	If the proposal is approved by Council in June 2017 the estimated opening date of the school would be August 2020. This would depend on the necessary budgets being established as part of the 2018-19 budget setting process.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The new school should be low level to reduce the visual impact it has for surrounding residential properties.
<b>Council Response</b>	Until such times as the design of the school building has progressed it will not be possible to determine the height of the building or its likely impact on surrounding properties. The new school would be the subject of a planning application which would require a design statement justifying its design and its relationship with surrounding properties.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Can it be guaranteed that the new school will have adequate quality outdoor and General Purpose space?
<b>Council Response</b>	The Council believes that the playground size will be appropriate for the number of pupils in the school. The play area will be designed to promote outdoor learning and support and the Council's commitment to the health and wellbeing of the children in its care.  The amount of General Purpose space available in the school will meet Scottish Government requirements.

### **New Victoria Site Size**

<b>Issue Raised</b>	The size of the school and the site mean that the play space will not be that significantly different from that at Victoria Primary School.
<b>Council Response</b>	The existing school site is 0.37 hectares compared to a proposed site of 1.2 hectares. Accordingly, the proposed site is more than three times larger than the existing school site. In addition, the empty site will allow a school design to be developed which incorporates an expansion strategy and considers from the outset how the provision and quality of the available outdoor space can be maximised.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The size of the site at Western Harbour is not adequate. If a three stream school may be required why was the site provided



	not sufficient from the outset - the plot adjacent to the school site should be acquired or the size of the site renegotiated.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>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 double stream (or greater) primary school with capacity for a further 40 pupils in the nursery, the total site size should be 1.9 hectares comprising two elements for which the appropriate sizes are defined separately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A main school site on which the actual school buildings are located of not less than 1.3 hectares (of which 0.1 hectares relates to the nursery); and</li> <li>• An area for playing fields of not less than 0.6 hectares.</li> </ul> <p>In 2003 when the original section 75 was agreed with Forth Ports significant areas of housing development in the Central Leith area had not been proposed. Accordingly, the identified school site in the Western Harbour is 1.2 hectares which is less than the minimum specified requirement for a new school with provision of a nursery.</p> <p>However, the Council believe that the size of the available site is appropriate for the level of provision to be made and have sought and gained Scottish Government approval for dispensation from the School Premises (General Requirements and Standards) (Scotland) Regulations 1967 with regard to this proposal.</p> <p>The regulations do not actually 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. Taking the area of such off-site facilities into consideration this would be the case which would apply regarding the proposed new primary school.</p> <p>A new primary school would also be located adjacent to a significant area of park land and it is anticipated that a new school would benefit significantly from access to this resource.</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The small playground will lead to more accidents and less space for running about leading to higher levels of obesity.

<b>Council Response</b>	The Council believe that the playground size will be appropriate for the number of pupils in the school. The play area will be designed to support the Council's commitment to the health and wellbeing of the children in its care.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The new school does not have adequate nursery provision.
<b>Council Response</b>	Early Years provision across the city is under review following the introduction by the Scottish Government of extended free nursery hours. The Council will ensure that the level of provision made at the new school is appropriate to demand in the locality and the size of the site.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	There is concern that the future expansion of the new Victoria Primary school would mean building on land identified for the park? Could expansion of the school site into the proposed park area provide the school with playing fields?
	The new Victoria Primary School will be built with an expansion strategy and this will be developed through the design process which the community will be able to feed into and will be set out in the planning application. If there is an opportunity to increase the size of the school site through ongoing discussions with Forth Ports then the Council will explore this. It is likely that any such expansion of the school site would simply result in the provision of playing field or external play space which would continue to be an open space and a usable community asset.

### **Victoria Community, Identity and Ethos**

<b>Issue Raised</b>	Removing the school from its central location to Western Harbour would be a significant loss for a community such as Newhaven which is steeped in history.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The school is an integral part of the Newhaven community.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The new school will be better located for the majority of the Victoria Primary School population.
<b>Council Response</b>	When Victoria Primary School was built, the waters of the Forth were only metres from the playground. The land reclaimed from the Forth in recent years has extended the Newhaven community

	<p>and the population that Victoria Primary School was built to serve. The majority of Victoria's catchment population now live in the Western Harbour area. Accordingly, while the Council acknowledges the significant history associated with the Victoria Primary School building and the role this has played in the Newhaven community for many years; change in the area has been substantial and the school no longer has the capacity to support demand. In addition, while there is a strong community attachment to the school building and it is acknowledged that the building holds historical significance for the city, it presents challenges in delivering a modern curriculum. This was made clear by HMIE inspectors in 2007 who rated the quality of accommodation and facilities as "weak" and commented that "staff and pupils made very good use of the building despite a number of limiting factors."</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	A large school will result in the loss of the ethos that is important to Victoria Primary School and Newhaven
<b>Council Response</b>	Victoria Primary School's roll has increased from just 93 pupils in 2007/08 to 254 in 2016/17. There has been no evidence presented that during this time the school's ethos has eroded and, during the public meeting on 27 February 2017 the Head Teacher of the school made this point, stating that despite the growth experienced by the school she did not believe the culture of the school had changed.

### **Future Use of the Victoria Primary School Building**

<b>Issue Raised</b>	The old school will be demolished and sold to developers.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The proposals cannot be supported as they do not set out what will happen to the current Victoria Primary School building.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The Victoria Primary School building should be kept as a place of learning and used to rehouse the Newhaven Heritage Museum. It should become a community resource and hub.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The Council should not let issues around the future use of the Victoria Primary School building affect the timetable for the delivery of the proposals in the consultation paper.

<p><b>Council Response</b></p>	<p>It may ultimately be necessary for the sale of the Victoria Primary School building to progress to provide funding for a new school.</p> <p>However, Council officers have met with and will continue to support local groups wishing to pursue the transfer of the building to the community through the Community Asset Transfer process as it is acknowledged that there is demand within the Newhaven community for alternative uses of the Victoria Primary School building to be considered should it no longer be required to serve as a primary school.</p> <p>The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 provides community groups with a right to make requests to the Council for the use of the Victoria Primary School building should it be declared surplus to requirements. The group(s) may request ownership, lease or other rights, as they wish. The Act requires that the Council assess the request transparently against a specified list of criteria and to agree the request unless there are reasonable grounds for refusal.</p> <p>The Act sets out the key rights and duties and provides a framework for the Community Asset Transfer process which has been adopted by the City of Edinburgh Council.</p> <p>Critical to the Community Asset Transfer process is that the request from the community group(s) be in the form of a plan which demonstrates the viability and sustainability of the proposal and the benefits to the Council versus alternative means of disposal.</p> <p>The statutory process for the transfer of local authority property to community groups means that until interest in initiating the transfer of the Victoria Primary School building to a community group has been formally received and a valid plan has been produced and submitted to the Council for assessment no guarantees that a transfer will take place can be made.</p> <p>Interest in initiating the Community Asset Transfer process cannot formally be accepted until the building is declared surplus to requirements which would be on completion of the new school building, currently scheduled for August 2020.</p> <p>Should a formal request for the transfer of the Victoria Primary School building be received once the building has been declared surplus to requirements, the Council would not be able to advertise the sale of the building or the transfer of the building to</p>
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	another party until the transfer request had been assessed in line with the Community Asset Transfer framework.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The valuation of Victoria Primary School seems very low and it is disappointing that the Council would dispose of this asset for so little.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>The valuation of the Victoria Primary School building takes account of the building's listed status, market conditions and assumes that the site is redeveloped for residential use. It also assumes no adverse ground conditions which may impact on value.</p> <p>While the sale of the Victoria Primary School building would not generate sufficient funds to allow full funding of a new primary school, in the context of the Council's current financial position, it represents not only a significant capital contribution to that funding gap but also a significant revenue saving in terms of the ongoing running and maintenance costs associated with the building.</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	What will happen to the new Rising Rolls building at Victoria Primary School? The investment in this building was short-sighted.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>The valuation of the Victoria Primary School building set out in the consultation document is for the full site and includes the new Rising Rolls building. Accordingly, its sale as part of the wider site is assumed to contribute to the funding of the proposed new school building.</p> <p>However, Council officers have met with and will continue to support local groups wishing to pursue the transfer of the building to the community through the Community Asset Transfer process as it is acknowledged that there is demand within the Newhaven community for alternative uses of the Victoria Primary School building to be considered, should it no longer be required to serve as a primary school.</p> <p>The Rising Rolls building was delivered because discussions with the school community highlighted a desire to see the school expand rather than consider alternative options such as annexe accommodation. At that time there was not sufficient demand from the Western Harbour to justify the investment in a new</p>

	school building and the development of the North Leith area had not been proposed.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Could there be conditions put on the sale of the Victoria Primary School building which mean that it must be used for community purposes and maintained in its original state?
<b>Council Response</b>	The Victoria Primary School building is listed and so the development of the building and the rest of the site are likely to be subject to significant Planning conditions. A change of use of the building from an educational establishment to, for example, residential or commercial, would also require Planning approval and be subject to the normal Planning consultation processes.  However, it would not be possible for the Council to market the building for sale with conditions specifying its future use.

### Catchment Change

<b>Issue Raised</b>	The Trinity and Victoria catchment should have been changed so that those pupils living in the Victoria catchment but that are closer to Trinity can go to that school. Some people in the Victoria catchment area will live only 5 minutes from Trinity Primary but will be 10-15 minutes from the new Victoria Primary School.
<b>Council Response</b>	While the Council endeavours to ensure that the nearest school to an address is the catchment school for that address, the relatively short distance between schools in the city means that this is not always possible. The principal factor in determining the location of catchment boundaries is the capacity of the school to accommodate demand from its defined catchment area.  Realigning sections of Victoria Primary School's catchment with Trinity Primary School was considered as part of these proposals, however, it was determined that Trinity Primary School may not be sufficiently expanded to accommodate demand beyond its existing and projected catchment population.

### Alternative Options and Other Buildings

<b>Issue Raised</b>	Victoria Primary School should be retained and a new school built with a catchment area that covers the Western Harbour.
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<b>Issue Raised</b>	More, smaller schools result in greater connectedness among families and encourage families to walk and cycle to school – improving health and the environment.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>A significant factor in the decision not to pursue an option which retained the existing Victoria Primary School as a school relates to the cost of operating two smaller facilities. The cost of running two schools is greater than running a single school because of the additional management (Head Teacher, Business Manager) and support staff (admin, janitorial, dining, etc.) who would be required. While they will be smaller, the overall floor area of the two facilities would be larger resulting in higher cleaning, heating and lighting costs. Two separate sites would also incur greater rates costs, greater transport costs (for example school meals would still have to be delivered to at least one site) and greater central administration costs. In addition, the cost of maintaining two sites rather than one is also likely to be higher. Condition surveys have already identified that Victoria Primary School requires spending of approximately £500,000 over the next 5 years.</p> <p>One of the themes at the workshops undertaken as part of the informal consultation process was a desire not to split existing communities. Pupils from the Western Harbour currently form over half Victoria’s catchment population – accordingly, the Western Harbour is a significant part of Victoria’s community. There is a desire to integrate the significant new developments into existing communities and infrastructure so that they are not just new satellite communities but share in Edinburgh’s existing history and culture. Simply building a new school in the Western Harbour for that community would not achieve this and would split Victoria’s catchment.</p> <p>In the 20 years from 1983 to 2003 when the first pupils were generated from housing in the Western Harbour, the average roll at Victoria Primary School was 129 pupils. This suggests that, even excluding the Rising Rolls building from its capacity, Victoria Primary would have an average occupancy rate of 61% if pupils from the Western Harbour were to be directed to an alternative school. Accordingly, to remain sustainable, sections of the Western Harbour would have to continue to feed to Victoria Primary School. This would mean that the new school would initially be very small.</p>

	<p>Populating a smaller new school in the Western Harbour would present difficulties as initially the available catchment population would be small and, without making transfer to the new school mandatory for existing Victoria pupils, would rely on pupils transferring voluntarily from other schools to provide a P2-P7 population.</p> <p>Finally, while arguments may be made for and against the educational value of small schools, Victoria Primary School's inspection in 2007 by HMIE rated the quality of the accommodation and facilities as "weak" and noted that "staff and pupils made very good use of the building despite a number of limiting factors". The Council believes that a new school building will provide a better learning and teaching environment and therefore offers a significant educational advantage over a two school approach.</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Evidence suggests many pupils do not thrive in large schools, especially children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>The Council has significant experience of successfully operating three stream schools and believes that, regardless of the size of the school, with the right support and environment, all pupils can thrive.</p> <p>By providing Victoria Primary School with suitable, modern facilities that remove the limitations presented by the existing school building, the Council believes that it will provide all children attending Victoria with greater opportunities to fulfil their potential.</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	There is room to expand Victoria Primary School further on its existing site to accommodate the anticipated increase in school population.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>A feasibility study was undertaken to consider the ways in which Victoria Primary School could be expanded to accommodate projected demand. This highlighted that there is sufficient space on the school site to physically increase the number of classrooms.</p> <p>However, the Council does not believe that expansion of Victoria Primary School on its existing site should be considered a long-term solution to accommodation pressures in the area as it would compound the suitability issues HMIE identified when they rated the quality of the accommodation and facilities as "weak" in 2007.</p>



	<p>The gym hall is one of the smallest in the city; the dining area is made up of two small converted classroom spaces; office spaces are small, inconveniently located and scattered throughout the building; the staffroom is small and facilities for staff limited; the stairwells are narrow and toilet provision would require to be increased with the number of classrooms.</p> <p>However, the most significant factor identified by the Parent Council at Victoria is the loss of playground space which a new extension would cause. Objections to the delivery of the Rising Rolls building in 2014 centred on the loss of outdoor space and this would be a significant factor should the school be permanently or even temporarily extended again.</p> <p>Finally, expanding Victoria Primary School on its own site does not address the potential accommodation issues projected for Trinity Primary School should development proposals for the North Leith area progress as currently proposed.</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Could Victoria Park have a nursery as Early Years provision in north Edinburgh is inadequate?
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>A review of Early Years provision across the whole city is ongoing in light of changes to legislation which places an obligation on local authorities to deliver 1140 hours rather than 600 hours of free nursery care for all 3-5 year olds and qualifying 2 year old children.</p> <p>Victoria Park is protected in law as “Common Good”, meaning that it must remain a public amenity accessible to all. Accordingly, legally the Council cannot simply build a nursery on Victoria Park.</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Could the Rising Rolls building at Victoria Primary School accommodate a nursery to increase play space at the new school site?
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>There are significant educational benefits relating to the transition of pupils from nursery to primary school if the two services are collocated. Collocation also allows staff to be part of a larger team and does not introduce the management issues that running two separate sites creates.</p> <p>Making use of the Rising Rolls building would mean the loss of the sale of a significant portion of the existing Victoria Primary School site. Additionally, the Rising Rolls building is not designed</p>

	<p>as a nursery space having neither the appropriate toilet or kitchen provision. Substantial additional funding would be required on the interior and the external play space to allow it to function as a nursery.</p> <p>Accordingly, while there would be some saving in terms of the required floor area of the new building, it is unlikely that this would offset the funding lost from the sale of only half the existing Victoria site and the cost of converting the Rising Rolls building for nursery use.</p> <p>Finally, having the nursery and the primary classes on the same site is logistically easier for parents to manage allowing drop-off and pick-up from a single site rather than requiring travel between two separate establishments.</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Use the former Fort building to address accommodation pressures in the area.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>Reopening Fort as a primary school in its own right or using the Fort building as an annexe of either Victoria or Trinity Primary Schools was considered as part of the informal consultation process. There were a number of issues identified through investigation of these options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Fort would require significant catchment change – whether it opened as a school in its own right or as an annexe of Victoria or Trinity; comments at the informal workshops in relation to these proposals suggested a strong desire to avoid splitting communities – especially where new bonds had only recently been established;</li> <li>• Fort would be required to accommodate some of the existing Victoria catchment area to address pressures at Victoria. This means that people only a short distance from Victoria would be realigned with Fort – some may walk past Victoria to get to Fort.</li> <li>• Additional classroom space would be required at Fort and this would require either substantial construction on the site or relocation of the Early Years Centre.</li> <li>• The cost of running three school buildings is greater than running two because of the additional management (Head Teacher, Business Manager) and support staff (admin, janitorial, dining, etc.) who would be required (in the case of reopening Fort as a school) and because of the cost of maintaining three buildings rather than two is also likely to be higher.</li> </ul>

<b>Issue Raised</b>	Closing Fort and converting Bonnington into a Gaelic school was poor planning and has exacerbated overcrowding in both Trinity and Victoria Primary Schools requiring that new classrooms be built in the playgrounds of both schools.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>The closure of Fort and Bonnington Primary Schools resulted in no change to the catchment boundaries of Victoria Primary School. Accordingly, the school experienced no direct impact on its roll following these closures. Growth at Victoria Primary School preceded these closures and has been as a direct result of the expansion of the Western Harbour area.</p> <p>Trinity Primary School has been directly impacted by the closures of Fort Primary School and Bonnington Primary School and was expanded in 2012 to meet increased demand for places. In addition to the increased size of its catchment area Trinity Primary School's growth has been driven by higher percentages of pupils choosing to attend their catchment school. In recognition of this changing pattern of attendance a second phase of expansion which would allow the school to increase to a full three streams was planned. It has not yet been necessary to deliver this additional accommodation however it is forecast that additional classroom space will be required in August 2018 and plans for the new classrooms are being progressed.</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	How much did the new classrooms at Victoria Primary School cost?
<b>Council Response</b>	The new classrooms cost £706,000.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The overly conservative roll projections suggest the need to reuse capacity at Fort should be factored into proposals.
<b>Council Response</b>	The Council believes that the proposal set out in the consultation paper provides sufficient capacity to address projected demand for school places.

### Consultation Process

<b>Issue Raised</b>	The consultation process has not been adequate and concerns raised during the events were not reflected in the event summary.
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<b>Issue Raised</b>	Many parents could not attend consultation events because of work or were not aware of the implications of the events.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>Council officers have been involved with Working Groups (which include both school management and parent representatives) at Trinity and Victoria Primary Schools since March 2016 discussing both the short and long-term strategies required to address the accommodation pressures at the schools. These discussions have built on the work undertaken in 2013 and 2014 when Trinity and Victoria were involved in previous phases of the Council's Rising Rolls programme.</p> <p>Having identified several potential options through the Working Group process, workshops were held at both schools providing parents with an opportunity to consider the options presented and provide their response to them. Parent Councils were asked to extend the invite to the wider parent forum and attendance at both these workshops was good. Every effort was made to capture the views expressed and the issues raised so that they could be reflected in the statutory consultation process.</p> <p>The Council believes the proposal set out in the statutory consultation paper fairly reflects the feedback received through the Working Group process and the workshops undertaken as part of the informal consultation process. The Council also believes that the statutory consultation has met the requirements set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This has included providing consultees with multiple means of engaging in the process, including conducting independently chaired open public meetings at Trinity and Victoria Primary Schools at which a panel of representatives were available to respond to any questions or comments made. A record of these meetings can be found in Appendix 2 of the consultation outcomes paper.</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Newhaven is being moved into the Forth Ward for the May elections – conveniently prior to the decision being made, therefore no Councillor will be accountable.
<b>Council Response</b>	The timing of the statutory consultation process was proposed by Council officers and is based solely on meeting the accommodation needs of the schools concerned within the necessary timescales.

<b>Issue Raised</b>	More effort to publicise the consultation should have been made such as leafletting parents and residents and making use of local noticeboards.
<b>Council Response</b>	The regulations for who has to be consulted as part of a statutory consultation are outlined in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and have been fully applied regarding this consultation. No communications were sent directly to residents of Western Harbour or any other address as it would be an inefficient use of Council resources to notify all individual households within the affected areas.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The consultation asks for comment on the idea of a new school rather than the details which are more significant.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>The Council has endeavoured to provide as much information about the proposals as it can. Many of the issues raised through the consultation relate specifically to the design of the school and surrounding infrastructure and would only be fully understood at the point of submission of a planning application. In order to progress to that stage the Council will be required to commit considerable time and expenditure on surveys, feasibility work and professional fees. That time and expense would be wasted if the underlying principles of the proposal and the broader educational strategy were ultimately rejected.</p> <p>Should the proposals set out in the consultation paper be approved, the next step will be to identify funding for the new school building and then begin a consultative design process with the school and wider community. Ultimately, the design of the school and the surrounding infrastructure will be the subject of a planning application and, should the detail in this application not be sufficient or be disagreeable to some parties, it will be their right to object through the standard planning processes.</p>

### School Roll Projections

<b>Issue Raised</b>	The proposal addresses rising school rolls on a piecemeal basis.
<b>Council Response</b>	The Council believes that the creation of a new school which addresses suitability issues associated with the existing Victoria Primary School building; provides places for projected demand

	from future Western Harbour developments; provides a strategy to address the potentially significant growth within Trinity Primary School's catchment area and does this whilst limiting disruptive catchment changes, is a coherent and strategic approach to the issue of rising school rolls.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The projections for Trinity Primary School are excessively conservative.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The growth in the area proves that the Council got projections wrong in the area when decisions were made to close schools.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The projections for Victoria Primary School are excessively conservative. While designed for couples, the smaller flats are occupied by families unable to afford larger – this is why the roll at Victoria has grown. The pupil generation figures from the number of flats proposed is too low. A double stream school will quickly become triple stream and will reach capacity.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	What will happen if the numbers do not increase as rapidly as expected?
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>The Council believes that the system it uses for projecting future roll projections and demand for places is as good as the data available allows. School roll projections and the methodology used are published annually on the Council's website:</p> <p><a href="http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20256/school_places/1551/school_roll_projections">http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20256/school_places/1551/school_roll_projections</a></p> <p>Projections for small areas and cohorts rely on a number of variables which may be volatile and subject to change. Accordingly, the Council cannot guarantee the accuracy of its projections particularly over longer periods of time. For this reason, the Council continues to monitor and adapt projections as new data becomes available.</p> <p>A new, double stream primary school will have more than sufficient capacity to support projected demand from Victoria's existing catchment area and further development of the Western Harbour. Projections will be updated to take account of developments in the North Leith area as more detailed proposals become available. These projections will allow an assessment of whether and when the delivery of further accommodation through expansion of the school building is necessary.</p>

	<p>Current projections suggest that a three stream primary school will be sufficient to address demand for places in Victoria's proposed catchment area.</p> <p>Should the roll at Trinity Primary School rise beyond that projected the school would be identified as a rising rolls school and solutions would be considered with school management and parent representatives. This would include considering whether capacity at neighbouring schools could be utilised through catchment change.</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The projections do not take account of new housing at Leith Fort.
<b>Council Response</b>	Projections include anticipated pupil generation from the development of the Leith Fort site.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The anchor building at Victoria Primary School should have been made two storey – when the height of the roof is considered a two storey building should have been possible.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>The height of the roof was a key element in the success of the design – reflecting the pitches of the existing building and Newhaven's nautical heritage. The advice received from Planning was that a double storey building would not be acceptable.</p> <p>More fundamentally, the Council does not believe that expansion of Victoria Primary School beyond a 10 class capacity would be appropriate on a permanent basis as this would compound the suitability issues HMIE identified when they rated the quality of the accommodation and facilities as "weak" in 2007.</p>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	This process should have started before new classrooms were built in the playground at Victoria.
<b>Council Response</b>	The Rising Rolls building was delivered because discussions with the school community highlighted a desire to see the school expand rather than consider alternative options such as annexe accommodation. At that time there was not sufficient demand from the Western Harbour to justify the investment in a new school building and the development of the North Leith area had not been proposed.

<b>Issue Raised</b>	How many pupils attending Trinity Primary School and Victoria Primary School are non-catchment?
<b>Council Response</b>	In 2016/17 non-catchment pupils formed 20% and 35% of Trinity and Victoria's pupil rolls respectively. This compares with 28% and 55% respectively in 2010, demonstrating the impact greater numbers of catchment P1 pupils are having on both schools. While it would be desirable to limit P1 intakes to catchment pupils only, in practise this is difficult to achieve as the Council is required to make available places to non-catchment requests where it is possible to do so.

### Secondary School Issues

<b>Issue Raised</b>	How will pupils be accommodated at Trinity Academy which is already full? No consideration has been given to the impact of Rising Rolls on Trinity Academy which is in need of repair. Information about projected school rolls for Trinity Academy should be made available.
<b>Council Response</b>	Trinity Academy is part of the Council's Wave 4 programme. This programme will consider how the accommodation at Trinity Academy may be refurbished or rebuilt to improve the quality of the facilities provided and address projected demand for places. School roll projections and the methodology used are published annually on the Council's website: <a href="http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20256/school_places/1551/school_roll_projections">http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20256/school_places/1551/school_roll_projections</a>
<b>Issue Raised</b>	What is the impact on the wider Council school estate of denying out-of-catchment places to prevent capacity breach at Trinity Academy?
<b>Council Response</b>	In 2016/17 the S1 intake at Trinity Academy was 150 pupils, 50 of whom were non-catchment. The impact of refusing these non-catchment placing requests on the wider school estate would be that approximately 50 S1 non-catchment pupils would have to attend their catchment school or make a placing request elsewhere.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Could the existing Victoria Primary School building become a temporary annexe of Trinity Academy while work takes place to improve the secondary school?



<b>Council Response</b>	The feasibility work at Trinity Academy has not been completed and so it is too early to identify if any form of decant from the Trinity Academy building would be required. Should a decant be required then a solution would be developed with the Working Group at Trinity Academy.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Can Trinity Academy be rebuilt on a site adjacent to the new Victoria Primary School?
<b>Council Response</b>	No. The Council does not own the land in the Western Harbour and would be required to purchase a substantial area of land from the developers. This would also require the reworking of the masterplan for the Western Harbour and the resubmission of the Planning Application for the area which has been agreed based on provision of a set number of residential units and an open space strategy.

### Temporary Solutions at Victoria Primary School

<b>Issue Raised</b>	The consultation paper makes no assessment of the impact on learning and teaching of the temporary solution required, deferring any detail of the solution until after the acceptance of the proposal.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Putting some classes in temporary accommodation is preferable to an annexe solution as it will keep the school community together until the new building is ready.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>The temporary solution has been discussed with the Rising Rolls Working Group at Victoria Primary School. The use of the Fort building or another offsite annexe solution has been ruled out as there is a desire to keep the school population on a single site. Accordingly, the provision of temporary units is being investigated and further details of this solution will be available in the Autumn term.</p> <p>While it is recognised that increasing the school population on the existing site will further compound the limitations presented by existing facilities; the Council's Quality Improvement Officers will work with the school's management team to ensure that all necessary measures are put in places to allow existing standards of education to be maintained.</p>

<b>Issue Raised</b>	No contingency is in place should construction of the new school over-run.
<b>Council Response</b>	Temporary arrangements will remain in place at Victoria Primary School until the new school building is completed.

### Trinity Primary School

<b>Issue Raised</b>	There needs to be a sibling guarantee for pupils affected by catchment change.
<b>Council Response</b>	A sibling guarantee is included as part of the proposals set out in the consultation paper. Younger siblings of pupils attending Trinity Primary School at the time the catchment change is implemented and who are resident in the part of Trinity Primary School proposed for transfer would be guaranteed a place at Trinity Primary School. This policy would only apply if, when the younger sibling was registering at P1, he/she continued to be resident in the part of the Trinity Primary School catchment which would transfer to Victoria Primary School and would still have an elder sibling at Trinity Primary School in the coming academic year.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Can a section of Victoria Park be incorporated within Trinity Primary School's grounds to offset the loss of playground space as a result of building more classrooms?
<b>Council Response</b>	Council officers are working with Trinity Primary School's Parent Council to identify how Trinity Primary School may make use of the adjacent Victoria Park to increase the play area available for pupils. This will include investigating whether a section of the park may transfer to the school on a permanent basis. However, no decisions have been made and any proposal which would result in the regular use of the park by the school would be formed through a process of consultation with park users and local community groups.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The proposal does not directly address the issue of rising rolls at Trinity Primary School.
<b>Council Response</b>	The consultation paper makes clear that the expansion of Trinity Primary School to a full three stream, 21 class school will be necessary and that this level of expansion will be sufficient to

	support projected demand for places should the proposal set out in the paper be progressed.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The council should provide additional teaching and support staff to Trinity Primary School to manage as rolls rise and the school comes under greater pressure.
<b>Council Response</b>	Staffing allocations are linked to the number of classes formed by a school and the overall school roll. Accordingly, Trinity Primary School will continue to have the staffing compliment necessary to maintain and improve existing standards regardless of the size of the school roll in future years.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	There is a requirement for greater long term planning of additional class space. Why more space was not built when the first Rising Rolls building was constructed?
<b>Council Response</b>	The expansion of Trinity Primary School was planned in two phases as, when the school was first identified as facing Rising Rolls in 2012, it was unclear whether demand for a full three stream expansion would materialise.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The amount of General Purpose (GP) space at Trinity Primary School to accommodate the increased roll should be increased. An additional gym hall is also required to allow the school to meet the required 2hrs of PE per week.
<b>Council Response</b>	The Council believe that the General Purpose space available at Trinity Primary School is sufficient for a three stream school and is in accordance with Scottish Government's recommendations.  The school currently meets its requirement to provide 2hrs of PE per week and foresee no issues with this continuing to be the case in future.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Consideration of any plans for change at Trinity Primary School should be coordinated with any changes that are planned for Trinity Academy.
<b>Council Response</b>	Trinity Academy is part of the Council's Wave 4 programme. This programme will consider how the accommodation at Trinity Academy may be refurbished or rebuilt to improve the quality of the facilities provided and address projected demand for places. Feasibility work has been undertaken and this has included

	consideration of how space between the two schools may be shared and the opportunities this may present.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	What is the current size of the Trinity site in hectares?
<b>Council Response</b>	Trinity Primary School's site is currently 0.9 hectares.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The new classrooms at Trinity Primary School should be fit for purpose and their design informed by the Head Teacher and her staff.
<b>Council Response</b>	The Rising Rolls Working Group formed at Trinity Primary School includes school management, parent representatives, Council officers, architects and an appointed contractor. This group has been working collaboratively to oversee and consider all aspects of the design of the new building.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The Trinity Primary School building should be expanded rather than building another separate classroom building.
<b>Council Response</b>	Extending the existing building would significantly increase costs, would increase the timescales by which the additional classroom space could be delivered and would result in significantly more disruption to the operation of the school during the construction period.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The new classroom building should not result in the loss of the astroturf which should be moved to an alternative area of the school site.
<b>Council Response</b>	The work to design the new classroom building will include consideration of how the facilities it is displacing can be reprovided elsewhere.

## **Appendix 5 – Education Scotland Report**

### **Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The City of Edinburgh Council to relocate Victoria Primary School to a new building in the Western Harbour and to realign school catchment zones for that area.**

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments contained in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of The City of Edinburgh Council's proposal to relocate Victoria Primary School to a new building in the Western Harbour and to realign school catchment zones for that area. 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 a copy of 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. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the affected 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 27 February 2017 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;

- visits to the site of Trinity Primary School and Victoria Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees; and
- discussion of the proposal with headteachers of Holy Cross RC Primary School, St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School and Trinity Academy by telephone.

## **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* and the amendments in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*.

2.2 The consultation process ran from 30 January 2017 to 17 March 2017. During this period, the council held public meetings at Trinity Primary School and Victoria Primary School which were well attended by parents and other interested stakeholders. Statutory consultees, including Parent Councils of the schools directly involved were informed of the consultation in writing. Consultation documentation was published on The City of Edinburgh Council website and copies were available for public consultation at several venues during the consultation period, including local libraries and the schools concerned. A proforma questionnaire and an email address were made available for responses. The council received 163 questionnaire responses and a further nine submissions by email. Over three-quarters of responses indicated support for the council's proposal. Most stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors felt that the council had provided good opportunities for being consulted and for giving their views. Workshops held prior to the statutory consultation period provided stakeholders with helpful opportunities to shape and influence the council's eventual formal proposal paper.

## **3. Educational Aspects of Proposal**

3.1 This proposal involves the relocation of Victoria Primary School to a new site in the Western Harbour area of Edinburgh. Part of the proposal includes realigning the North Leith area of Trinity Primary School's catchment zone to that of the new Victoria Primary School. The proposal also involves minor catchment changes to Holy Cross RC Primary School, St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School and Trinity Academy to incorporate fully all of the reclaimed land in the Western Harbour area.

3.2 The planned new building for Victoria Primary School has the potential to provide children who will attend the new school with a purpose-built learning environment well-suited to their learning needs. At the same time, the proposal will help to ensure that the increasing roll at Trinity Primary School is kept manageable, reducing the possibility of overcrowding. As a result, the proposal offers clear educational benefits to children in both of these schools.

3.3 Realigning the catchment zones of Holy Cross RC Primary School, St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School and Trinity Academy will help to provide parents and pupils with greater certainty about their catchment status and should reduce any anxieties resulting from the placement process.

3.4 Almost all parents, pupils and staff who met with HM Inspectors support the proposal. There is a clear understanding that projected housing developments in the area would result in the school rolls of both Trinity Primary School and Victoria Primary School exceeding capacity. Parents of children at Trinity Primary School welcome the

arrangements being proposed for the younger siblings of any children living in the affected area of land which would, under the proposal, transfer from Trinity Primary School's catchment to that of Victoria Primary School.

3.5 Parents of children at Victoria Primary School who met with HM Inspectors did not fully support the proposal. They identified a number of concerns, including, the size of the new school site, transitional arrangements and safe routes to school.

3.6 The council should continue to engage with stakeholders regarding the design of the new school building and its site. In doing this, the council should clarify further its projections for the new school's roll and how it will monitor the possible need for additional classroom space. The council should take the issues raised by parents, including concerns over possible traffic congestion, into account when it draws up a strategy for safe routes to school.

3.7 In taking its proposal forward, the council should continue to work with parents, pupils and staff at Victoria Primary School to ensure that the best possible transitional arrangements are in place for the period before the new school building is in operation.

3.8 Stakeholders at both Trinity Primary School and Victoria Primary School have reasonable concerns over how the projected rise in pupils numbers at these schools will subsequently affect existing capacity at Trinity Academy. The council should continue to engage with relevant stakeholders to outline roll projections and possible future strategies which it may implement to tackle any overcrowding.

3.9 The Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh supports the proposal. It welcomes the realignment and expansion of the catchment areas of Holy Cross RC Primary School and St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School to include the Western Harbour area.

#### **4. Summary**

4.1 The City of Edinburgh Council's proposal to relocate Victoria Primary School to the Western Harbour and to realign catchment zones in the area has clear educational benefits for children and young people. The proposal has the potential to provide pupils of Victoria Primary School with a modern, fit for purpose learning environment. The proposal will also help to ensure that the roll of Trinity Primary School does not exceed its capacity. Clarification of catchment zone status for the Western Harbour area will also benefit pupils and parents at Holy Cross RC Primary School, St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School and Trinity Academy.

4.2 In taking its proposal forward, the council should continue to engage with relevant stakeholders and give consideration to their concerns over the size of the new Victoria Primary School site, its projected roll and how it will plan for safe routes to the site. The council should also work with all stakeholders at Victoria Primary School to make appropriate arrangements for the period of transition prior to the new school being fully operational.

**HM Inspectors  
Education Scotland  
April 2017**