

## Pre Consultation – Secondary School Provision in Musselburgh

### What is the purpose of this pre –consultation?

East Lothian Council wants to seek your views on possible types of new secondary school provision in the current Musselburgh area.

This pre-consultation exercise will help inform the Council, in addition to a formal consultation which is scheduled for later in 2015. Other information such as site availability, funding and government support, as it becomes known will help inform the Council as to the best long term option for education in Musselburgh.

The formal consultation, unlike the pre-consultation, will be carried out under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 legislation

### What is the proposal?

East Lothian Council's Main Issues Report proposes a strategy that may result in a significant number of new homes being built in Musselburgh over the next 10 years. Should this happen, there will be a need to increase the number of secondary school places from 1350, the maximum capacity of the current Musselburgh Grammar School to around 2550.

The requirement for extra places can be met by one of the following options:

#### Option A

Keep the existing Musselburgh Grammar as it currently stands and build a second secondary school, (roll 1100- 1300). The existing school catchment would be divided and students would be allocated the appropriate school based on where they lived.

#### Features

- Two S1 to S6 schools of an optimum size to provide quality education
- No additional transition (i.e. from S3 to S4)
- Smaller catchment areas, potentially reducing travel time
- Less disruption in staffing structures and teams in the existing school
- A new school building on one site designed for 21<sup>st</sup> century education
- Each secondary school will have its own separate cluster of new and existing
- Primary schools
- No onsite provision for outdoor PE on one of the sites
- Pressure on other services within the Musselburgh area to deliver to two separate secondary schools
- More modern provision at the new school

- An opportunity for the two schools to work closely together to enhance educational provision e.g. wider choice with regard to national qualifications
- Catchment area review may impact upon community.

### **Option B**

Retain Musselburgh Grammar and all catchment students would attend for years S1-S3, the 'Broad General Education', (with an approximate peak roll of 1300).

A new additional facility for Musselburgh Grammar would be built, in a new location, to accommodate years S4-6, the 'Senior Phase', (with a peak roll of approximately 1250).

#### Features

- A new facility designed for 21<sup>st</sup> century education, with new learning spaces allowing innovative ways of learning and teaching to be undertaken.
- No changes to existing secondary catchments
- Equality of provision across Musselburgh
- Distance between campuses may cause difficulties of timetabling staff, the impact on staffing of school structures
- There would be an additional transition, (S3 to S4 and building only)
- The existing building would still access the playing field at Pinkie St Peters Primary School
- Existing building would need to be extended to meet the projected S1 to S3 roll
- Enhancement of educational provision to deliver better partnership working, better outcomes for pupils and to develop innovative practice, particularly in the Senior Phase

### **Option C**

Close the existing school and provide a new school to accommodate all students S1-S6 (Roll 2550). The roll for this new facility would be one of the largest in Scotland although the school would be designed appropriately with sufficient space and areas to ensure a good learning environment.

#### Features

- A new facility designed for 21<sup>st</sup> century education, with new learning spaces allowing innovative ways of learning and teaching to be undertaken.
- No changes to existing secondary catchments
- Continuity of provision on the same new site
- No additional transition compared to Option B
- Opportunities to work with other services to meet the diverse needs of the community e.g. police, health, voluntary

- Opportunities for increased choice in pathways for young people through partnership links with QMU, Academies, etc.
- Opportunities for bespoke vocational facilities e.g. Tots and teens crèche etc.
- Possible enhancement of authority facilities e.g. facilities for young people with Additional Support Needs
- Opportunity for new high quality community facilities

**Note for all Options:**

The location of any new school, whether that be for the 'Senior Phase' or a new school in Options A or C is yet to be determined, however, due to land requirements, it is likely the school(s) would be on the perimeter of the Musselburgh Cluster. It is anticipated that any new school(s) would be open around 2018/2019.

How long will this pre-consultation process take?

**This pre-consultation is open until Friday 31 July 2015**

**Who is being consulted about this?**

For this pre consultation, we are approaching and seeking feedback from:

- Parent Councils of Musselburgh Schools
- Parents of pupils attending Musselburgh Grammar at present
- Parents of pupils in existing Musselburgh Primary schools
- Pupils
- Staff
- Trade Unions
- Queen Margaret University
- Edinburgh College