STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

NEW ADDITIONAL SECONDARY EDUCATION PROVISION IN THE MUSSELBURGH AREA

30 MAY 2016
BRUNTON HALL MUSSELBURGH

PRESENT:
Fiona Robertson, Head of Education
Chris Webb, Chair of meeting
Liz Shaw, Corporate Finance Manager
Eddie Reid, Team Manager, Property
Emma Taylor, Planning
Grant Talac, Transportation Planning Officer
Sally Stewart, Education Scotland
Richard Parker, Education Service Manager
Fiona Brown, Principal Officer, Education Business Unit
Val McIntyre, Principal Officer, Education Business Unit
Rob Lewis, Senior Information Officer
Pauline Smith, Principal Officer, Information and Research
Calum Murray, Business Support Officer, Education Business Unit
40 + Parents/Carers/Community Council members

Chris Webb welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Council Officers present.

Chris Webb introduced himself and outlined the purpose of this evening meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to give the public the opportunity to:

- hear more about the proposal from Council officers
- ask questions about the proposal
- have your views recorded so that they can be taken into account as part of the consultation process.

He also gave a brief outline of the legislative framework within which the council must work.

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act came into force in 2010 and was amended in 2014. The Act, as amended, has established an open and transparent system for consulting changes to the school estate as proposed by councils. Once a council has taken the decision to consult on a proposal the Act requires all councils to follow the same basic sequence:

- The council had to prepare a proposal paper, including an educational benefits statement and other required information. The council has produced this.
- The council then had to publish the proposal paper, advertise the fact and notify mandatory consultees and Education Scotland.
- The consultation had to run for at least 30 school days and include a public meeting;

- Once the consultation period is over, the council must send relevant papers to Education Scotland. Once these have been received HM Inspectors have three weeks to prepare a report on the proposal and send it to the council.
- Once the council has received the report from HM Inspectors, it has to review the proposal and take account of the report by HM Inspectors and any representations you might make during the consultation period.
- The council must then prepare and publish a final consultation report three weeks before the council takes its final decision.

Fiona Robertson reiterated that this evenings meeting was being held to discuss the following proposal:

- To establish a new secondary school in Wallyford from 2020, or as soon as possible thereafter, to provide secondary education provision within the Musselburgh cluster area.
- To vary the secondary catchment area associated with Musselburgh Grammar School and create a new second secondary catchment area.

She then went on to explain the background of the consultation:

- The Strategic Development Plan for South East Scotland (SDP) was approved by Scottish Ministers in June 2013.
- The SDP with its Supplementary Guidance on Housing Land requires the Local Development Plan (LDP) to ensure sufficient housing land is available to deliver 10,050 homes during the period 2009-2024 with 6,250 of those homes capable of being delivered across East Lothian in the period to 2019.
- The emerging LDP (draft proposed plan as approved by Council 17th November 2015) details a preferred approach of "Compact Growth" with a requirement for an additional secondary solution in the Musselburgh cluster to allow this growth to come forward.
- The Council must ensure provision can be made for the education of children in its area and must consult on certain changes in such arrangements before it can commit to them
- The LDP is only deliverable based on approving an educational solution to meet the increase in projected pupil numbers.
- All of the uncommitted development in the existing Musselburgh cluster including that identified in the draft proposed plan requires the new secondary education facility in order for such development to come forward.
- A pre-consultation exercise was carried out by the Council's Education Service with the pupils, parents and staff of all Musselburgh primary schools and the existing secondary school on three education options for the delivery of secondary school facilities.

Views were sought on the three options:

- Option A – a new second secondary school serving part of the Musselburgh area (40%)
- Option B – a new S4-S6 senior phase school for Musselburgh GS on a separate site (26%)
- Option C – a new enlarged S1-S6 Musselburgh GS on a new site (32%)

- A qualitative assessment of potential sites for future secondary school provision in the Musselburgh area was prepared in February 2015
- Taking into account pupil movement, accessibility, transport services the preferred potential site for the additional secondary provision is at Wallyford.

Liz Shaw ran through capital costs and savings, comparing these to a single secondary school for the whole of Musselburgh.

The cost of building a second secondary school for part of the Musselburgh is estimated at £35 million and the cost of a single secondary school for the whole of the Musselburgh is estimated at £65 million, resulting in an additional £30 million. However, this is offset by potential savings from buying out the current Musselburgh Grammar PPP contract which would be £12 million of savings. Liz Shaw highlighted that the cost of buying out the PPP contract would have to be funded from cash reserves as the Council would not be allowed to borrow for this type of payment. Therefore when this is taken into account the net additional capital cost arising from building a single secondary school for the whole of the Musselburgh area is £18 million.

Liz Shaw then ran through the revenue cost and savings.

No savings have been identified from teaching staff. There are important factors to take into consideration regarding staffing. Promoted management posts are subject to the national job sizing toolkit which determines the grade of post. In terms of job sizing, points are awarded for responsibility for pupil roll, staff numbers, budgets and whole school responsibility. It is therefore possible that the management costs of a large single secondary school could be greater than those of two separate schools. The national commitment to maintaining teacher numbers in line with the current pupil teacher ratio also need to be considered. This cannot reduce as there would be a considerable financial impact on the council. The council currently receives a share of £10 million for maintaining teacher numbers in line with pupil-teacher ratio.

There is a potential saving of £100,000 per annum from Single Status staff. Liz Shaw highlighted that this will be challenging but could potentially be achieved.

There would be additional transport costs arising from a single secondary school compared to a second secondary school. If there is a second secondary school, the majority of pupils will live within the Council's 2 mile transport policy and will not require transportation. If there is a single secondary school, a vast majority of pupils will need to be transported, incurring significant transport costs of approximately £195,000.

Liz Shaw then explained that there could be potential savings in catering in a single secondary school, these would equate to £11,000 per annum.

There are also potential savings with regards to cleaning costs in a single secondary school, which equates to £124,000 per annum.

With regards to property maintenance it is estimated that there would be an additional cost of £200,000.

In summary there would be additional capital costs of £18 million and additional annual revenue costs of £160,000 for a single secondary school for the whole of the Musselburgh area.

Fiona Robertson explained:

Map 1 – showing the location of the proposed new Wallyford Primary (site 2), the location of the existing Musselburgh Grammar (site 3) and the location of the proposed new second secondary school (site 4)

She then went on to explain the projected population data and the impact this will have:

- The secondary pupil population for the Musselburgh Area, taking into account pupils from new housing with consent and those that will arise from the emerging LDP is currently projected to have a roll of 2,337.
- Musselburgh Grammar School does not currently have the capacity to accommodate the projected pupil numbers that will arise from the LDP and will exceed capacity by 2020.

Fiona highlighted the proposal:

- Establish a new second secondary school in Wallyford
- Revise existing catchment boundaries of Pinkie St Peter's Primary School, Wallyford Primary School and Musselburgh Grammar School
- Revision of Sanderson's Wynd Primary School and Ross High School included within the consultation relating to the relocation of Wallyford Primary School and variation in its catchment area.

Map 2 – shows the catchment areas for the proposal. Section A of this map shows the section which is currently in the Sanderson's Wynd and Ross High catchment area and within the school consultation for the relocation of Wallyford Primary School there is a variation in the catchment area to take this section into the Wallyford Primary School catchment. The associated secondary school, dependent on the outcome of this consultation would be the new second secondary school.

The catchment segments in pink are the catchment areas that feed into the current Musselburgh Grammar and the catchment segments in green are the proposed catchments that will fee into the new, second secondary school

Fiona went on to explain transition arrangements:

- There will be establishment of temporary admission arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the school.
- Variation in the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school by altering the designated secondary school.

In terms of affected year groups, any newborn in 2015/16 through to those pupils who are currently in Primary 5, these are the ages and stages that would transfer to the new second secondary school. Children who are currently in Primary 6 through to S6 will not be affected by this proposal.

Fiona Robertson reiterated that:

- The new S1 intake at the effective date, from August 2020 or as soon as thereafter will be those living in the Pinkie St Peter's Primary School and Wallyford catchment areas;
- Pupils attending Musselburgh Grammar School, living in Pinkie St Peter's and Wallyford catchment areas going into:
    - S2 and S3 at the effective date would transfer to the new secondary school. Fiona Robertson pointed out that initially there will be young people in S1 and S2 at Musselburgh Grammar who will be hosted there and then will move back to the new second secondary school.
    - S4 to S6 would remain at Musselburgh Grammar School.

- Any younger siblings of pupils attending Musselburgh Grammar School at the effective date, would have the option to attend Musselburgh Grammar School if they wish.

- For those in Sanderson's Wynd and affected by the change in the catchment area, they can continue to attend the associated secondary school of Ross High school or they can choose to attend the new second secondary school.

Fiona Robertson then outlined the Educational Benefits through:

- Providing a hub for learning, activities and facilities that will make a contribution to improving health and wellbeing and achievement;
- Creation of more flexible learning spaces which facilitate and promote co-operative, inter-disciplinary and outdoor learning;
- Improving the social and learning environment for all children; and
- Enabling the full potential of the use of technologies to enhance learning and teaching.
- Support delivery of vocational learning and promote skills for learning, life and work;
- Support collaborative working practices designed to enhance educational provision, including increased personalisation and choice for young people; and
- Offer a range of varied extra-curricular opportunities to young people across the two sites.

She further advised that:

- Staffing arrangements will be consistent with East Lothian Council's staffing standard and other local arrangements taking into account staffing requirements as the school roll rises in the new school.
- The Senior Leadership Team and staff necessary to secure a smooth pastoral and curricular transition will be in post prior to the opening of the new school in order for them to facilitate a smooth transition

Fiona went on to outline the project time line:

- Emerging Local Development Plan (LDP)
- Qualitive Assessment of options
- New Secondary & Catchment Area Variation Proposal
- Statutory Consultation which closes on 15 June
- Final Proposal Paper
- Council Approval
- User Reference Group
- Transition and Leadership Arrangements
- New Secondary School opens August 2020 (or as soon as thereafter

Chris Webb invited questions from the public.

John Williamson, Local Councillor for Musselburgh West asked with regards to additional capital costs has any figure been factored in for the value of the old Musselburgh Grammar School site.

Liz Shaw explained that if the Council were to opt for a single secondary school then we would have additional income of possibly £2-3 million but she advised that she didn't know the value of this at this moment and this has not been built into the figures that have been presented at this meeting.

Member of the community mentioned the statement that the new second secondary school at Wallyford will be built by 2020 or as soon as thereafter, if Musselburgh

Grammar is reaching capacity at 2020 , by the exact time the authority is proposing to open the new second secondary school, Musselburgh Grammar will be over subscribed. He then asked how soon will the school be built.

Eddie Reid advised that the Council has some input into the phasing of the housing completions for all the applications in the area. The housing is phased and roll projections are carried out on this basis, therefore the new school would be delivered before the existing school breached its capacity.

A Pinkie St Peters parent asked when would it become clear whether 2020 is the date and if it isn't would there be a mid-year transition or would the Council wait until the next school year for entry.

Fiona Robertson explained that if it was mid -year, this is would not unusual with regards to transition into schools. The authority would look very carefully at the timeframe and this is why the authority has committed to recruiting staff and a leadership team in order that we plan that transition at an appropriate time. It is not uncommon across Scotland that school buildings are ready part way through the year.

Roger Knox, retired lecturer in education and former depute Provost in East Lothian stated that he was disappointed that there was more or less a "fait accompli" in the proposal. He then asked how much consideration has been given to the division with the old Ward 5 which has been identified as an area of multiple deprivations along with Wallyford, being segregated from the rest of the town. He then raised concerns about the rivalry between the two schools and asked how this might be elevated.

Fiona Robertson explained that consideration has been given to the impact on communities. She also explained that we have a community that is unknown to us and it is a growing community and the need for an additional secondary school is because of the plan for housing developments in the emerging development plan. It's about how we work together in joining the two communities together. There are examples across Scotland where Education play a critical role in the community cohesion and this would be part of the whole development plan for the new additional secondary school. Fiona explained that the Authority would involve the community and Area Partnerships. The Head Teachers are keen that that it remains one large cluster with all the head teachers working together.

Fiona also advised that the authority is looking at joint badges on school logos, whilst retaining the schools own identity.

Grandparent of Pinkie St Peter's Primary School commented on the drive to increase the level of attainment in education. To what extend have the demographics been considered in this decision to take out Pinkie St Peters and Wallyford and develop it for the new school. Would like to know the facts of the demographics.

She also commented on the pre-consultation and the poor acceptability for a S1-3 and a S4-S6. What evidence was looked at in terms of the success rate of Junior High Schools and Senior High Schools in other parts of the country.

Fiona advised that we are growing a new community so in terms of closing the attainment gap there is an assumption in terms of the population that is growing.

Emma Taylor explained that there are elements of deprivation around Wallyford and the Musselburgh area and this has been recognised. With the new housing that is planned there will be a mixture of social housing, some low market rate housing and general housing. The expectation is that there will be regeneration benefits into the Wallyford area. By the provision of the expanded Wallyford, benefits will be brought to the area which will help raise attainment levels and improve the social mix around that area.

Fiona Robertson then explained that the authority did look at other establishments within Scotland and explored literature around the variation in the nature of schools at an international level. Prior to coming into the post of Head of Education, part of Fiona Robertson's roll within Education Scotland was as an independent adviser in relation to Education Scotland looking at school consultations and from this perspective she is very aware of schools with almost similar context to this area, where S1-3 and S4-6 are on split sites but the schools are trying to go back to a single S1-S6 school. This is for a number of reasons, such as seniors not being able to act as role models to their younger peers, transportation costs for staff as they go between the two buildings, because staff wish to teach the whole range of qualifications across S1-S6.

The grandparent clarified that she would like to hear about the evidence of educational benefits and attainment in relation to Junior and Senior High Schools.

Fiona Robertson further advised that in terms of attainment there are varying contexts. For example where there are successful split sights in rural areas the size of the schools are much smaller than the size of school for the Musselburgh area so a direct comparison cannot be made.

Chris Webb advised that within the consultation document there is an opportunity for the council to set out its reasons and address the issue raised regarding Junior and Senior High Schools.

Mr Harkins, Pinkie Primary School parent and member of Musselburgh Community Council queried the pre-consultation exercise and who was involved and the number of people involved. He also enquired about the transport links and the new infrastructure that will be in place to support the new school.

Fiona Robertson advised that the number of responses from the pre-consultation was 261 and were predominantly from parents and pupils.

Grant Talac further advised that in terms of transport currently there are a number of pupils who come down from the Wallyford area to Musselburgh Grammar School. Therefore these pupils will not be travelling as far. The pupils from the Pinkie area will have a longer distance to walk, however as mentioned previously pupils will be within the 2 mile transport policy for walking to school. Road Services will now walk the routes to the new school site

and this will form part of a Route to School Analysis Report, which looks at public transport connections, actual route safety, accident history, traffic conditions and infrastructure provision.

Grant mentioned that there is a signalised junction to be put in at The Loan on Slater's Road to facilitate safe crossing. There is also a signalised junction to be put in at the Industrial Estate junction.

Chris Webb highlighted that the User Reference Group would have input into this with regards to safe routes to school and dealing with transport issues.

Gaynor Allan, Co Chair of the Musselburgh Grammar Parent Council commented on the pre consultation exercises. Ms Allan advised that the Parent Council felt that it was a flawed exercise as it came out at the very end of the school term and a lot of Parent Councils did not get the chance to discuss it. Ms Allan also stated that the Parent Council felt that the questions were emotive and the responses from the pre-consultation were not representative.

Chris Webb clarified that there was no question to be answered in Ms Allan's statement.

A Musselburgh Burgh/Musselburgh Grammar parent asked if there was any money allocated for updating the existing Musselburgh Grammar School. She also asked if there was anything more that could be done to try and get feedback from parents.

Fiona Robertson explained the Council has met it statutory duties in terms of the consultation. However, over and above the statutory duties the Education Department have organised drop in sessions for parent, issued leaflets to all parents, adverts in East Lothian Courier and Group Call. Fiona Robertson then advised that in terms of the pre-consultation exercise that was carried out, this is not a statutory obligation that the Council has to undertake. She also highlighted that as certain criteria factors change, the original options that may be offered at a pre-consultation exercise, the Council are not obliged to take all of those back out to a formal consultation.

In term of having an effective LDP the Council have a preferred option for a new second secondary school in order for that LDP to move forward. In the final report, the Education Department must take into account the views gathered from the feedback. The public have the right to have their say and express their views through the written representation, through the online questionnaire or completing a paper copy.

Fiona Robertson highlighted that a solution must be found to the secondary school provision in the Musselburgh area in order to have an effective LDP.

Chris Webb explained that the Council is governed by other statutory obligations. The Education Scotland Act 1980, sections 1 and 17 states that an authority needs to provide an adequate and appropriate accommodation. The Local Government Scotland Act 2003-2004 requires the Council to secure best value in the delivery of its services. So in terms of the

options open to the council, the Schools Consultation Act obliges the council to set out what it believes to be the most reasonable alternative available.

Eddie Reid went on to advise that approximately £100,000 - £400,000 per annum is spent on Musselburgh Grammar. There will be £310,000 spent on lifecycle works in 2016/17 which will include roof works to the games hall and assembly hall, renewing skylights, timber floor refurbishment, kitchen improvements, classroom decoration, new flooring and new classroom furniture.

Another Musselburgh Burgh parent asked if the same provisions would be made for the existing Musselburgh Grammar School. For example more digital technologies, digital Whiteboards in every classroom.

Liz Shaw advised that it would be helpful for parents to expresses what they think they won't have in Musselburgh Grammar School.

A further Musselburgh Burgh parent, who lives in the Pinkie Catchment area expressed her disappointment in the decision for a second secondary school as she felt that it was the worst of the three options from the pre-consultation. Her main concern was around the catchment area that will be created for the new school and she asked what percentage of the new catchment area will be new people that we don't know.

Pauline Smith, Principal Officer – Information and Research explained that the information is not expressed as a percentage at this time but this will be answered in the final consultation report.

Another Musselburgh Burgh parent asked if there is a design life for the existing Musselburgh Grammar School and why, if there was an option to buy out the PPP contract, is this not being considered.

Eddie Reid advised that the PPP contract runs out in 2035. Liz Shaw confirmed that at the end of the PPP contract the school must be handed back to the Council almost as if it were a new school. The PPP contractor has an obligation to maintain the building to a high standard.

Liz Shaw also advised that although the saving is £12 million from buying out the PPP contract, as mentioned previously the Council would have to use substantial cash reserves to do this, therefore a decision would have to be taken on whether this could be an option.

The parent then commented on losing the opportunity to improve the fabric of the building and the quality of being in it, the impact on children's education and the willingness of parents to send their children to that school.

Fiona Robertson pointed out that there seemed to be a focus on finance being the only factor determining the preferred option of a second secondary school. However a range of factors were considered such as transportation, pupil movement, size of school and parents

commenting in the pre-consultation that they would not wish for their child to attend a school of 2400 which would be the largest school in Scotland.

Fiona Robertson stressed that the key resource is the teacher in the classroom and the school creates the ethos of the community within that school building.

She acknowledged what people were saying in relation to not wanting to be left behind and feeling that your child might have a lower level of quality of education, but again stressed that this would not be the case. The quality of provision within that school will be as high quality as that in the new build.

Parent of an S1 at Musselburgh Grammar School and P4 at Wallyford Primary raised concerns that her P4 will spend some time at Musselburgh Grammar, however unless her S1 child remains at school until S6, she will not have the option to keep him at Musselburgh Grammar School. In relation to making a placing request, when my child is already at the school, will there be priority given to these children.

Fiona Robertson advised that those children who are in S1 and S2 in 2020 will move back to the new second secondary school and confirmed that unless there were older siblings in the school, parents will not be given the option for their children to remain at Musselburgh Grammar. This decision has been made in relation to keeping the school rolls viable in both the new second secondary school and Musselburgh Grammar.

It was also confirmed that there will be no priority given to those who make a placing request.

Campie Primary School parent asked, children who are in early primary stages and are attending a non catchment school, would they have to apply for a non catchment place to attend Musselburgh Grammar School.

Fiona Brown confirmed that a non catchment placing request would have to be made as the catchment is base on your home address and not the school that your child currently attends.

A further Campie Primary School parent asked what the school roll would be in both schools.

Pauline Smith explained that the projections are still in draft because there is not yet an approved list of LDP sites, and these are subject to change. She did provide provisional figures for the projected peak of the Musselburgh Pupil Population in excess of 2300 with the Musselburgh Grammar, Campie, Musselburgh Burgh, Stoneyhill and Whitecraig catchments feeding into it, going up to 1100 and 1200 as a peak roll and the Pinkie and Wallyford catchments just over 1200.

The current roll at Musselburgh Grammar is 1127.

Pinkie St Peters Primary parent asked how much more LDP is there. Looking at the map around Pinkie St Peter's and Wallyford, there is a lot of green space. How much of that is included for new builds in the current plan and therefore what is the risk of these green spaces that haven't been included being built on which would impact on both schools rolls.

Emma Taylor explained that there is an emerging LDP. To allow ELC to meet the Scottish Government requirement of delivering 10,050 homes. It is anticipated that a subsequent LDP for East Lothian will only require the delivery of 500-700 homes.

Chris Knight, Chair of Musselburgh Area Partnership asked how will you demonstrate that this process has credibility and that the views expressed will be taken seriously.

Fiona Robertson advised that the Council has been very open in relation to the discussions and level of meetings that have taken place. The Council has engaged with parent councils, community councils, with children and young people and parents. The written representations and online questionnaires will be collated and a final report will be written that takes account of the views. The final report will then go to the Elected Members, who will make a decision based on the outcome of the school consultation. The process is transparent and it is robust.

Sean Elliot, Co Chair of the Musselburgh Grammar Parent Council stated that the real concern is around the pre consultation in relation to the numbers and the statistics being used. The parent council feel that this pre consultation was flawed and asked why the statics were being used as evidence and potentially swaying public opinion.

Fiona Robertson reiterated that 261 individuals did respond to the pre consultation. The views of the pre consultation have been extracted and noted in the consultation document. This is only one piece of the information with regards to preparing the documentation on this proposal. The Educational Benefits within the consultation document outlines the reasons why the other options were discounted.

Fiona Robertson advised that the council had to demonstrate that the pre consultation took place and 261 people responded but also that this was only one piece of information that was used.

Campie Primary School Parent ask if there were opportunities for teacher expertise to be shared over the two schools for example if a subject is being offered at one school but not the other, will pupils have the opportunity to travel to the other school to share this expertise.

Fiona Robertson advised that this was one of the factors that were taken into consideration and in terms of a User Reference Group being established it is important that curriculum models and frameworks are explored. If the proposal does go ahead the council would involve parents and young people in visiting other schools to look at the potential and possibilities in relation to having a curriculum that can be complimentary whilst also broadening the opportunities for young people.

Fraser McAllister, Ward Councillor asked for confirmation that the numbers predicted in Table 3 of the consultation document were based on the new school being open and occupied in 2021 and also what are the predictions beyond 2021.

Pauline Smith confirmed that the 1484 roll in 2021 continues to grow beyond that and takes into account the draft list of LDP sites at the moment. The 1484 is the roll if no new additional secondary school is built therefore breaching capacity.

Fraser McAllister then asked what the school roll in Musselburgh Grammar will be in 2026 if there is an additional secondary school built.

Pauline confirmed that in 2026 if an additional secondary school goes ahead, the projected roll of Musselburgh Grammar will be 925 and it grows in 2032 to over 1000 and by 2037 to over 1100.

Grandparent of Pinkie St Peter's Primary mentioned the intention to start the school with only S1 – 3 and felt that this was a contradiction on a previous answer given with regards to having a junior and senior split school.

Fiona Robertson explained that the new school has to grow in some form. There will not be enough of a school roll to have an S1 – S6 immediately but would need the new school at this point because capacity will be breached at Musselburgh Grammar.

Fiona Robertson also explained that with regards to a junior and senior split school the key factor why this was not a viable option was the constant travel that would exist between the two buildings.

John Williamson, Local Councillor for Musselburgh West was concerned that there was not a requirement to add names and addressed on the consultation questionnaire and felt that this could affect the result as people could complete multiple questionnaires. Mr Williamson also asked what would happen if the majority of the responses received were against a second secondary school.

Fiona Robertson explained if the vast majority did not want a second secondary school this would have to be taken back to the Elected Members and they would have to determine how to find a solution because the Local Development Plan cannot move forward without securing the secondary school provision.

Chris Webb thanked Mr Williamson for his comment on the consultation questionnaire and advised that this could be something the council takes into consideration for future consultations.

Will there be a process for out of catchment applications to Musselburgh Grammar School in 2020 and will there be roll capping which could prevent these from being successful.

Fiona Brown, Principal Officer for Education Business Unit explained that the process for applying for out of catchment places will remain the same as it currently is. She also explained that the intake is managed and roll capping would be looked at but would not be to prevent parents from being successful in their placing requests. Roll capping is to ensure that we have equity throughout the authority and employ the right amount of staff for the right amount of subjects.

Have the cost of safe walking routes and pedestrian crossings on Haddington Road up to Wallyford been taken into account *(anonymous online question)*

Grant Talac advised that at the moment this has not been costed because the route analysis still has to be completed and the infrastructure that might be required has not yet been identified.

Member of the community mentioned that the Goshen Farm developers put in an appeal against the rejection of that site for potential housing, if they win that appeal will this have a knock on effect for catchment areas or has this site been completely ruled out for building a school.

Emma Taylor advised that at the moment Goshen Farm is not on the table and the preferred site it Wallyford. If Goshen Farm came back in and the Elected Members decided that they wanted to look at this as an option then consultation process would have to begin again.

Member of the community asked if the developers don't sell the houses that are being built at Wallyford, would this have a knock on effect for the entry date for the new school.

Fiona Robertson advised that it is not unusual nationally where you are undertaking movement of pupils because of housing development for time frames to change and confirmed that it could have an effect on the entry date.

Member of the community then asked how far in advance would you know this information.

Pauline Smith explained that roll projections are continuously monitored, not just from year to year but also throughout the year and her team are in constant communication with Property to ensure that they can react quickly to any changes in roll projections.

Chris Webb drew the meeting to a close and thanked everyone who attended the meeting and outlined the next steps in the process. Education Scotland will produce an independent and impartial report on the consultation process and the recommendations. This will be published along with the council's final consultation report. It is then the Elected Members who will make a decision.