

Record of Meeting

Proposal to establish a new non-denominational Primary School and Nursery Classes at Granton Waterfront and implement Catchment Changes

Public Consultation Meeting held at 6.30 pm, Tuesday 10 September 2024, Craigroyston High School, Edinburgh

Present: 0 members of the public

In Attendance:

Tom Wood (Independent Chair);

Councillor Joan Griffiths (Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee);

City of Edinburgh Council Officers: Robbie Crockett (Learning Estate Planning Manager), Guilherme Martins (Learning Estate Planning Officer), Donna Murray (Head of Education – Early Years, Parents & Operations), Michelle Fraser (Programme Manager – Edinburgh Waterfront) and Daniel Baigrie (Committee Officer).

1. Introduction

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 3 October 2024 and the public had the opportunity to feed in comments until then.

The Schools (Consultation Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to conduct a public consultation. The public consultation would provide people with the opportunity to express their views and feed directly into the consultation process.

2. Presentation/Proposal

The Programme Manager for the broader Edinburgh Waterfront presented an overview of the development in the Granton Waterfront area from 2018 onwards detailing the housing, amenity and future plans for the site. The involvement of local architects, artists, the focus on heritage and inspiration drawn from other European developments were noted. The purchase of the gas works site which included the Gas Holder, redevelopment of Granton Station and ongoing work to deliver new homes and commercial units were highlighted alongside sustainable transport.

The Learning Estate Planning Officer then presented specifically on the Proposal to establish a new non-denominational Primary School and Nursery Classes at Granton Waterfront and implement Catchment Changes. The existing primary school catchment areas serving this area of north Edinburgh were presented; specifically, the feeder primary schools to Craigroyston High School and Granton Primary School. It was noted that 90% of children who live in this area attend one of the schools in this area, although not necessarily their catchment school. [After the meeting it was established that 90% of children attending a local school are from the area, the share of non-denomination primary school pupils living in the area and attending a school in the area is 73%]

It was noted that increased capacity within the primary school estate would be required for the predicted number of pupils that would live within the new housing development at Granton Waterfront and at other nearby developments.

The current catchment areas and school rolls for Pirniehall, Craigroyston, Forthview, and Granton Primary Schools were presented. School roll information for Broughton and Craigroyston High Schools were presented. Catchment area changes to existing schools, and the proposed catchment for a primary school at Granton Waterfront were presented alongside anticipated future school rolls.

It was anticipated, that if approved, the new school would enrol pupils from November 2027 to start at the school from August 2028.

It was noted that Active Travel as well as Public Transport would be part of the plan for the school, working alongside colleagues from the broader Granton Waterfront projects. Lothian Buses already operate a number of routes in the area.

It was noted that the final decision on the proposal to develop a new school would be considered by the City of Edinburgh Council at their meeting in December 2024.

3. Questions/Comments

Question 1: Is there any potential for land reclamation in the Granton Waterfront area?

Answer: There are no proposals to reclaimed land in the Granton Waterfront regeneration area..

Question 2: Will there be any impact on Roman Catholic School catchments because of this proposal?

Answer: No, however there is broader work to look at St Augustine's RC High School for example as new homes are developed in the west of the city, in line with the City Plan.

Question 3: What impact will catchment changes have on siblings of children already in existing schools?

Answer: There is an understanding that some families may want their younger children to attend the same school as their older children. There will be a proposal in the final

report regarding this proposal, which will address the matter of a sibling guarantee across the changes proposed to catchments areas.

Question 4: Where do children who lived in the north of the city currently that do not attend their catchment school go?

Answer: A variety of schools across the area, including Davidsons Mains Primary School.

5. Conclusion

Mr Wood brought questions to a close and thanked everyone for all their contributions which were extremely valuable. Mr Wood reminded everyone that they had until the 3 October 2024 to make any further contributions on the website or in writing.

Cllr Joan Griffiths thanked everyone for coming and for their contributions.