

10am, Thursday 31 May 2018

## **Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Process on the Proposal to build a new Non-Denominational Secondary School to replace Castlebrae High School and Implement Minor Catchment Change to Formalise and Align Catchment Boundaries**

Item number

Report number

Executive/routine

Wards

Portobello/Craigmillar

Council Commitments [28](#)

### **Executive Summary**

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On [10 October 2017](#) the Education, Children and Families Committee approved that a statutory consultation be undertaken on the proposal to provide a new secondary school to replace Castlebrae High School on the site identified in Craigmillar Town Centre. The Committee also approved the consultation of minor catchment review to formalise and align catchment boundaries as a result of new build housing within this area.

A statutory consultation was undertaken between 13 November 2017 and 22 December 2017. The purpose of this report is to advise on the outcome of the consultation.

It is recommended that the proposal to relocate Castlebrae High School to a new building in Craigmillar town centre be progressed and that the school catchment changes outlined in the statutory consultation paper are implemented.

## **Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Process on the Proposal to build a new Non-Denominational Secondary School to replace Castlebrae High School and Implement Minor Catchment Change to Formalise and Align Catchment Boundaries**

### **1. Recommendations**

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- 1.1 Approve that the proposal to relocate Castlebrae High School to a new building in Craigmillar town centre is progressed.
- 1.2 Approve that the minor changes to formalise and align catchment boundaries outlined in the statutory consultation paper are implemented in the November prior to the new building opening.

### **2. Background**

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- 2.1 The vision of a replacement Castlebrae High School in the town centre of Craigmillar has been a key part of the masterplan taking forward the regeneration of Craigmillar town centre. The original masterplan for the regeneration of the Craigmillar area showed the site for a new secondary school and community library in a town centre location. The rationale for relocating the school is: a) to give it a more prominent location in Craigmillar; b) to endeavour to make it a more popular choice for its catchment population and; c) to be a significant contributor to the regeneration of the town centre.
- 2.2 A statutory consultation exercise under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 was conducted in 2002 which supported the decision to relocate the school to a town centre site for educational reasons. Although the original masterplan has been superseded since 2002 and the community library has now been provided as part of the new East Neighbourhood Centre, a revised town centre masterplan, which was consulted-on and presented in 2014, continues to allocate a town centre site for the new secondary school.
- 2.3 On [10 October 2017](#) the Education, Children and Families Committee approved that a statutory consultation should be undertaken on the proposal to provide a new secondary school to replace Castlebrae High School on the site identified in Craigmillar Town Centre.

- 2.4 The triangular piece of land at the front of the school will be considered as part of the new school project and developed by the Project team. However, once the school is delivered the intention is the land will be handed back to be maintained as public realm by appropriate Council services.
- 2.5 In summary, the statutory consultation paper proposed the following:
- Building of a new non-denominational secondary school to replace Castlebrae High School;
  - Implement a minor catchment change to formalise and align catchment boundaries for residents at the Wisp and Cloverfoot Cottages.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 The statutory consultation period ran from 13 November 2017 to 22 December 2017. The full statutory consultation paper is available [online](#) and a summary paper provided during the consultation period is attached in Appendix 1. A copy of the full statutory consultation paper is also available in the Elected Members lounge for reference.
- 3.2 One public meeting was held during the consultation period on 28 November 2017 at Castlebrae High School. The public meeting was independently chaired. Council officials answered questions following a short presentation. A record of the meeting is included in Appendix 2.
- 3.3 Representations on the proposal were invited by letter, email or through a specifically designed online response questionnaire. There were 25 representations received. The number of completed online questionnaires was 24 with 1 comment 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. Those who responded using the online questionnaire were asked whether they supported the proposal as detailed in the statutory consultation paper. There were 16 (66.67%) responded that they did and 6 (25%) responded that they did not. A further 2 (8.33%) did not respond to this question. The comment received by email expressed support for the proposal.
- 3.5 Some respondents have suggested that the name of the new building is changed and engagement with the school and local community will take this forward in due course.
- 3.6 A consultation exercise with a selection of pupils was also carried out at Newcraighall, Castlevue and Niddrie Mill Primary Schools. The exercise was focused on what the pupils thought a new high school building should be like. A summary of the main points raised by pupils are available at Appendix 5 and have also been placed in the Elected Members lounge for reference.

- 3.7 There are some housing development sites identified by the Council's Local Development Plan that will be affected by the proposal (as shown in Appendix 7). The catchment boundary of the replacement Castlebrae High School is being realigned so that it includes the housing development sites known as 'New Greendykes' and 'The Wisp'. These sites are not currently within any secondary school catchment area and therefore pupils living in these areas would have been assigned to the nearest appropriate school. The nearest appropriate school would be Castlebrae High School and therefore the proposal will formalise the current arrangement and provide families with more certainty.
- 3.8 The housing development site known as 'Edmonstone' will not be aligned to a particular secondary school at this time. Development of this site has not yet commenced and therefore the appropriate primary and secondary catchment areas will be identified at a later date, taking account of the particular circumstances at that time.

### **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 and 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 5 provides details of the various issues and points raised under each theme together with the Council's response.

Theme	% of Responses
Traffic, Cycling, Safety	24%
Timescales	8%
School Issues	24%
Catchment	12%
Proposed location	66.7%
Change of name	4%
Swimming pool	4%

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

***The Proposed location***

There was a mix of respondents both supporting the build of the new school on the identified site and those that felt it was not the right location.

***Traffic, Cycling and Safety***

Concerns were principally focussed on the volume of traffic currently on Niddrie Mains road and the perceived increase in traffic the new school would create, along with safety of pupils walking to the new school.

***School Issues***

Responses included suggestion of catchment review, changing the name and inclusion of a swimming pool.

Detailed responses can be found in Appendix 4 but a summary response is noted below:

***Summary Response***

Niddrie Mains working group has already been established outwith this project with members from Transport, Lothian buses, Environment and Planning who are, amongst other things looking at how the slow traffic flow on Niddrie Mains Road can be improved. e.g. sequencing of traffic lights.

A green travel plan for the school is in the process of being developed which involves engagement with pupils, staff and parents / carers.

The suggestion of changing the name of the establishment will be taken forward as part of the project. There appears to be a desire for this from the school community.

***Education Scotland***

- 3.12 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 Castlebrae High School, Castlevue Primary School and Newcraighall Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees, and Head Teachers of Niddrie Mill Primary School and Prestonfield Primary School before producing their final report. Education Scotland's report on the educational aspects of the proposals was received by the Council in January 2018. This report is attached in Appendix 6.
- 3.13 The conclusion of Education Scotland is that the proposal has clear educational benefits. The report states that '*The Council's proposal paper provides a positive case for a new secondary school and outlines the clear educational benefits which will result.*'

- 3.14 The report outlines that stakeholders will be integral to decisions made on the type of building to be delivered.

Education Scotland noted that almost all stakeholders they met fully supported the proposal to build a new secondary school. However, they did note that a group of parents at Newcraighall Primary School felt the Council had not fully considered the needs of families living in the Newcraighall catchment, particularly safe walking routes to school from the Gilberstoun estate.

- 3.15 Accordingly, Education Scotland did comment that in taking the proposal forward, the Council will need to address safer routes to school.

- 3.16 Furthermore Education Scotland requested fuller information in this report on the proposed minor catchment realignment in terms of timescales and impact particularly for future inhabitants of addresses affected be provided in the report.

*Response to Education Scotland*

- 3.17 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 four key issues is provided in the following table.

<b>Issue Raised</b>	The Council needs to address concerns raised by stakeholders about road safety around the proposed location for the new school and safe walking routes to school, particularly from the Gilberstoun estate
<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 completion of the new school building, parents and pupils will continue to be involved in monitoring these routes and identifying where improvements may be made through the agreement of the School Green Travel plan.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	A few stakeholders raised concerns regarding possible traffic congestion and the safety around the proposed site. The Council will need to address these as the project progresses.
<b>Council Response</b>	The Council are aware of the congestion of traffic on Niddrie Mains Road and the Niddrie Mains Working Group are committed to try to find ways to alleviate pressure points.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The Council should engage with all stakeholders across the whole catchment area further. This includes sharing details of its plans and timeline for transition for the new schools. The views of stakeholders should be taken into account as the project progresses.

<b>Council Response</b>	The Council will engage further with the school community at appropriate stages during the project including at the end of key decision phases. There are plans for a display and Q and A session in the local library in May and attendance at Portobello and Craigmillar Community Partnership meeting at end April. The school itself is actively involved in meetings. There will be further ongoing engagement as the project goes forward once funding is approved. Pupils, parents / carers and staff will be fully supported by the Schools and Lifelong Learning team to plan and implement transition to the new school.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The Council need to provide fuller information in relation to the catchment realignment, including catchment realignment, including timescales and impact on future inhabitants of addresses affected.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>There are some housing development sites identified by the Council's Local Development Plan that will be affected by the proposal (as shown in Appendix 7). The catchment boundary of the replacement Castlebrae High School is being realigned so that it includes the housing development sites known as 'New Greendykes' and 'The Wisp'. These sites are not currently within any secondary school catchment area and therefore pupils living in these areas would have been assigned to the nearest appropriate school. The nearest appropriate school would be Castlebrae High School and therefore the proposal will formalise the current arrangement and provide families with more certainty.</p> <p>The housing development site known as 'Edmonstone' will not be aligned to a particular secondary school at this time. Development of this site has not yet commenced and therefore the appropriate primary and secondary catchment areas will be identified at a later date, taking account of the particular circumstances at that time.</p>

## Conclusions

- 3.18 It is concluded that there is significant support for the proposal. It is also clear that the proposal addresses the poor accommodation at the current school and, as set out in Education Scotland's response to the proposals, offers significant educational benefits for pupils.
- 3.19 The concerns raised principally relate to increased traffic around the new school, safer routes to the new school and the school being in the right location.

- 3.20 The minor catchment changes do not affect any children current at school and identify a catchment school for new residents on completion of the proposed new housing.
- 3.21 The Council believes that the site is appropriate having been identified in the Local Development plan. The Council is committed to developing a travel plan which will address safer routes to school. Accordingly, it is recommended that the proposal be approved.

#### **4. Measures of success**

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- 4.1 The provision of a new secondary school that will meet the needs of future pupils and the wider community.

#### **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 The latest financial update for the project to build a replacement Castlebrae High School was included in the [Capital Investment Programme](#) report to the Finance and Resources Committee on 8 February 2018.

#### **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 The most significant risk is that this project will not be delivered at an appropriate time and the measure of success not be achieved due to funding not being secured.

#### **7. 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 new school building. 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.

#### **8. 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.

## 9. Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 The statutory consultation process ran from 13 November 2017 to 22 December 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.

## 10. Background reading/external references

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- 10.1 [Statutory Consultation – A Replacement for Castlebrae High School](#): Education, Children and Families Committee, 10 October 2017.
- 10.2 [Statutory Consultation Paper](#). Proposal to build a new Non-Denominational Secondary School to replace Castlebrae High School and Implement Minor Catchment Change to Formalise and Align Catchment Boundaries.

### Alistair Gaw

Executive Director for Communities and Families

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## 11. Appendices

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- Appendix 1 Summary of statutory consultation paper
- Appendix 2 Record of statutory consultation meeting
- Appendix 3 Summary of representations
- Appendix 4 Key themes and issues and Council responses
- Appendix 5 Views of primary school pupils
- Appendix 6 Education Scotland Report
- Appendix 7 Catchment/Boundary Plan

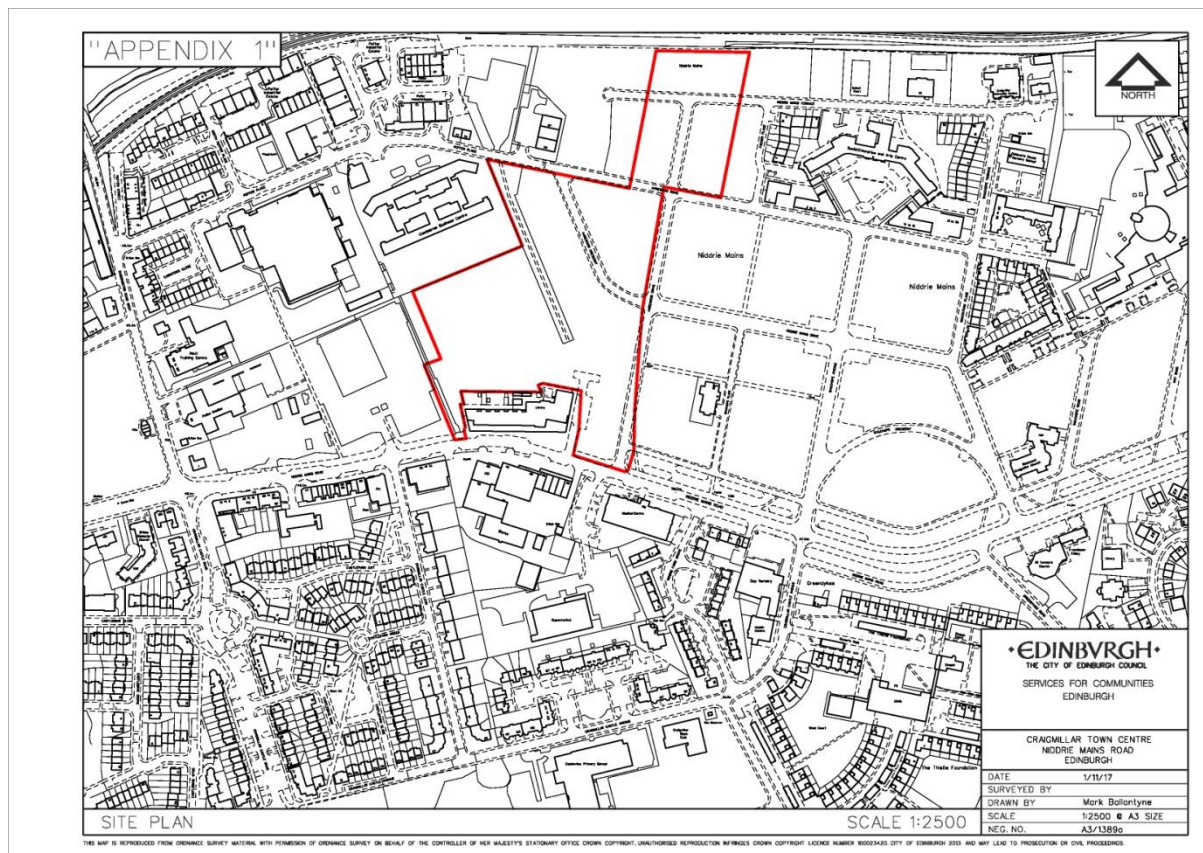
## APPENDIX 1

### Summary of the Consultation Paper

#### ***Proposal to build a new Non-Denominational Secondary School to replace Castlebrae High School and Implement Minor Catchment Change to Formalise and Align Catchment Boundaries.***

#### **Main points of the Statutory Consultation**

1. The Education, Children and Families Committee agreed on 10 October 2017 that a statutory consultation should proceed on the proposal to provide a new secondary school to replace Castlebrae High School on the site identified in Craigmillar Town Centre.
2. The original masterplan for the regeneration of the Craigmillar area showed the site for a new secondary school and community library in a town centre location. The rationale for relocating the school is to a) give it a more prominent location in Craigmillar b) endeavour to make it a more popular choice for its catchment population and c) to be a significant contributor to the regeneration of the town centre.
3. The purpose of this statutory consultation exercise is to seek approval as required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 that a replacement school for Castlebrae High School can be provided on the proposed town centre site.
4. There is a plan of the proposed site below:



5. With city wide rising school rolls, the school site will be able to accommodate future expansion. It is therefore intended that although the school will be built for 700 pupils initially, it will be necessary

to plan in outline terms how and where the accommodation could be extended with minimum disruption to the operation of the school, to accommodate 1200 pupils.

6. As part of this statutory consultation It is proposed to formalise and align catchment boundaries in the Castlebrae catchment area with minor changes been made to both the non-denominational primary and secondary catchment areas. There will be no affect on pupils currently attending schools in the area.
7. One public meeting will be held in respect of the proposals at the venue listed below which will give interested parties a more formal opportunity to express their views. Representatives of the Council will be present at the meetings to outline the proposals, assist discussions and answer questions. Free childcare and/or translation services can be provided at each public meeting if requests for these services are made to (0131) 469 3969 no later than 21 November 2017.

1.1 Venue	Date	Time
2.1 Castlebrae High School	Tuesday 28 November 2017	18:30 –20:30

8. During the consultation period, which runs from Monday 13 November until Friday 22 December, any views on this proposal should be sent to in writing to the following address:  
Alistair Gaw,  
Executive Director of Communities and Families  
City of Edinburgh Council  
Council Headquarters  
Waverley Court  
Level 1:2  
4 East Market Street  
Edinburgh EH8 8BG
9. Respondents are encouraged to use the response questionnaire. The response questionnaire can be completed online at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/replacementcastlebrae](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/replacementcastlebrae). Responses can also be made by e-mail to the following address [replacementcastlebrae@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:replacementcastlebrae@edinburgh.gov.uk) All responses, whether by letter, e-mail or using the online questionnaire should be received by no later than close of business on 22 December 2017.

## **Record of Meeting**

### **Proposal to build a new Non-Denominational Secondary School to replace Castlebrae High School and Implement Minor Catchment Change to Formalise and Align Catchment Boundaries**

**Public Consultation Meeting held at 6.30 pm, Tuesday 28 November 2017, Castlebrae Community High School, Edinburgh**

#### **Present: Approximately 17 members of the public**

**In Attendance:** Tom Wood (Independent Chair), Councillor Alison Dickie (Vice-Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee), Gillian Kennedy (Projects Manager, School Estates Planning), Crawford McGhie (Acting Head of Operational Resources), Vincent Spicer (Depute Head Teacher, Castlebrae Community High School), Keith Thomson (School Estates Advisor) and Veronica MacMillan (Committee Services).

#### **1. Introduction**

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Tom Wood introduced himself and advised that he had been invited by the City of Edinburgh Council as an independent person to chair the public consultation meeting. Mr Wood thanked everyone for coming along and explained his role as well as introducing the key officers in attendance. It was explained that the consultation would continue until the 22 December 2017 and parents / community / interested parties had the opportunity to feed in comments until then.

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 May 2018. The public consultation would provide people with the opportunity to express their views and feed directly into the consultation process.

Officers that represented the Council gave a presentation, as described below.

#### **2. Presentation/Proposal**

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Gillian Kennedy (Projects Manager, School Estates Planning) delivered a presentation that provided some background information on the reasons behind the requirement for a new Castlebrae High School.

## **Requirement for Change**

The existing school buildings were constructed in 1976 and 1984. There were significant issues with their suitability which constrained effective learning and teaching. In particular, poor circulation led to problems with management and security. Poor acoustic and environmental conditions in many parts of the building led to communication and comfort issues which were also a barrier to effective learning.

The current Condition Survey report identified the existing school building as being in “poor” condition and had achieved a rating of C under current Core Facts Guidelines. Expenditure of £3,337,212 was required to maintain the school over the next five years. The survey only identified costs of repairs on a like for like basis. This did not consider improvements such as insulation or material performance upgrades, nor was account taken of suitability, accessibility or security.

## **Proposal**

Gillian Kennedy, Projects Manager, gave a presentation on the proposals for the new Castlebrae Community High School. The site for the new school was displayed and it was explained that the site was chosen due to its position in the town centre which would hopefully attract more pupils from the surrounding area and contribute to the regeneration of the town centre.

The Council was working in partnership with the Hub South East Scotland to scope the project and to bid for Scottish Government funding to contribute to the replacement of Castlebrae High School. A strong case was required to be put forward as other Councils were also bidding for funding.

Space Strategies had been appointed to consult and work with staff, pupils and other stakeholders to develop a strategic design and space brief. JM Architects had also been appointed to design the building using information from Space Strategies and the public would be able to comment on the design during the process.

Catchment alignment work was currently being carried out and it was highlighted that people living in the Wisp area currently had no catchment area. It was proposed that these pupils living in this area would go to Castlevue Primary School and would then go onto Castlebrae High School.

**Question** – There was new housing being built in the Wisp area and there were planning applications in the pipeline to build houses in the Edmonstone area. Which school would these pupils attend?

**Answer** – (Crawford McGhie) – Currently these areas did not have any catchment area but part of the consultation would look at children in these areas attending Castlevue Primary School and Castlebrae High School.

**Question** – So would the catchment area include all of the Wisp?

**Answer** – (Crawford McGhie/Gillian Kennedy) – For this consultation we would only be looking at the Cloverfoot and adjacent houses on the Wisp Cottages. Currently pupils living there attend local schools. Those pupils living in the Edmonstone area would be part of a separate consultation to look at catchment areas.

**Question** – Will the new primary school that's in the Local Development Plan (LDP) be built?

**Answer** – (Crawford McGhie) - It had been proposed that the primary school that was proposed to be built and was part of the Local Development Plan was no longer needed and that an extension of Castlevue Primary School would be able to accommodate extra pupils.

**Question** – So there would not be a new primary school built to accommodate the extra pupils moving into the area?

**Answer** - (Crawford McGhie) – The current projections of the numbers of pupils moving into the area would require 3 additional classrooms which would not be enough to warrant building a new primary school.

**Tom Wood** – Could I request that we let the presentation be completed and then we will take questions afterwards.

### **Next Steps**

Gillian Kennedy confirmed that the statutory consultation would continue until the 22 December 2017 and a report would be prepared for Education Scotland. In January and February 2018 Education Scotland would do their own consultation to check that the Council had carried out their consultation properly and the Council would produce a feedback report that would go to Full Council for consideration in May 2018 and at the same time there should be confirmation of the funding from Scottish Government to allow the business case to be put forward. Addresses were provided for parents to access further information and the online questionnaire. Parents were encouraged to fill in the questionnaire and feedback any comments they had.

Mr Wood advised that Councillor Alison Dickie would like to say a few words before taking questions.

Councillor Dickie introduced herself as the Vice-Convenor of the Education, Children and Families Committee. Councillor Dickie explained that she had been a teacher and had a background in education and had visited Castlebrae High School with the Convenor of the Education Children and Families Committee. Councillor Dickie had received positive presentations from the pupils, from Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) which were very impressive. There was a real sense of community in the school and the Council wanted to ensure that they get everything right in terms of the new school. The consultation was all about hearing the voices of the community and Councillor Dickie encouraged everyone to speak up.



### 3. Questions/Comments

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**Question 1** – I have concerns that the housing developments that are proposed at Edmonstone will have affluent people and less affluent people living in them, and that the line drawn on the map will mean that pupils from less affluent families will attend Castlebrae High School and those pupils from more affluent families will attend other High Schools. This will mean that the Edmonstone development will be turning its back on Craigmillar if that's what happens.

**Answer** – (Crawford McGhie) – The line drawn on the map is the line for the new catchment area for Castlevue Primary School. At the moment we are not sure where these new houses will be built but they should feed into the existing school. The projections indicate that the additional pupils coming into the area will require 3 extra classrooms to be built onto Castlevue Primary School. We would rather that these pupils fed into the existing school rather than build a new primary school.

**Follow-up Question** – I suppose it's about the infrastructure and the roads, and where they lead to. If we are not careful, Craigmillar may not benefit from the new development. There is also a bit of confusion about the catchment area for Edmonstone. It was envisaged that these developments would feed into Craigmillar and not Gilmerton.

**Follow-up Answer** - (Crawford McGhie) – I'm happy to provide more details with a map and details of current planning applications in the area and share some of that with the community. Part of the consultation will help to identify sites that are not part of the Castlebrae catchment area and that possibly should be and can be changed through the statutory consultation process.

**Question 2/Comment** - (Councillor Maureen Child) – It is important to have a school that everyone wants to attend. There are some pupils that are attending Newcraighall Primary School that perhaps should be attending Castlevue Primary School instead. All schools are excellent and it is important that they are promoted in a positive way.

**Follow-up Comment** - It's good to have a choice of where pupils go but you can't always get your child into the school of your choice. There are also safety issues in some areas because of traffic.

**Question 3** – I love Castlevue Primary School and totally support it being the feeder school for Castlebrae High School, but how is it going to accommodate the extra pupils. You mentioned an extension to the primary school, but how is that going to be done because it's a PPI school isn't it?

**Answer** - (Crawford McGhie) – The proposals show that all sites apart from one will feed into Castlevue Primary School. Three extra classrooms will be needed and an extension will be built.

**Follow-up Question** – But where will the extension come from?

**Follow-up Answer** – (Crawford McGhie) - We would look at the school and build 3 extra classrooms but would also look at extending the dining hall.

**Follow-up Comments/Questions** – But the gym hall is already small, it wouldn't take much for the school to become full.

Will the extension cause disruption to the school and would pupils would have to be moved elsewhere? There wouldn't be time to build the school extension over the summer.

**Follow-up Answer** - (Crawford McGhie) – We have built extensions to lots of schools and have carried out the works when the pupils have been there and have done so in a very safe manner. It is absolutely possible.

**Follow-up Comment** - (Councillor Dickie) – I can confirm that there have been schools that have been extended when the pupils are present with minimal disruption.

**Question 4** – Castleview Primary School is a PPI school. How will the Council pay for the extension to Castleview Primary School? Or will the Council be charged rent on these classrooms and will be paying rent for evermore?

**Answer** - (Crawford McGhie) – The way it's been done before with PPI schools is that a red line is cut out of the agreement in order to allow the site to build the infrastructure and the Council pay for the Facilities Management (FM) responsibilities on the building.

**Question 5** – What is the timeframe for this because when this is all done the new school should be built by 2020, but if the report is not going to Council until May 2018 then that puts everything way behind schedule?

**Answer** - (Crawford McGhie) – The statutory consultation paper states that if the full budget can be established by Full Council in February 2018 following the Council's budget process then the new school should be ready by August 2021.

**Follow-up Question/Comment** – Just one year behind – but you have to keep us informed. This consultation should have taken place months and months ago. No disrespect to any of the officers intended.

**Follow-up Answer** - (Crawford McGhie) – There have been a few false starts but the budget setting happens in February every year. The new high school was put forward as a priority last year but didn't get funding because it was competing with other priorities across the Council. Through the statutory consultation and Scottish Government funding we are trying to make it even more of a priority. We will know on the 22 May 2018 whether we have established the budget for the school and whether we will be meet the August 2021 target for building the school.

**Question 6** – The land for the size of the school, will it be big enough for the school?

**Answer** - (Keith Thomson) – The land for the school is the same size as the site for Portobello High School but is a different shape. It is not constrained in any way in terms of the building that can be provided. The new High school is likely to be 3 or 4 storeys high, whereas Portobello High School is only 2 /3 storeys high.

**Question 7** – Will the all-weather pitches be available for community use and will this be facilitated through Edinburgh Leisure?



**Answer** - (Keith Thomson) – Yes, they will be available for community use and this is likely to be facilitated through Edinburgh Leisure after 6pm weekdays and at weekends which is the currently Council Policy. No decision has been made as yet.

**Follow-up Question** – This wouldn't give us community space that is big enough because Edinburgh Leisure wouldn't accommodate it.

**Follow-up Answer** - (Keith Thomson) – Community Access is something that can be discussed in the consultation process.

**Question 8** – Who will be on the Steering Group that you referred to and how do you choose them?

**Answer** - (Gillian Kennedy/Keith Thomson) -The Investment Steering Group (ISG) is the strategic decision making group eg. Approval of funding, comprises senior Council colleagues and partners from agencies helping to build the school. There is another "steering group" formed of representatives from the school, corporate property and one or two other colleagues. A series of workshops, including community engagement are planned and the outcomes of these will be fed back to the steering group. We will be gathering the views of local groups and parents on the design of the school which will be fed in to the process.

**Follow-up Question** – This is what I'm concerned about. People have been consulted to death about this. But the people in Craigmillar know how to do these things but get nervous about why you don't have anybody from the community on these groups. We don't want Council officers telling us what we need and want to raise this before the workshops are carried out.

**Follow-up Answer** - (Crawford McGhie/Keith Thomson) – It is important the voice of the community is heard. The process that Keith described is necessary and there will be times when we need to engage with the wider community and there will be times where the design team are working independently. We need to let this process run, the high level elements can be boring and the lower level elements more interesting. There is perhaps a need for a group that is a constant throughout the process that is more about communication and has representatives from community groups on it that can feed back to the community. There could be representatives from the community council on this group.

**Question 9** – Newcraighall Primary School has not been very engaged in pupils from the school going to the new Castlebrae High School. The reality is there will not be a choice of where children go to High School. There needs to be more engagement with parents and the school to make Castlebrae High School a school of choice because it is not a school of choice at the moment. There are lots of questions from us about what happens if the new school isn't built.

**Answer** - (Deputy Headteacher) – There has been some ground breaking and innovative work going on in Castlebrae High School, aspirations are high, there has been a brilliant take up in sciences and good projects and partnerships taking place. We have reached out to the community.

**Follow up Comment** - We have a sense of not feeling this confidence and it is probably to do with being physically further away.

**Follow-up Answer** - (Deputy Headteacher) – I think that has a lot to do with it but I think it is also historic and is because of the reputation that the school had. We now have stability and the school now feels that it has a future ahead of it. We have tried very hard to engage Newcraighall Primary School and we have had visits from Newcraighall.

**Follow-up Comment** – As part of the new planned development it is important to make sure there are ways to make the school more attractive and change the perceptions of it.

**Follow-up Answer** - (Deputy Headteacher) - What goes on within the school is equally as important, and what goes on within the school currently is top class teaching that is innovative and creative. We have seen a rise in attainment and attendance and we finally have some stability. It is not about what the school will become but it is what the building can do to reflect what we are now.

**Follow-up Answer** - (Crawford McGhie) - We could do more engage cluster primaries about the new building process and get the pupils involved as they will be some of the first that will be using the building. We will take this away and progress this.

**Follow-up Comment** - (Councillor Dickie) - There is some fantastic learning going on and I'm determined to get that out there and communicate the positive work that's going on in the school and agree that the new building will just be a reflection of that.

**Question 10** – One of the highlights of the Portobello High School consultation was a virtual walk through of the project. Is that available for the Castlebrae High School?

**Answer** – Yes, this technology is available. Headsets can be used to see everything that would potentially be in a room, carpets, furniture etc.

**Question 11** – Could you get the children involved in the virtual reality that's been discussed?

**Answer** – We could have groups of children to come to the site huts to view the virtual reality and then could be shown around the site to see the reality of the development.

**Question 12** – Are there any plans to change the name of the school?

**Answer** (Crawford McGhie) – This is something that has not really been discussed.

**Follow-up Comment** – Maybe we should ask the pupils what they think. It could be called Castleview High School in line with the name of the primary school. The school used to be known as 'The Brae'.

The leader of 'Save the Brae' was in attendance and was thanked for all the work he had done for helping to save Castlebrae High School.

**Question 13** - (Councillor Mary Campbell) – What are the plans for the site that will be left? What will happen to it?

**Answer** – (Crawford McGhie) – There are no specific plans but I think the Council will try to generate funding out of it to pay for the new school.

**Follow-up Question** - (Councillor Mary Campbell) – Are there any plans for the pitches?

**Answer** - (Crawford McGhie) – The intention is if there was a desire to keep the pitches and have a community organisation running them this would be taken forward.

## **5. Conclusion**

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Mr Wood brought questions to a close and asked for a final comments. Mr McGhie emphasised that there was a clear need for communication around the project with the community and with the cluster schools which the Council would improve upon. Councillor Dickie echoed what Mr McGhie said and emphasised to parents and the community that it was their school and they should be able to shape the new school.

The meeting was concluded by Mr Wood by thanking everyone for coming and reminding everyone to feed into the consultation which concludes on the 22 December 2017. Mr Wood also thanked the school for their hospitality.

## APPENDIX 3

### SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

Reference	transport (traffic, cycling, safety)	timescales	school issues	catchment	proposed location	change name	swimming pool
ANON-NH95-NZGB-N							
ANON-NH95-NZGR-5		X					
ANON-NH95-NZGG-T	X				X		
ANON-NH95-NZGS-6		X			X		
ANON-NH95-NZG9-C			X				
ANON-NH95-NZG3-6	X			X	X	X	
ANON-NH95-NZGZ-D			X				
ANON-NH95-NZGP-3							X
ANON-NH95-NZG6-9				X			
ANON-NH95-NZGJ-W	X						
ANON-NH95-NZG5-8	X				X		
ANON-NH95-NZGA-M			X	X	X		
ANON-NH95-NZGX-B							
ANON-NH95-NZG8-B							
ANON-NH95-NZGC-P							
ANON-NH95-NZGU-8					X		
ANON-NH95-NZGM-Z	X						
ANON-NH95-NZGH-U							
ANON-NH95-NZGY-C			X				
ANON-NH95-NZDN-X							
ANON-NH95-NZDB-J							
ANON-NH95-NZDK-U							
ANON-NH95-NZDE-N			X				
ANON-NH95-NZDR-2	X				X		
01 ANON			X		X		

## APPENDIX 4

### Key themes and Issues and Council Responses

#### Timescales

<b>Issue Raised</b>	Ensure that the development once approved gets under way as soon as possible staying within budget and will meet its deadline for completion.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The school should be built as possible. Without it, the new town centre lacks any kind of focus.
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p> <p>Funding still needs to be identified to progress to the building stage. Work is being done on the design of the building and once funding is identified the Council should be in a position to commence the project, subject to planning permission.</p>

#### Transport (traffic, cycling, safety)

<b>Issue Raised</b>	The development of the school should be coupled with new segregated cycle lanes Niddrie Mains Road.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	You cannot safely walk to the school from Gilberstoun even in its new proposed position and it is still 2 buses. The only way to safely get to Craigmillar is to take 2 buses or drive.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	To walk to the new school will take over an hour and 15 minutes, not to mention having to cross several extremely busy roads.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	<p>You claim that the school's new location supports the council's transport policy with good cycle and pedestrian links. This is emphatically untrue. It is near the innocent railway and the new paths towards the Royal Infirmary however it sits in a black spot between them both. Pavement cycling is rife down Niddrie Mains Road because the road is narrow and full of conflict unless you can cycle at the speed limit (and even still encounter aggressive driving from those who wish to speed). The location of the school makes this problem worse by cutting out a quiet cycle link between Pepper Place and Niddrie Mains Road. You need to put in a proper segregated cycle network which connects the Innocent Railway (both at Duddingston Road West and Hay Drive), Craigmillar Castle paths and the school. The pavement is currently more than wide enough down Niddrie Mains road to put in some high quality cycle infrastructure without meaningfully altering the ease of being a pedestrian, this would help alleviate the ridiculous traffic which builds up on Niddrie Mains Road, which will likely only get worse with the school relocation. How you can genuinely expect significant numbers of pupils to cycle to the new location legally with the current infrastructure is</p>

	beyond me. Also the pedestrian light timings at the junction of Craigmillar castle road and Peffermill road are a disgrace and a significant barrier to walking.
<b>Council Response</b>	A green travel plan will be developed for the new school. Meetings have been requested with colleagues in safer routes to schools to start work on this. The Council would be happy to involve the Community if there is a desire for this.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Traffic during rush hour is bad in the area with school being placed traffic will increase. What will be done to alleviate this?
<b>Issue Raised</b>	It is on a very busy road which is only to get worse. The road at the moment is hopeless and you still have hundreds of houses to come, and traffic running through the town centre.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Traffic
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>A detailed transport assessment will be included with the planning application.</p> <p>Niddrie Mains working group has already been established out with this project with members from Transport, Lothian buses, Environment and Planning who are, amongst other things looking at how the slow traffic flow on Niddrie Mains Road can be improved - e.g. sequencing of traffic lights.</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</p>

### School issues

<b>Issue Raised</b>	I hope the school manages to keep the extra classes that they offer just now, like the hairdressing which kids from other schools come along to use.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Ensure school and community is involved throughout this process to gain a school which would be fully supported by the local community.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	New school is needed, because the old one is no longer fit for modern teaching.
<b>Council Responses</b>	<p>Castlebrae HS has worked hard to engage with the community and cluster schools to improve communication and relationships within the community. Numbers of pupils enrolling are increasing and the school has a good reputation within the school community. A new building will further enhance its standing both in terms of the location of the new building and the array of</p>

	partnerships that the school want to continue to develop within the Community and beyond.
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### Catchment

<b>Issue Raised</b>	I feel you want to force parents to send their children to Castlebrae by widening the catchment area and with lack of spaces in other schools.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	We are Portobello and bought our homes thinking that. Many of us were brought up in the Portobello area and went to Portobello school ourselves. Castlebrae as our catchment secondary is ludicrous and always has been. We shop in Portobello walk in Portobello. Live in Portobello. Are safe in Portobello. Residents here who want their children to attend a non-denominational school want it to be Portobello Secondary high school. It makes sense.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Ultimately the catchment boundaries of Portobello High School will have to shrink and Castlebrae will have to increase. The rebuilding of Castlebrae High School is a good time to change boundaries
<b>Council Responses</b>	There are currently no plans for a catchment review.

### Proposed location

<b>Issue Raised</b>	Change location
<b>Issue Raised</b>	It is too far away from Gilberstoun.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	If you want to encourage more parents to want to send their child to the new Castlebrae secondary school not building it in the heart of Craigmillar is even more important.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	I feel to serve the whole of the widened community that has no affiliation to Craigmillar town but are classed as Craigmillar because of the councils boundaries, that you want to serve, you need to choose a more neutral area. Possibly around Jack Kane.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The new Castlebrae school is 2.6 miles away from where I currently live

<b>Issue Raised</b>	The more central site is a good location and gives the school a higher profile - also to be able to extend the building to accommodate extra pupils is forward planning.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	The location is wrong.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	In comparison to Portobello High School which is 0.9 miles and would require zero main roads to be crossed (due to the underpass at Milton link) with walk time of under 20 minutes or cycle in 10 minutes.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	If you live outside Craigmillar itself there is a great deal of fear about personal safety within Craigmillar which is heightened when it comes to the safety of your children.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Another silent reason parents are reluctant to send their children to Castlebrae school in Craigmillar which is harder to change is its reputation of being in disreputable area.
<b>Council Response</b>	The site for the new school was identified as part of the regeneration and redevelopment plans for the town centre. The school will remain central within its catchment area.

### Change name

<b>Issue Raised</b>	Change the name of the school to give it a fresh start.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Unfortunately now the name of Castlebrae school also has its own poor reputation to overcome so as not to pass this on to the pupils change the name.
<b>Council Response</b>	If the location for the school and a budget to deliver it are approved there will be engagement with the school and community about what the name of the new school should be.

### Swimming pool

<b>Issue Raised</b>	Having spoken to young people across the area, and staff, there is appetite for the new school. But also to have a swimming pool with the pool, like at Craigroyston Young people feel they want a swimming pool for access to sport and recreation, as the nearest one to there is in Portobello. The only area in Edinburgh that doesn't have a swimming pool is this area, and with the rising family numbers of the area it'd be a great community resource
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<b>Council Response</b>	There is no funding or plans for a swimming pool to be included in the new school.
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## Other

<b>Issue Raised</b>	I requested all 3 of my children to attend Portobello Secondary school as it was closer to our home, safer and easier to get to. It is now even closer and can be walked to in approximately 15 minutes. In fact the children would now have to pass Portobello School to get to Castlebrae School in Craigmillar. So I cannot support building Castlebrae secondary school, that for some reason we were given as our catchment school for Gilberstoun, to be built in the heart of Craigmillar.
<b>Council response</b>	No current plan for catchment review.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	I would be interested where you intend on finding the other 600 children to attend the new school.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Close Castlebrae too much of my money has been spent on it for the number of pupils.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	This is a complete waste of my money as full Council Tax payer. There is no need for a new secondary school in Craigmillar -pupils should attend the schools which have a proven attainment record at Liberton, Portobello and Holyrood.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Given that Portobello High School is soon going to struggle to accommodate the number of in-catchment children, then the council had better build an extra-large Castlebrae High School. The new Castlebrae will have to accommodate all of its in-catchment children who will no longer be able to choose Portobello High school plus more children moving in due to population increase/house building.
<b>Issue Raised</b>	Why are you investing £12 Million in a new school for 700 pupils when the current intake is only 130 at most (and has been for many years)? For a council who is currently very desperate to see cuts to save money, does this make sense?
<b>Issue Raised</b>	You say you are going to build the school for 700 pupils This seem a ludicrously small number as on top of all the new houses being built already there are new houses proposed to be built in New Brunstane, master plan by Edinburgh council for at least 1400 new homes and a new Primary school.

	These children need a proper secondary school that's big enough and in the right place not bits and pieces added on to a woefully inadequate small school that already has a bad reputation
<b>Council Response</b>	<p>School rolls are rising and coupled with major house building in the area the school is being built to accommodate this rise in population. There is also an expansion strategy planned if required which would allow 1200 pupils to attend.</p> <p>The current condition of Castlebrae is poor and the school will need substantial investment to keep it running.</p> <p>There is a lack of space in neighbouring schools.</p>

## **APPENDIX 5**

### **Primary school workshops to explore further what pupils at feeder primary would like to see in a new Craigmillar HS**

**Wednesday 23 January**

#### **Newcraighall (10 pupils)**

##### **Thoughts about Current Castlebrae HS**

##### **Negative:-**

Rundown (4), looks abandoned(8), doesn't look safe, dusty / dirty (all), small (4)

Don't like the building, don't feel safe

##### **Positive:-**

It is welcoming – like the paintings in reception area and the quotes – nice and warm

##### **How do I like to learn :-**

Mix of learning but most pupils preferred to work in groups and be able to walk around

##### **Compared to primary**

Should have a swimming pool

Most preferred to learn collaboratively and would like breakout spaces

Wanted it to be very different to primary

##### **New building**

Should have a pool / big games hall, astroturf

Inspirational spaces / setting to help learning

Cafe as well as dining area

Comfortable environment.

50/50 split for beanbags, big stools

All wanted booths

Mixed furniture in dining space, both tables and chairs and sofas

Would like covered outside seating

Good signage to help find way around the building

#### **Niddrie Mill (15 pupils)**

##### **Thoughts about Current Castlebrae HS**

##### **Negative:-**

Don't like current Castlebrae – run down, signage not good, confusing inside, dining hall too small

Not anything positive

**How do I like to learn:-**

Pupils split about how they learn with a mix of alone, teacher led and group working. Most preferred to work when they are able to move around

**What do I want in my new high school:-**

All wanted booths, beanbags, high level bench seating and stepped seating that you can sit and walk up

Access to computers important for self directed learning / improved technology generally

All wanted a swimming pool

Light and bright and welcoming

Astroturf (at last one)

Good size dining hall with a mix of furniture but not overcrowded

Covered outside space - all like being outside if its dry and would go outside if they could stay dry. Picnic tables would be good

Fitness suite, gym, swimming, football – things to improve fitness levels

**Castlevale Primary school**

**Thoughts about Current Castlebrae HS**

**Negative** : Don't like the location

Old

Can find your way because its small

Should have a swimming pool

Dining hall too small

Don't like the school – don't feel safe

Get lost – poor signage

**Positive** :-

Office area welcoming but it feels like you're in a box

**How we learn:-**

Real mix of alone, in groups, with teacher, sitting down or moving around – depends on task

Liked space settings – booths, beanbags ( 2 pupils only), stepped seating in PE perhaps to allow for viewing

**What they want in a new school**

Swimming pool

Stage

Big PE hall

Astroturf

Relaxation area

Greenhouse

Outdoor learning spaces and covered outdoor seating

Grass areas, flowers

Big dining room

Good technology

Spaces to learn together

Booths and spaces to study after school

Good flexible furniture and space

## APPENDIX 6

### **Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The City of Edinburgh Council to build a new non-denominational secondary school to replace Castlebrae High School and implement minor catchment change to formalise and align catchment boundaries.**

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (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 build a new non-denominational secondary school to replace Castlebrae High School and implement minor catchment change to formalise and align catchment boundaries. 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 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:**

- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the site of Castlebrae High School, Castlevue Primary School, Newcraighall Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees, along with headteachers of Niddrie Mill Primary School and Prestonfield Primary School.

## **2. Consultation Process**

2.1 The City of Edinburgh Council undertook the consultation on its proposals with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*.

2.2 The main proposal within the consultation is to build a new non-denominational secondary school to replace Castlebrae High School, in Craigmillar. Along with this, there is an additional proposal to implement minor catchment changes to formalise and align particular catchment boundaries.

2.3 The council undertook the consultation between 13 November 2017 and 22 December 2017. Copies of the proposal document were intimated to stakeholders and placed in local schools and in Craigmillar Library. Notices were placed on the council's website. Young people of Castlebrae High School were given the opportunity to provide their views in meetings led by school staff. A public meeting held on 28 November 2017 was attended by 17 members of the public. The council received 24 responses to its consultation questionnaire and one additional written response. Overall, the majority of respondents support the proposal to build a new secondary school.

2.4 HM Inspectors were made aware during their school visits that the council is planning to undertake consultation with primary school children in forthcoming weeks. In taking forward the proposal, the council should engage with all stakeholders and share information in its final report regarding the views of stakeholders.

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

3.1 The council has stated that the current Castlebrae High School building is in poor condition and has significant issues with suitability which constrain effective learning and teaching. HM Inspectors endorse this view. The council have indicated the financial challenges of maintaining the current building over the next five years. Children and young people attending the new secondary school would benefit from a modern, purpose designed learning environment with appropriate facilities. The council indicates its intention to develop a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Centre of Excellence at the new school, in partnership with further education establishments such as the University of Edinburgh. The paper also outlines that the council has obtained funding from the Scottish Attainment Challenge and this would entail the development of science facilities tailored to meet the needs of its science development project in this area. The council's proposal paper provides a positive case for a new secondary school and outlines the clear potential educational benefits which will result.

3.2 The council estimates a timescale for opening the proposed new school in August 2021. It outlines that stakeholders will be integral to decisions made on the type of

building they want. It will be important that the council engages with stakeholders across the whole catchment area on the details of its plans and timeline for transition from existing arrangements to establishing a fully operational school.

3.3 The proposed location of the new school is more central in Craigmillar than the current Castlebrae High School, is next to the library and includes easier public transport access for most of the catchment area. However, a few stakeholders raised concerns regarding possible traffic congestion and safety around the proposed site. The council will need to address these in its final proposal paper.

3.4 The impact of the council's proposal on other neighbouring schools is minimal. Castlebrae High School is operating under capacity, with the majority of young people living in the catchment area currently attending schools other than Castlebrae High School. The neighbouring secondary schools of Portobello High School and Holyrood RC Secondary School are nearing capacity. The council indicates that the new school would be built for a roll of 700 pupils initially, with the option for expansion in due course, given the major housing developments across the catchment area.

3.5 Almost all parents, staff, children and young people from Castlevue Primary School and Castlebrae High School and staff and children from Newcraighall Primary School who spoke with HM Inspectors fully supported the proposal to build a new secondary school. Stakeholders raised concerns about the condition of the current Castlebrae High School building not being conducive to meeting the needs of learners in a 21<sup>st</sup> century school.

3.6 A group of parents who met with HM Inspectors at Newcraighall Primary School were not positive about the proposal. They were of the view that the council had not fully considered the needs of families living in the Newcraighall catchment, particularly safe walking routes to school from the Gilberstoun estate. The council paper indicates that the distance to the proposed new school is slightly less than the current Castlebrae High School. In taking forward the proposal, the council will need to address the aspect of safe routes to school.

3.7 The proposal also includes a minor aspect of catchment realignment, which currently affects a handful of children in a part of The Wisp. The council has stated that these children can be accommodated in their current schools for the duration of their primary or secondary education. There is limited information in relation to this aspect of the proposal, including the timescales or impacts of this, particularly for future inhabitants of addresses affected. In taking forward the proposal, the council will need to provide fuller information in relation to this aspect.

#### **4. Summary**

4.1 The council's proposal provides a positive case for a new secondary school and outlines the clear potential educational benefits which will result. Young people attending



the new secondary school would benefit from a modern, purpose designed learning environment with appropriate facilities.

4.2 The council will need to address concerns raised by stakeholders about road safety around the proposed location for the new school and safe walking routes to school, particularly from the Gilberstoun estate.

4.3 In taking forward the proposal, the council should engage with all stakeholders across the whole catchment area further. This includes sharing details of its plans and timeline for transition for the new school. The views of stakeholders should be shared in the council's final report.

4.4 The council will need to provide fuller information in relation to the aspect of the proposal regarding catchment realignment, including timescales and impact on future inhabitants of addresses affected.

**HM Inspectors**

**Education Scotland**

**January 2018**

