



EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL
RESOURCES AND PEOPLE SERVICES
EDUCATION
CONSULTATION REPORT

**REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION RELATING TO THE
RELOCATION OF WALLYFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PROPOSED CHANGE TO
THE WALLYFORD PRIMARY CATCHMENT AREA**

AUGUST 2016

This Consultation Report has been issued by East Lothian Council in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

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EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL
RESOURCES AND PEOPLE SERVICES
EDUCATION

This report has been prepared following consultation on the proposal that the Council:

- Relocate the existing Wallyford Primary School to a new site;
- Extend the catchment boundary of Wallyford Primary School to include the houses in the vicinity of Dolphingstone Farm, currently in the catchment of Sanderson's Wynd Primary School;
- Children attending the nursery provision, primary school and Social, Emotional and Behavioural Needs provision will transfer to the new Wallyford Primary School from August 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter.

This proposal also had implications for:

- Sanderson's Wynd Primary School
- Ross High School

Having had regard (in particular) to:

- a) Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period
- b) Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting held on 24 May
- c) Oral representations made to it at the staff drop-in session
- d) Oral representations made to it at the pupil voice session
- e) Education Scotland's report on the proposal

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This is a Consultation Report prepared in compliance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 on the above proposal.

1.2 The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide a record of the total number of written responses made during the Statutory Consultation period;
- Provide a summary of the written responses;
- Provide a summary of oral representations made at the public meeting held on 24 May;
- Provide a statement of the Council's response to those written and oral representations;
- Provide the full text of Education Scotland's report and a statement of the Council's response to this report;
- State how the Council reviewed the above proposal following the representations received during the Statutory Consultation period and the report from Education Scotland;
- Provide details of any omission from, or inaccuracy in, the Consultation Document and state how the Council acted upon it; and
- State how the Council has complied with Section 12 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 when reviewing the above proposals.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Education Authorities have a statutory duty in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across their area. This duty applies in respect of both the current school population and anticipated pattern of demand. In addition, Councils have a statutory duty to secure best value in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. Most importantly, the Education Authority would wish to optimise the educational experience to ensure:

- East Lothian's young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens;
- East Lothian's children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed;
- East Lothian's children experience equality of opportunity within an inclusive educational experience'
- East Lothian's children's care, welfare and personal and social development is central to raising their attainment and achievements; and
- In East Lothian we live healthier, more active and independent lives.

East Lothian Council is committed to raising educational attainment and ensuring that all young people have the best opportunities in life. The educational benefits that will arise from this proposal for children affected or likely to be affected are outlined in the Consultation Document.

- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 On 24 February 2015, approval was given by East Lothian Council to undertake consultations relating to the school estate (i.e. schools, catchment areas, locations) regarding work necessary to inform the emerging Local Development Plan (LDP), where there is likely to be a need for new or re-provisioned facilities, without further reference to or approval by Council; and to report back to Council on the outcomes of such consultations in order that the Council can make a decision on any proposed changes.
- 2.4 The 2008 Local Development Plan included provision for a new school in Wallyford to replace the existing Wallyford Primary School with sufficient capacity to accommodate the increased pupil population arising from planned housing developments in the area.
- 2.5 In April 2016 East Lothian Council secured funding from the Scottish Government via the Scottish Futures Trust for the replacement of Wallyford Primary School.
- 2.6 On 26 April 2016, approval was given by East Lothian Council to consult on the proposal to revise the catchment boundaries of Wallyford Primary School, Musselburgh Grammar School, Sanderson's Wynd Primary School and Ross High School.
- 2.7 The relocated Wallyford Primary School and variation in its catchment area will directly affect the following schools and was considered in the Consultation Document:
 - Wallyford Primary School
 - Sanderson's Wynd Primary School
 - Ross High School
 - Musselburgh Grammar School

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The main considerations relating to the relocation of the existing Wallyford Primary School to a new site and variation in its catchment area are fully explained in the Consultation Document and the main points are highlighted below:

- 3.2 The condition and suitability of the establishment to facilitate learning and teaching processes in the 21st Century;
- 3.3 East Lothian Council has secured funding from the Scottish Government via the Scottish Futures Trust for the replacement of Wallyford Primary School;
- 3.4 The need to develop inspirational learning environments which raise the aspirations of children and young people, staff and the wider community;
- 3.5 The increasing pupil roll projection in the area, in relation to the emerging Local Development Plan;
- 3.6 The need to address potential over-capacity in the school estate and create a sustainable school estate for future generations;
- 3.7 Making a clear civic statement about the value the Council places on investing in education and lifelong learning, and provide new education and community provision to the vibrant learning community;
- 3.8 A flexible design that allows creative and multiple use of spaces by the staff and pupils, and also the community. Spaces for learning will be designed in such a way as to allow a range of teaching styles and approaches including: active learning, interdisciplinary learning and outdoor learning.

4. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 4.1 On 24 February 2015, approval was given by East Lothian Council to undertake consultations relating to the school estate (i.e. schools, catchment areas, locations) regarding work necessary to inform the emerging Local Development Plan (LDP), where there is likely to be a need for new or re-provisioned facilities, without further reference to or approval by Council; and to report back to Council on the outcomes of such consultations in order that the Council can make a decision on any proposed changes.
- 4.2 On 26 April 2016, approval was given by East Lothian Council to consult on the proposal to revise the catchment boundaries of Wallyford Primary School, Musselburgh Grammar School, Sanderson's Wynd Primary and Ross High School.
- 4.3 Notification of the consultation was given to all statutory consultees prior to the commencement of the consultation.
- 4.4 The Consultation Document was published on East Lothian Council's website and paper copies distributed on 3 May 2016 to:
 - Wallyford Primary School
 - Musselburgh Grammar
 - Sanderson's Wynd Primary

- Ross High
 - Wallyford Community Centre
 - Wallyford Library
 - Brunton Hall
 - John Muir House, Haddington
- 4.5 The consultation period commenced on **Tuesday 3rd May 2016** and lasted until 12:00am on **Thursday 16th June 2016**, being a period of six weeks, which also included the minimum 30 school days.
- 4.6 The proposal on which consultation took place was to:
- Relocate the existing Wallyford Primary School to a new site;
 - Extend the catchment boundary of Wallyford Primary School to include the houses in the vicinity of Dolphingstone Farm, currently in the catchment of Sanderson's Wynd Primary School;
 - Children attending the nursery provision, primary school and Social, Emotional and Behavioural Needs provision will transfer to the new Wallyford Primary School from August 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 4.7 The requirements for consulting on a relevant proposal relating to schools are set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 4.8 An information leaflet setting out details about the proposal and consultation meetings was issued to the consultees listed in the Consultation Document. Advice on where the complete Consultation Document could be obtained was included and was published on East Lothian Council's Consultation Hub www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/education/wallyford-school
- 4.9 If requested, copies of the proposal would have been made available in alternative formats or translated for readers whose first language is not English.
- 4.10 A "Frequently Asked Questions" document was also prepared which was available at the same location on East Lothian Council's Consultation Hub: www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/education/wallyford-school
- 4.11 An advertisement was placed in the local newspaper on 5th May 2016 and 19th May 2016. A pre-announcement was also made on the Council's website and social media posts on the 2nd May 2016. In addition, there were announcements related to the Consultation process on East Lothian Council's website, linked via Facebook page and Twitter feeds.
- 4.12 The public meeting was held in **Wallyford Primary School** on **24th May 2016** at **7.00pm**.

4.13 In addition to specific meetings with statutory consultees, drop-in sessions were held in respect of the proposal at the venues listed below, at which any members of the public were welcome to attend:

Venue	Date	Time
Wallyford Primary School	16 May 2016	11:00am – 5:00pm
Brunton Hall	18 May 2016	10:00am – 2:00pm
Pinkie St Peter’s Primary School	19 May 2016	11:00am – 5:00pm
Pinkie St Peter’s Primary School	26 May 2016	5:00pm – 8:00pm

4.14 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following persons were consulted:

- The Parent Councils of Wallyford Primary School, Sandersons’ Wynd Primary School, Musselburgh Grammar School and Ross High School;
- The parents of pupils at Wallyford Primary School, Sandersons’ Wynd Primary School, Musselburgh Grammar School and Ross High School;
- The parents of any children expected to attend Wallyford Primary School, Sandersons’ Wynd Primary School, Musselburgh Grammar School and Ross High School within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper;
- The pupils at Wallyford Primary School, Sandersons’ Wynd Primary School, Musselburgh Grammar School and Ross High School;
- The staff at Wallyford Primary School, Sandersons’ Wynd Primary School, Musselburgh Grammar School and Ross High School;
- Musselburgh Area Partnership;
- Musselburgh Community Council;
- Wallyford Community Council.

4.15 The following schools are **directly affected** by the proposal:

- Wallyford Primary School
- Sanderson’s Wynd Primary School
- Ross High School
- Musselburgh Grammar School

4.16 Representations were sought from statutory consultees and the wider public in the following ways:

- An online questionnaire on East Lothian Council's Consultation Hub. The questionnaire asked specific questions and enabled general comments and views to be entered. The Consultation Hub stored all relevant consultation documentation for public viewing;
- Widely distributed paper copies of the same questionnaire, at Council buildings around the Wallyford and Musselburgh area. Sealed boxes were also located at questionnaire distribution points for their return;

- Paper and digital flyers, in addition to the press adverts and Council web and social media announcements linked to the Consultation Hub. These flyers also detailed a specific Wallyford Consultation email inbox, to which any queries could be submitted during the consultation period;
- Flyer distribution to pupils at Wallyford Primary, Sanderson's Wynd Primary, Ross High (a digital version sent to Musselburgh Grammar for distribution). Head Teachers used their established methods of communication to engage/remind parents about the consultation.
- In addition to the public meeting and public drop-in sessions, school staff were invited to attend briefing sessions held at their school to discuss the proposal;
- A representative group of pupils from Wallyford Primary attended a workshop where they were able to express their views on the proposal;
- Meetings held with Wallyford and Sandersons Wynd Parent Councils
- A joint meeting held with Musselburgh, Wallyford and Whitecraig Community Councils

4.17 This Consultation Report is the Council's response to the issues raised during the consultation period on the Consultation Document.

4.18 This Consultation Report will be published for a period of three weeks before a final decision is taken by East Lothian Council on 20 September 2016.

5. THE PUBLIC MEETING

5.1 A public meeting was held in Wallyford Primary School on Tuesday 24 May 2016. Six members of the public attended including three members of the Wallyford Community Council. A full note of the meeting is attached at Appendix 1 which details the questions and issues raised at the meeting. The points raised are addressed within the response to frequently asked questions or within this report.

5.2 Additionally, four drop-in sessions were arranged during the consultation period, enabling any member of the public to ask questions and discuss the proposal, the consultation process and how they could make representations.

6. RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE

6.1 The Council received 72 responses to the online and paper questionnaire, and a written response from the Parent Council of Wallyford Primary School. Respondents were overwhelmingly supportive of the proposal to relocate Wallyford Primary School (88.9% either agreed or strongly agreed). Only a few respondents disagreed with this aspect of the proposal (6.9%). The majority of stakeholders either agreed or expressed no opinion regarding the proposal to change the catchment area (69.4% agreed, strongly agreed or had no opinion). Less than a third (30.6%) of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this aspect of the proposal.

6.2 A summary of all questionnaire responses has been included in Appendix 5. The comments made as part of these questionnaires also form part of Appendix 5, apart from submissions which consultees did not wish East Lothian Council to share publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still informed the response as detailed below.

6.3 A number of common themes emerged from the written and oral responses and can be grouped as follows:

- Concerns over the proposed site or catchment of the new school;
- Pupil transition, continuity of school friendships and minimising disruption;
- Difficulty in recruitment of staff for large school;
- Environmental impact of large scale housing development;
- Concerns about the impact on the Wallyford community, and that the decision is being rushed to meet housing expansion;
- Concerns that the consultation outcome is already decided;
- A lack of parental choice regarding schools in the area;
- Ensuring the wider community can access the facility and gain the intended benefits;
- School capacity and size;
- Traffic, transport, parking and safer routes to schools.

7. EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO WRITTEN AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS

7.1 Concerns over the proposed site or catchment of the new school

7.1.1 An options appraisal on a number of suitable sites was carried out at an earlier stage in the planning process for this school and the land identified for the new primary school has been approved within the Local Development Plan. The site will be accessible both in public transport and sustainable transport terms. The site is in close proximity to the existing settlement and has the potential for well developed pedestrian and cycle (shared) links connecting onto a wider permeable network.

7.1.2 The school will be located near the geographic centre of its catchment area. It will be at the heart of the growing community, providing a hub for learning, activities and facilities that will make a contribution to improving people's health and wellbeing, adding to the strength and vibrancy of its community. All existing and new housing, will be within two miles of the new school. All pupils will be able to walk, cycle or scooter to school with the subsequent health benefits.

7.1.3 The school and its associated catchment area will meet the requirements of the emerging Proposed Local Development Plan (LDP), which was in turn informed by the Main Issues Report 2014 and the Compact Strategy for housing growth. The Compact Strategy and assessment of sites for the LDP sought to locate housing growth where possible to take advantage of existing infrastructure or areas where additional

infrastructure could be easily provided, to reduce the need to travel, the distance of travel and to be close to public transport links to reduce dependency on private cars.

7.2 Pupil transition, continuity of school friendships and minimising disruption

7.2.1 Wallyford Primary will not be closing. The school and its pupils and staff are all moving to a new building. The school currently has a very good ethos and a strong value system. This allows pupils and staff to build solid relationships with one another. The sense of community and identity which currently exists will continue to be nurtured in a new building which will better meet the social and emotional needs of pupils.

7.2.2 Regarding transition arrangements, pupils currently attending the affected schools will not be significantly affected as the proposed catchment changes will only impact on future intakes, i.e. August 2017 onward. Pupils moving into housing in the Dolphingstone area from August 2017 onward will attend Wallyford Primary School and the associated secondary school. Pupils currently attending Sanderson's Wynd Primary School will have the option to remain at their current school for the remainder of their primary education and transfer to Ross High School for their secondary education if they wish to do so. Pupils currently attending Ross High School will have the option to remain at their current school for the remainder of their secondary education. There may be an effect on children who have a sibling currently attending Sanderson's Wynd Primary School and Ross High School who would, but for implementation of the catchment boundary proposal, be likely to become pupils at those schools. Siblings of children already at the affected schools will have the option to attend Sanderson's Wynd Primary School and Ross High School if they wish to do so.

7.2.3 As part of the transition process into the new building, staff and pupils will have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the building including social areas, classrooms, play areas, entry/exit points and muster areas. As the locality will have various building works occurring, for example new housing, Transportation Officers at East Lothian Council will be working closely with both staff and pupils to establish how best to put in the necessary interventions to ensure there are safer routes to school.

7.2.4 The current Wallyford Primary School building will be maintained to the current standard whilst the new school is being built.

7.2.5 In a small number of responses, comment is made regarding transitional concerns. These comments relate to the consultation running concurrently with this one, as the statements regarding continuity do not relate to the relocation of Wallyford Primary and the proposed catchment amendment.

7.3 Difficulty in recruitment of staff for large school

7.3.1 Additional staff are being recruited to meet the needs of the school as it continues to grow currently. The Education Department closely monitors school rolls and plans staff recruitment in response to increases in school rolls. Based on current school roll predictions there will not be a significant increase in the school roll at the time of moving to the new site. Therefore East Lothian Council anticipate the need to recruit will be an incremental process reflecting the year by year increase in the school roll. All teacher vacancies will follow the standard East Lothian Council recruitment process.

7.4 Environmental Impact of large scale housing development

7.4.1 Through the statutory Strategic Development Plan, the Council must provide for significant housing growth and allocate a generous housing land supply to provide for it. The housing growth is based on an assessment of housing need and demand and was also subject to the Scottish Ministers requirements. The Proposed LDP will seek to provide an adequate housing land supply based on statutory requirements and assessed housing need.

7.4.2 As East Lothian has a relatively low level of Brownfield land available for redevelopment, consideration has to be given to Greenfield sites. With the Compact Strategy to deliver the most sustainable form of housing growth and meet the requirements of the Scottish Government's Scottish Planning Policy, this has an impact on green belt boundaries.

7.4.3 The LDP and the sites are subject to environmental assessments including a full Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Appraisal. Details of mitigation will be set out in the Proposed LDP and its supporting documents, due to be published at the end of August 2016.

7.5 Concerns about the impact on the Wallyford community, and that the decision is being rushed to meet housing expansion

7.5.1 It is true that the relocation of Wallyford is, in large part, designed to meet the needs of growing school roll projections for the Wallyford area. The implications for developing a new primary school site in Wallyford, however, has been under active and careful consideration by local authority officers for a number of years. The 2008 Local Development Plan included provision for a new school in Wallyford to replace the existing Wallyford Primary School with sufficient capacity to accommodate the increased pupil population arising from planned housing developments in the area. The consultation of the relocation of the school and the variation of its catchment area complies with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The Council has gone beyond the minimum requirements set out in the Act to consult with all members of the community affected by the proposal.

7.5.2 It is East Lothian Council's view, that there will be significant positive outcomes for the Wallyford Community regarding the new school and community facility. The Council acknowledges the continual engagement of all key community groups to enable the continuation of local traditions, festivities and activities. It is envisaged that such engagement will continue to thrive.

7.6 Concerns that the consultation outcome is already decided

7.6.1 As stated above, the Council has gone beyond the minimum requirements set out in Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 to ensure that views of all members of the community are listened to and are included in this report. The Council believes that the report accurately reflects the views of the community. It is for members of East Lothian Council Education Committee to decide to adopt the proposal, withdraw it or seek to consult on another proposal.

7.7 A lack of parental choice regarding schools in the area

7.7.1 Access to local education via this proposal is the same as access to any other local catchment school in East Lothian. Parents, if they wish can apply to East Lothian Council if they feel their catchment area school does not meet their child's needs. The Council believes, however, that the new school will offer children the opportunity to learn and develop within a state-of-the-art facility which will benefit from modern design and materials. The establishment of a new modern primary school and nursery provision will make a clear statement regarding the value the Council places on investing in education and lifelong learning, and provide a new vibrant learning community.

7.8 Ensuring the wider community can access the facility and gain the intended benefits

7.8.1 The new primary school is firstly an education facility. However, the school is being designed from the outset to make the shared accommodation easily accessible to the community when it is not in use by the school. This is particularly true for the hall which will be capable of being subdivided for use by more than one group at a time and will include changing facilities. It is assumed that community lets would be arranged within existing janitorial resources.

7.8.2 The school already operates a policy of welcoming parents and carers into the school to participate in activities and the location and design of the school library and dining / social area will enhance this. A separate community kitchen / store will also be provided which will support out-of-school use of the facility by the community.

7.8.3 There is no plan to change the current status of the existing Wallyford Community Centre, which will remain.

7.9 School Capacity and size

7.9.1 The new school will have the capacity to meet the future school roll projections for the catchment area. The school's capacity will be continually assessed (as is the case with all schools), in comparison to roll projections from the catchment area it provides for, and all new building which occurs within this area. Any requirements to expand capacity are identified in advance, to enable sufficient planning and extension as required. The school will be constructed, in such a way, to allow any necessary further expansion, but still retain the integrity of the original design. The Council also has control over the rate of house building to ensure all community facilities are adequate to meet the needs of the growing population – and expanded to meet these needs if required. East Lothian has experience with schools of a similar size to the projected peak roll of Wallyford (in excess of 1,100 pupils). The composition of the senior leadership and management team will reflect the size of the school roll ensuring collaborative leadership at all levels. The leadership team will foster collaborative leadership to develop a shared vision for change and improvement which is meaningful and relevant to the context of Wallyford Primary School and its growing community.

7.10 Traffic, Transport, Parking and Safer Routes to Schools

7.10.1 East Lothian Council is aware of the traffic impact on Wallyford and will be undertaking a Transport Appraisal in the context of the Local Development Plan. The Appraisal is to examine the effect of the cumulative impacts from the housing and economic development land allocations in East Lothian on the local and strategic road and rail networks and evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions. A range of measures would be put in place to reduce the risks involved in children and young people travelling to and from school. For example, ensuring that crossing points are in the correct position, reviewing the positioning of school crossing guides and ensuring pedestrians are given priority alongside other safety measures. There will be a series of traffic measures on Salter's Road put in place, and a new distributor is being constructed to divert traffic from the centre of Wallyford. As referred to in 7.2.3 above, Transportation Officers at East Lothian Council will be working closely with both staff and pupils to establish how best to put in the necessary interventions to ensure there are safer routes to school.

7.10.2 Regarding the suggestion for a flyover linking onto the bypass, an intervention of this nature would make the land and housing delivery unviable. There are also technical reasons why this is not feasible; the land needed to construct a flyover is not wholly within the site boundary (i.e. no control of ownership); the flyover would need approval from the trunk road authority and this is unlikely to meet their technical requirements. The flyover would not meet the 5 planning tests under SPP 3/12 i.e. being of scale and kind, so this could not be considered under the plan.

8. EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT

8.1 In accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a report was produced by Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal. A full copy of the report can be found in Appendix 6.

8.2 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 24 May 2016 in connection with the Council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the Council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the site of Wallyford Primary School, Sanderson's Wynd Primary School, Musselburgh Grammar and Ross High School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

8.3 The Education Scotland report supports the proposal and is summarised below:

- Education Scotland considers the proposal to relocate the school has the potential to bring about a number of educational benefits. The improved facilities will provide more flexible spaces which will enhance opportunities for active, interdisciplinary and outdoor learning. A modern learning environment will provide greater opportunities to develop children's digital skills.
- Children's educational experiences will be enhanced through improved and purpose-built recreation and dining areas and learning spaces which will provide new possibilities for drama and the arts. The location of the community library and a hub for sporting facilities has the potential to bring benefits to the children, to support the work of the school and make a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the children and members of the wider community.
- The proposal will assist East Lothian Council to make effective and efficient use of its resources and takes into account expected increases in population in the next ten years.
- Almost all stakeholders, including parents, children and staff who met with HM Inspectors, reported that they had been kept well-informed and consulted about the proposal. Parents and children who met HM Inspectors expressed their appreciation for the educational service that Wallyford Primary School has provided over the years. Staff and other stakeholders are keen to keep the community feel of Wallyford Primary as the school grows in size. The community is pleased that the new school will be fully accessible and more inclusive.

8.4 East Lothian's Response to Education Scotland's Report

East Lothian Council welcomes the report from Education Scotland and accepts its findings. In response to the findings contained within the Education Scotland Report, East Lothian's response is as follows:

8.4.1 A few parents and representatives of the community raised concerns over traffic management and safe routes to school

The authority is aware of the concerns in relation to traffic management and safe routes to school. It intends to put a range of measures in place to reduce the risks involved in children and young people travelling to and from school. For example, ensuring that crossing points are in the correct position, reviewing the positioning of school crossing guides etc. There will be a series of traffic measures on Salter's Road put in place and a new distributor is being constructed to divert traffic from the centre of Wallyford. Safer routes to school will be addressed by direct consultation with pupils and staff at the school, ensuring the necessary interventions are put in place.

8.4.2 A minority also disagreed with the proposed changes to the catchment area citing the negative effect this might have on Sanderson's Wynd Primary School pupil numbers.

The impact of the changes to the catchment area have been considered as part of the Council's Local Development Plan. There should be no negative impact on pupil numbers at Sanderson's Wynd as it is forecast that the roll is set to grow in the coming years due to new housing developments in the Tranent area. Based on the emerging Proposed Local Development Plan, the Sanderson's Wynd roll is projected to increase to a peak of approximately 395 by 2024. In the short term, families currently living in the Dolphingstone area can continue attending their current schools as detailed in section 7.2 above.

9. TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

9.1 Transition arrangements are set out in paragraph 7.2 above. The new school is due to open in the Autumn Term 2018. All pupils will move from the existing site to the new school at the same time. The Local Authority will work with the school community to put in place measures to minimise any potential disruption to the pupils' education.

10. ALLEGED OMISSIONS AND INACCURACIES

10.1 Section (10) (3) of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 also places a requirement on the Council to provide details of any inaccuracy or omission within the Proposal Paper which has either been identified by the Council or raised by consultees. This section of the 2010 Act also requires the Council to provide a statement on the action taken in respect of the inaccuracy or omission, or, if no action was taken, to state that fact and why.

10.2 At the start of the consultation period the Council omitted Wallyford Community Council from its list of consultees in the original Consultation Documentation. However, the Council had notified Wallyford Community Council of the consultation at the start of the process. The Council has now addressed the omission in the original documentation. Officers of the Council met with Wallyford Community Council as part of the consultation process.

10.3 There were no other areas identified by respondents as being inaccurate or omitted from the Proposal Paper during the consultation period.

11. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 9(1) OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

11.1 Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 states that:

After the Education Authority has received Education Scotland's report, the Authority is to review the relevant proposal having regard (in particular) to:

- (i) written representations received by the Authority (from any person) during the consultation period,*
- (ii) oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting,*
- (iii) Education Scotland's report.*

11.2 Following receipt of seventy two written representations and consideration of oral representations made at a public meeting held during the consultation period, officers reviewed the proposal.

11.3 The feedback from the consultation was considered by a range of officers. This ensured that the Council met the requirements of sections 9(1), 12 and 13(3) (b) of the 2010 Act.

11.4 Officers of the Education Authority have listened carefully to the points made at the public meetings and have considered equally carefully the written representations, including the Education Scotland report. Having reviewed the feedback from consultees, officers conclude that the basis of the original proposal remained the best solution to provide appropriate and effective primary education provision to Wallyford pupils.

12. LEGAL ISSUES

12.1 The Council has complied in full with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 throughout this statutory consultation.

12.2 The Council is mindful of its duties in respect of equality and the Equality Impact Assessment did not identify that any parent, child or young person would be treated less favourably as a result of this proposal.

12.3 Under the terms of the Schools (Scotland) (Consultation) Act 2010, it is a legal requirement that the Council should not reach any formal decision without having reviewed the relevant proposal having regard, in particular, to:

- a) relevant written representations received from any person during the consultation period;
- b) oral representation made to it by any person at the public meeting held 24 May
- c) the Education Scotland report;
- d) preparing a Consultation Report; and
- e) waiting until a period of three weeks starting on the day on which this Consultation Report is published in electronic and printed form has expired.

12.4 As it is the intention that this Consultation Report should be published, both electronically and in written form, if required, on 15 August 2016 until 4 September 2016 (inclusive), this meets the statutory requirement to publish this report more than three weeks before consideration of the proposal by the Education Committee.

13. PERSONNEL ISSUES

13.1 No personnel issues have been identified with regard to this proposal. All staff in post at the time will move to the new school when it has been completed.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

14.1 The impacts of the proposals are assessed as set out above and the relevant technical and environmental information will be published alongside the Proposed LDP. The interim environmental assessments, site assessments and other technical documents for the Main Issues Report and draft Proposed LDP are available on the Council's website.

15. CONCLUSION

15.1 The Council now has 3 options to consider, namely:

- a) adopt the proposal;
- b) withdraw the proposal and make no additional provision for school education;
- c) undertake a further consultation exercise on a new proposal.

15.2 In withdrawing the proposal, the Council would be failing to recognise the need for a new school to replace the sub-standard accommodation on the site of the present school. The Council would not be able to accommodate the educational requirements of nursery and primary pupils coming from the agreed housing developments.

15.3 Again, undertaking a further consultation on a new proposal would have a significant negative impact in the medium term on the Council's ability to accommodate the educational requirements of nursery and primary pupils coming from already committed housing developments. The additional future development outlined in the

Proposed Local Development Plan cannot be accommodated in the existing school. Additionally, the funding from Scottish Futures Trust would no longer be secured.

15.4 Education Scotland has identified that the proposal would lead to clear educational benefits for children. This includes providing a high quality learning environment offering greater flexibility for all school activities which is designed to deliver a 21st century education in line with the principles of Curriculum for Excellence.

15.5 If the Council adopts the proposal, it would be on the basis that the educational benefits set out in the Proposal Paper would materialise. There would also be a requirement that close joint planning with parents/carers, staff and pupils is well managed in ways which are supportive to the pupils concerned, and in their long term interests.

15.6 The key issues that have been highlighted during the consultation period are as follows:

- The Council's proposal has been supported by almost all parents/carers and the wider community.
- 6.9% of respondents do not support the Council's proposal regarding building a new school and 20.6% do not support the variation in the Wallyford catchment area . The report from Education Scotland acknowledges that the proposal would lead to clear educational benefits for children attending the new school building.

16. RECOMMENDATIONS

16.1 On the basis of the feedback received and taking account of the educational and social benefits of the proposal, it is concluded that the following proposal is the most suitable option and it is recommended that the Council:

- Relocate the existing Wallyford Primary School to a new site;
- Vary the catchment boundary of Wallyford Primary School to include the houses in the vicinity of Dolphingstone Farm, currently in the catchment of Sanderson's Wynd Primary School; and
- Children attending the nursery provision, primary school and Social, Emotional and Behavioural Needs provision transfer to the new Wallyford Primary School from August 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Fiona Robertson
Head of Education

August 2016

Appendix 1: Note of Public Meeting, 24 May 2016

EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL
PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING
TUESDAY 24 MAY 2016
WALLYFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRESENT:

Fiona Robertson, Head of Education
Chris Webb, Chair of meeting
Liz Shaw, Corporate Finance Manager
Paul Zochowski, Principal Planner
Jimmy McGuinness, Manager PPP Project
Peter Forsyth, Road Services Team Manager
Gary Johnstone, Education Scotland
Mhairi Stratton, Head Teacher, Wallyford Primary School
Richard Parker, Education Service Manager
David Scott, Quality Improvement Officer
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
Councillor Andrew Forrest
3 members of the public
3 members of Wallyford Community Council

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 explained that this evenings meeting was being held to discuss the relocation of the existing Wallyford Primary School to a new site and extend the catchment boundary of Wallyford Primary School with the transfer of the children from the existing Wallyford Primary School to the new school from August 2018, or as soon as thereafter.

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

- The 2008 Local Development Plan (LDP) included provision for a new school in Wallyford to replace the existing Wallyford Primary School.
- Increased pupil population arising from planned housing developments in the area.
- 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.
- In April 2016, East Lothian Council secured funding from the Scottish Government via the Scottish Futures Trust for the replacement of Wallyford Primary School.
- On 26th April 2016, approval was given by East Lothian Council to consult on the proposal to relocate Wallyford Primary School and vary the catchment boundaries of Wallyford Primary School and Sanderson's Wynd Primary School to take account of planned housing developments.

Fiona Robertson presented 2 maps

Included within the proposal:

Map 1 showing the location of the new replacement and variation of catchment area.

Map 2 showing the variation in catchment area for Sanderson's Wynd, this map shows the impact on Sanderson's Wynd Primary School. There's a small area of housing as indicated in section A, this area of housing would be included in the new Wallyford catchment. At the moment there are a few families included in this catchment and they would have the option to remain at Sanderson's Wynd and move to Ross High School, or move to the relocated Wallyford Primary School and the associated secondary school.

Fiona Robertson then outlined the transition arrangements:

- Current pupil roll - proposed catchment changes will only impact on future intakes i.e. 2017 onwards.
- Pupils moving into the Dolphingstone area ("Segment A") from August 2017 onwards will attend Wallyford PS and the associated secondary school.
- Pupils living in "Segment A" and currently attending Sanderson's Wynd PS will have the option to remain at their current school and transfer to Ross High School
- Pupils living in "Segment A" and currently attending Ross High School will have the option to remain at their current school

She then outlined the educational benefits of the new school through:

- 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.

She further advised that:

- The Head Teacher and all teaching and auxiliary staff in post at the point of movement will transfer into the new relocated Wallyford Primary School.
- 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.

Fiona Robertson outlined the project timeline

- 2008 Local Development Plan (LDP)
- New Primary Approved
- New Primary and Catchment Area Variation Proposal
- Statutory Consultation
- Final Proposal Paper
- Council Approval
- Transitional and Leadership arrangements
- User Reference Group, which will include parents, community and children
- New Primary School opens August 2018 (or soon thereafter)

Fiona Robertson invited questions from the public.

Parent asked what the size of the new school will be.

Jimmy McGuinness advised that the school will have 28 classes and will have the capacity to expand to serve the growing population of Wallyford. The school will also have associated general purpose areas.

The parent then asked if the school will be open plan.

Mr McGuinness confirmed that the building will maximise flexibility and will be built in clusters of accommodation with a pre-school cluster, P1-3 cluster and a P4-7 cluster area. All classrooms will have direct access to outside space and internal work spaces. Mr

McGuinness also explained that there will be accommodation at the front of the school which will be available for the community to have access to out with the school day.

The parent also asked if there were any proposed plans that the public could view.

Mr McGuinness advised that the plans are under development.

Chris Webb mentioned the User Reference Group and once the consultation is over part of that group would have input to the planning.

The parent also asked where, in relation to the new primary school, will the new secondary school be.

Jimmy McGuinness confirmed that the new primary school will not be on the same campus as the new second secondary school but would be adjacent to the school.

Alastair Hadden from Wallyford Community Council stated that there are 1450 houses proposed for Wallyford with further planned for Section A of the Maps shown. Mr Haddon asked how many houses are planned for this area.

Paul Zochowski confirmed that section A of the Map being refer to is the Dolphingstone area and there are approximately 600 houses planned for that development.

Mr Haddon also asked in terms of future house growth will the new school be sized accordingly to accommodate the growing population and have sufficient capacity to expand. Mr McGuinness explained that they would increase the classes from 28 to 41, based on current knowledge, and that there is scope within the plans to expand.

Mr Hadden expressed his concern about incorporating the Dolphingstone catchment area when Wallyford is already growing and sought assurance that there will be sufficient facilities available for education for the children moving into the area.

Paul Zochowski confirmed that in terms of future housing growth, the school will be sized accordingly. Mr McGuinness also advised that the all proposed housing developments have been taken into consideration when projecting the number of classes that Wallyford Primary will have to accommodate.

Elaine Di Troia a member of the Wallyford Community Council and staff member of Sanderson's Wynd Primary School stated that Sanderson's Wynd is already struggling to fill the vacant Head Teacher post, has empty classrooms and next session will only have 39 nursery pupils in the morning and 12 in the afternoon when the capacity is for 129 nursery pupils. Elaine expressed her concern that members of staff within Sanderson's Wynd are being redeployed and asked why the authority is relocating the Dolphingstone catchment area.

Fiona Robertson explained that the recruitment process for a new head teacher is under way. In relation to relocation of staff, unable to comment on this other than at times staff are redeployed particularly when school rolls change.

Elaine Di Troia then asked that when the catchment area is changed, does that mean that no one from Dolphingstone can attend Sanderson's Wynd and what will happen to the school roll at Sanderson's Wynd.

Fiona Robertson explained that parents will have the option to attend Sanderson's Wynd through making a placing request, otherwise they will attend Wallyford Primary School. Ms

Robertson also explained that the Information and Research Team within East Lothian Council look at projections and trends to make sure that all school rolls are viable.

In session 2015/16, Sanderson's Wynd operated with 14 classes P1 – 7 for 366 pupils (census 2015). For session 2016/17 the school will again operate with 14 classes for projected 368 pupils.

Scott Allan from Wallyford Community Council asked if there had been any decision made on what will happen to the old school once the new school is in place and what is East Lothian Council's proposal for this site.

Paul Zochowski advised that no decision had been made on what the site will be used for and would be subject to allocated policies in the Local Development Plan.

Mr Allan then asked if this was shown on the new development plan.

Mr Zochowski advised that it will be but that this was not available as yet.

Mr Allan was concerned that the old school site would be a proposed site for further housing development. Mr Allan also stated that there was not a lot of information regarding what new facilities will be provided for the community.

Mr Zochowski confirmed that the new facilities will include a new centre, which was included in the master plan for the new Wallyford area adjacent to the new primary school and this will include some retail facilities and other town centre type uses, such as a clinic or small shops.

Mr Allan wanted to clarify how much of a change will there be to the master plan, as there is already an improved master plan and proposed plans for a new secondary school. He also raised concerns and sought assurance that Wallyford will have everything it required to function as a community of that size.

Mr Zochowski advised that if the decision for a new secondary school goes ahead, there will have to be changes to the proposed area and these would have to come through an amended new planning application for what is being proposed.

Mr Allan enquired about the proposed indicative cost of the new primary school and asked if the cost of the school is rising based on the school increasing from 28 to 41 classes in the future. Mr Allan mentioned that the Scottish Government have allocated funds for education as well as developer contributions, however the developer contributions will have been based on the 1450 houses but if the new second secondary school goes ahead, the developer contributions would come down as the number of houses will be reduced.

Liz Shaw advised that the cost of the new school is estimated at £19 million in the first stage and is likely to rise by a further £7 million. Liz also confirmed that developers will pay for additional cost if the costs are directly related to the building of houses in the area.

Mr Allan stated that the new school will have a new library, is the proposal to close the existing library and relocate it.

Mr McGuinness confirmed that this would be the case.

Mr Allan then asked if there was any proposal to relocate the Community Centre or will it be part of the facilities for the new schools.

Mr McGuiness was unable to answer this question as this will be part of the consultation going forward with the User Reference Group. Liz Shaw advised that all disciplines within the council are getting together to look at the overall draft LDP to look at community facilities to see if they are sufficient for the needs of the community or if they need to be expanded as a result of the LDP.

Mr Allan also stated that there are 400 houses proposed for Dolphingstone and asked that if the LDP does not go forward would the authority still go forward with including Dolphingstone in the Wallyford Catchment area.

Fiona Robertson advised that she was not able to answer regarding the LDP but confirmed that the inclusion of the Dolphingstone area would go ahead irrespective of the development going ahead.

Mr Allan mentioned that in respect of Community Council Wards, Dolphingstone is under Tranent Community Council and not Wallyford and asked if there was a proposal to change the Community Council boundary as part of the catchment area boundary and as part of the Ward area boundary changes.

Fiona Robertson highlighted that not all Ward boundaries are aligned by school boundaries. She advised that it is not about separating communities but communities coming together and working together.

Mr Allan stated Community Council's receive an allotted fund from East Lothian Council. The Dolphingstone site has 600 houses and those funds would go to Tranent Community Council not to Wallyford.

Fiona Robertson advised that this is not something she could answer.

A Member of Wallyford Community raised concerns about facilities such as the library moving to the opposite end of Wallyford. Many older residents will find it difficult to get to the new facilities.

Liz Shaw explained that part of the work that is going on will be looking at the overall area and what facilities the community will need as a direct result of the new builds. It was highlighted that the User Reference Group would have input into this.

Mr Hadden from Wallyford Community Council raised concerns regarding the safety of Salters Road and safe access for children getting to school.

Chris Webb highlighted that safe routes to school is a big priority nationally.

Peter Forsyth advised that the authority are aware of the issues and is working with the developers. Mr Forsyth went on to explain that they are looking at proposed signalised crossings and will have control of school drop off times and how this works. They are also looking at measures to control movement of vehicles and trying to encourage walking to school. There will be a series of traffic measures on Salters road, distributed roads and measures on new infrastructures.

Mr Haddon agreed that it was good that everyone is encouraged to walk or cycle to school, however highlighted that children still have to cross Salters Road. The only 2

proposed crossing points are at The Loan and the industrial estate road and nothing in between.

Mr Forsyth explained that they look at where people want to cross and make sure that crossing points are in the correct position. There will also be school crossing guides that can be redeployed if necessary. Mr Forsyth was in agreement that safe crossing points are necessary to get people from the North side of Wallyford to where the new school will be.

Chris Webb highlighted that a part of the User Reference Group will be to consider safe routes to school as well as the consultation on the design and layout of the new school.

Mr Haddon explained that as a community they are looking for assurances on where exactly the safe crossings will be provided and the timescales for this.

Mr Forsyth assured that they are looking at various traffic calming measures and priority will be given to pedestrians.

Mr Allan asked when it was likely that the building work will start and what is the contract period for the new school. He also asked when the User reference Group would be set up and who will be on the User Reference Group.

Jimmy McGuinness explained that they are looking at 18 month construction period and starting in early 2017.

Mr Allan then asked about the tendering process.

Mr McGuinness advised that it is a Hub managed project, so they will be project managing the project on behalf of the council. They will take forward all tender action that is required and detailed design and contract documents.

Mr Allan asked if there would be sufficient time to take this forward.

Mr McGuinness agreed that it will be a tight timescale.

With regards to the User Reference Group, Fiona Robertson advised the need to get to a point where we have a detailed specification before opening up discussions in relation to the interior of school. Fiona Robertson also advised that members of the User Reference Group have not yet been nominated.

Mr Allan asked if there is an application for planning required for a council building such as a primary school.

Paul Zochowski confirmed that there is a planning application required.

Chris Webb drew the meeting to a close and thanked everyone who attended the meeting and outlined the next steps in the process. Gary Johnstone, Education Scotland will visit school to speak to staff, parents and children about the proposal, he will then prepare a report within 3 weeks for the Council that will comment largely on the education benefits but also pick up on any significant issue that they feel the Council should address. Upon receipt of this report the Council has to produce a final Consultation Report, there is no specific timescale on this report but must be published 3 weeks before a decision is made.

Appendix 2: Note of staff drop in session

CONSULTATION ON THE RELOCATION OF WALLYFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PROPOSED CHANGE TO WALLYFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA

STAFF CONSULTATION

WALLYFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFF

TUESDAY 14 JUNE

David Scott provided an outline of both consultations to the staff present.

Questions?

Q - What will happen to the current Wallyford PS site?

A – No decisions have been made on the use of the current Wallyford Primary School site.

Appendix 3: Note of Pupil Voice session

CONSULTATION ON THE RELOCATION OF WALLYFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PROPOSED CHANGE TO WALLYFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA

STUDENT CONSULTATION

WALLYFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS 2 PUPILS FROM EACH YEAR GROUP

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE PROPOSAL AND IF YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA WHY?

- Brilliant because we need new stuff
- Things are starting to get old in the school
- Toilets need updating
- Good – new school needed

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES WITH THE CURRENT SCHOOL?

- No dining hall – have to have lunch in the gym hall. Sometimes have to stand and wait until a seat is available.
- Playground needs to be bigger
- Cloakroom too small
- People can climb over the gates
- Feels like the playground is closed in
- Younger pupils and older pupils in the same playground at break times, younger pupils get hurt.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT WALLYFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL?

- Teachers are very good and supportive
- Football pitches

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN YOUR NEW SCHOOL?

- Better school dinners – like input into menu's
- Bigger and better dining hall
- Bigger classrooms
- Bigger playground
- Separate dining hall and gym hall
- Games room
- More decoration on the walls – different colours that the pupils can help paint
- More playground equipment, slide, monkey bars
- Trampoline
- Soft sitting area outside to read
- Better football pitch (Astro)
- Bigger library with new books

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KEEP FROM THE OLD SCHOOL?

- Keep Team Wallyford – sense of belonging
- The teachers
- School trips
- Whiteboards, ipads, netbooks
- Keep the same classes
- Football pitch
- Friends
- Containers to keep all the playground stuff in
- All the work that has been displayed on the walls
- Keep the Rainbow Room – would be difficult for the children who currently use it to be in the classrooms all the time
- Drama shows
- Soft Start
- Class Dojo
- Scooter parking
- Fresh start – for pupils with dyslexia
- Swimming lesson and skiing lessons

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT MOVING TO THE NEW SCHOOL?

- Scared
- Good
- Confused about where everything will be
- Might get lost
- Happy
- Will be strange because we have been in this school for a long time
- Nervous – not know everybody who will be at the school

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE SIZE OF YOUR NEW SCHOOL?

- Might be lots more classes
- Could be too big

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL POSSIBLY HAVING A SECONDARY SCHOOL ADJACENT TO IT?

- Think it will be good
- Good if you have younger brothers and sisters as they will be close
- Would like secondary school to be separate – will be a separate school
- Won't have far to walk when going to secondary school

THERE WILL BE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS SOME OF THE NEW FACILITIES WITHIN THE SCHOOL OUTWITH THE SCHOOL DAY EG SPORTS HALL/LIBRARY ETC IS THIS SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO DO?

- Yes would like to do this

Appendix 4: Response of Wallyford Parent Council

Wallyford Primary School Parent Council
c/o Wallyford Primary School
29 Salters Road
Wallyford EH21 8LB

Response to proposal for a new primary school in Wallyford

As a parent council we have sought to gather responses to the proposal for a new primary school in Wallyford from as many parents and carers in the school as we can. We have engaged with people through social media, groupcalls (school text message service) and conversations. Following a discussion at our parent council meeting (1st June) we decided to meet parents coming into the school on Friday mornings and for P1 transition events. By this method we managed to get direct responses from 30 people.

From the information gathered and among our parent council there is unanimous, wholehearted support for the proposal. Parents and carers know only too well the limitations of the current building, not only in its present condition but also in the lack of space to accommodate the anticipated influx of people to the village.

Discussions with parents centred around when the transition might happen, whether there would be sufficient time for staff to transfer everything across and how disruption can be kept to a minimum for staff and children.

Some parents want reassurance that there will be safe routes to school. Some of the current routes to school are deemed unsafe for some parents and it would seem appropriate to ensure that these be made safe even before the new school is built as these would continue to be needed after the transition.

There was consensus among parents that the current building requires proper maintenance until the transition to the new school occurs. While we look forward to seeing our kids move to the new premises we want to know that in the couple of years before that happens the council will not neglect the necessary upkeep of the environment in which they are currently being educated.

A couple of parents raised questions about the role and function of Wallyford Community Centre and whether that would change with the plans to create a 'community hub' within the new school building.

As a parent council we support the proposal for a new primary school in Wallyford. I believe this is a view shared across the wider parent body.

Yours sincerely,

(Chair, Wallyford Parent Council)

Appendix 5: Summary of Consultation Responses (written, e-mail, questionnaires)

- 72 Questionnaire responses in total – answered online and on paper

Q1: To what extent do you agree/disagree with the new school to replace the existing school?

Response	Individual Responses	Group Responses	% of Total
Strongly Agree	47		65.3 %
Agree	16	1	23.6%
No Opinion	3		4.2%
Disagree	0		0%
Strongly Disagree	5		6.9%
TOTAL	71	1	100%

Catchment of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed:

Catchment	Number of Responses	%
Wallyford	51	79.7%
Sanderson's Wynd	3	4.7%
Other	9	14%
Don't know	1	1.6%
TOTAL	64	100%

Catchment of respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed:

Catchment	Number of Responses	%
Sanderson's Wynd	1	20%
Other	3	60%
Don't know	1	20%
TOTAL	5	100%

For pupils and parents of pupils living in the Wallyford catchment area who would be impacted directly by the new school (ie are currently no older than of primary age):

Response	Number of Responses	%
Strongly Agree	38	80.9%
Agree	9	19.1%
No Opinion	0	0
Disagree	0	0
Strongly Disagree	0	0
TOTAL	47	100%

For pupils and parents of pupils living in the Sandersons Wynd catchment area who would be impacted directly by the new school (ie are currently no older than of primary age):

Response	Number of Responses	%
Strongly Agree	1	33.3%
Agree	1	33.3%
No Opinion	0	0
Disagree	0	0
Strongly Disagree	1	33.3%
TOTAL	3	100%

Q2: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to extend Wallyford's catchment boundary?

Response	Individual Responses	Group Responses	% of Total
Strongly Agree	15		20.8%
Agree	20		27.8%
No Opinion	15		20.8%
Disagree	8	1	12.5%
Strongly Disagree	13		18.1%
TOTAL	71	1	100%

Catchment of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed:

Catchment	Number of Responses	%
Wallyford	30	85.7%
Sandersons Wynd	1	2.9%
Other	4	11.4%
TOTAL	35	100%

Catchment of respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed:

Catchment	Number of Responses	%
Wallyford	8	36.4%
Sandersons Wynd	3	13.6%
Other	9	40.9%
Don't know	2	9.1%
TOTAL	22	100%

For pupils and parents of pupils living in the Wallyford catchment area who would be impacted directly by the catchment amendment (ie are currently no older than of primary age):

Response	Number of Responses	%
Strongly Agree	12	25.5%
Agree	16	34%
No Opinion	11	23.4%
Disagree	5	10.6%

Strongly Disagree	3	6.4%
TOTAL	47	100%

For pupils and parents of pupils living in the Sanderson's Wynd catchment area who would be impacted directly by the catchment amendment (i.e. are currently no older than of primary age):

Response	Number of Responses	%
Strongly Agree	1	33.3%
Agree	0	0
No Opinion	0	0
Disagree	0	0
Strongly Disagree	2	66.6%
TOTAL	3	100%

Questionnaire Comments:

Of the 72 responses, 20 declined permission to publish their comments. However, their representations have been taken account of and responded to in this Final Consultation Report. The summary of comments below, were made from the remaining 52 responses who gave permission to share their comments.

Further comment(s) on the proposal
The housing being built in wallyford is huge and schools and traffic management are our bug concern.
I believe that the new houses at Prestonfields should be in the catchment area. It's closer than the proposed boundaries out to Tranent, and I do not feel that the primary schools now in Prestonpans can cope with the increase in new housing!
Well there really is only one, if you are not Catholic. This is a very limiting choice on parents.
The current school is in dire need of serious work to update it to reflect the needs of a modern education establishment. The promise of a replacement school has always been the local authority excuse for not maintaining the school beyond the bare minimum. For instance the nursery kitchen does not have a dedicated sink for food preparation or hand washing and again the "new school coming soon" excuse has been rolled out. Even without the proposed expansion of the village Wallyford is still in need of a new school.
At the moment Sanderson's Wynd has relatively low pupil numbers across the board whereas other schools in the area are to capacity. I think we need to adjust the catchment areas to address this by including some areas in Sanderson's catchment that are currently windygoul particularly if the houses at dolphinstone are to be included in the wallyford catchment.
The proposed change of boundary doesn't affect us so I do not mind a change of catchment.

<p>A new primary school is well overdue in Wallyford. The existing school is far too small now.</p> <p>Extending the catchment area makes no difference to my family so I have no opinion on it. As long as the new school is big enough for the number of children in the catchment area then there should be no issues.</p>
<p>As a new primary school is so overdue, the opportunity is there to increase capacity so it makes sense to extend the catchment which eases the pressure on other schools.</p>
<p>I agree that wallyford require a new school, the school at present is not fit for purpose and is too small for the pupils that need to attend. I like it being a small school as it has a great community feel but with the new houses being built something needs done with the influx of children I just hope the new school still keeps its community feel.</p>
<p>The new catchment area again it's just about worrying about the size of the school and if there's space etc as already in the wallyford catchment area there is already a lot of children plus the new houses and extending the catchment area.</p>
<p>As there are quite a large number of houses being built in Wallyford so the new school will already be busy and finding a place in the Wallyford school will be challenging.</p>
<p>It is good that a new school is being built to replace the existing building, but a 900 pupil school is too big for a Primary school. Including areas towards Prestonpans again causes problems with transportation in an area which will see a big increase in movement of traffic.</p>
<p>There are difficulties at present recruiting Head teachers for smaller schools would it not be more difficult to recruit for a much larger school. Staffing consideration and the managing of such a large school causes more stress levels.</p>
<p>My concerns are over the timing of the build of both the new primary and secondary schools which could result in my child attending 4 different school buildings over 4 years which is incredibly disruptive to their education and any teachers knowing the pupils properly.</p>
<p>63D states that the new school will be a community hub for learning, activities and facilities. I am concerned about the current Wallyford Community Centre and that this will pull away needed resources for the centre, staff, janitorial staffing and finances that are necessary to continue to develop the program that can be offered there. Is the current Wallyford Community Centre going to suffer as a result of the ideas and input into the new Primary School?</p>
<p>63D. How will this affect the current ELC policy to not allow East Lothian Primary Schools to be used out of hours for community activities. There has been reluctance to allow external partners in Wallyford Primary School to 'let' the building, even though willing to pay sufficient to cover costs</p>
<p>We really need a fit for purpose school building that supports excellence in education of young people and involvement with the local community</p>

One the strengths of Wallyford Primary is the community feel across the school which is due to its smaller size. The village is already expanding exponentially & we are excitedly apprehensive about what that will look like & the effect it will have on our community. The proposed school will rightly cater for a much larger number than the present. My fear is that the extended catchment boundary includes land that will eventually contain many more houses which will make Wallyford Primary one of the biggest primary schools in Scotland.

I would like to know more info about how those children already in the school system will be supported during the school transfer.

I believe that the proposals to introduce a new primary school and also a new secondary school to Wallyford are long overdue. The area is being increased in size and population and as such definitely requires both schools.

I think all the new houses will cause traffic congestion in Wallyford. They don't even have a doctor there. Very sad that more so called 'green belt' is being lost. I don't think this consultation will change anything as you have made the decisions anyway.

This consultation should have been done years ago as it is clear that everything has already been decided. The publics viewpoint won't make the least bit of difference so this consultation is POINTLESS!

The villagers in Wallyford will be swamped with houses and traffic and their traditions like Gala Day and the xmas lights procession will disappear.

The green belt means nothing anymore - all the fields were used for agriculture around Wallyford. Why Blindwells land is not used is questionable along with the Goshen area which is never used for agriculture.

Wallyford is being overdeveloped. Their small village streets can hardly cope already with this. Why can't the Council get it together and develop Blindwells?

What's wrong with developing Blindwell's?

There will be no villages left soon!

This development is far too large.

Why should a child who could walk to a local secondary school in Tranent have to travel on a bus to get to another school in another town?

Silly question - who would not want a new school in their area! Sanderson's Wynd PS in not full. Empty classrooms and not enough children attending nursery. What are the Council going to do about that. Windygoul is very full. The traffic situation in Wallyford is shocking at peak times. The proposed ring road around this huge development will only cause terrible traffic jams with cars trying to enter or leave the new housing area. The entrances/exits are far to near the Strawberry Corner roundabout and half way up the hill leading to the traffic lights at the top at the other side. A flyover straight onto the bypass would have been a much better solution. This catchment change is simply to allow the develop to cram in as many houses as he can.

Needs modernisation. Safer routes to school. These need to be in place before building starts for security of current students.

Need new school. Not enough space at present time. Run down.

Appendix 6: Education Scotland Report

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by East Lothian Council to relocate Wallyford Primary School and consult on changes to the catchment area.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments contained in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of East Lothian Council's proposal to relocate Wallyford Primary School and consult on changes to the catchment area. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the school; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
 - any other likely effects of the proposal;
 - how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
 - the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.
- 1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:
- attendance at the public meeting held on 24 May 2016 in connection with the council's proposals;
 - consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and

- visits to the site of Wallyford Primary School, Sanderson's Wynd Primary School, Musselburgh Grammar School and Ross High School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation Process

2.1 East Lothian Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*.

2.2 The public consultation period ran between 3 May and 15 June 2016. The council posted the consultation document on its website. Information leaflets and paper copies of the consultation were made available at 18 locations throughout the communities. The council made suitable arrangements to gather the views of children currently attending Wallyford Primary School about the proposal. The council placed advance notice of a public meeting in the local newspaper. The public meeting on 24 May 2016 was attended by officers from the council, a local councillor, three members of the public and three members of the Wallyford Community Council.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

3.1 It is the view of HM Inspectors that the proposal to relocate the school has the potential to bring about a number of educational benefits. The improved facilities will provide more flexible spaces which will enhance opportunities for active, interdisciplinary and outdoor learning. A modern learning environment will provide greater opportunities to develop children's digital skills. Children's educational experiences will be enhanced through improved and purpose-built recreation and dining areas and learning spaces which will provide new possibilities for drama and the arts. The location of the community library and a hub for sporting facilities has the potential to bring benefits to the children, to support the work of the school and make a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the children and members of the wider community. The proposal will assist East Lothian Council to make effective and efficient use of its resources and takes into account expected increases in population in the next ten years.

3.2 The council received 72 responses to its online questionnaire and a written response from the Parent Council of Wallyford Primary School. Parents were overwhelmingly supportive of the proposal to relocate Wallyford Primary School. Only a few respondents disagreed with this aspect of the proposal. The majority of stakeholders also agreed with the proposal to change the catchment area. Children were keen to have better places to play and learn outdoors and better facilities in classrooms and learning areas.

3.3 Almost all stakeholders, including parents, children and staff who met with HM Inspectors, reported that they had been kept well-informed and consulted about the proposal. Parents and children who met HM Inspectors expressed their appreciation for the educational service that Wallyford Primary School has provided over the years. Staff and other stakeholders are keen to keep the community feel of Wallyford Primary as the school grows in size. The community is pleased that the new school will be fully accessible and more inclusive.

3.4 A small number of concerns were raised relating to both aspects of the proposal. A few parents and representatives of the community raised concerns over traffic management and safe routes to school. A minority also disagreed with the proposed changes to the catchment area citing the negative effect this might have on Sanderson's Wynd Primary School pupil numbers.

3.5 Helpfully, the council has provided re-assurance to parents of children living in the Dolphinstone area with regard to the continuity of their children's education. The council has made it clear that children currently attending, and any future siblings of those currently attending, Sanderson's Wynd Primary School and Ross High School will have the right to attend these schools in the future.

3.6 At the start of the consultation period the council omitted Wallyford Community Council from its list of consultees in the original consultation proposal documentation. The council had notified Wallyford Community Council of the consultation. The council has now addressed the omission in the original documentation. Officers of the council met with Wallyford Community Council as part of the consultation process. In its final consultation report, the council will need to set out the actions it has taken to address this omission.

4. Summary

East Lothian Council's proposal to relocate Wallyford Primary School and make changes to its catchment area has the potential to deliver clear educational benefits for children and the local community. The improved accommodation and facilities will bring about an enhanced environment for learning for children attending Wallyford Primary currently and in the future. In its final consultation report, the council will need to set out the actions it has taken to address the omission notified to it. In taking forward the proposal, East Lothian Council should work with stakeholders to address their concerns over safe routes for walking and traffic management in the area.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
June 2016**