



**Consultation on  
Catchment Areas of Schools on  
A701 Corridor**

**Consultation Report**

**11 January 2016**



## Consultation Report

Proposed establishment of a new primary school at Bilston Public Park, Bilston and creation of its catchment area

Proposed revision of the catchment boundaries of:

Roslin Primary School  
Loanhead Primary School  
Paradykes Primary School

Proposal to relocate Paradykes Primary School to the replacement school site at George Avenue, Loanhead.

### Contents

1. Summary of the proposals .....	4
2. Consultation Findings .....	6
2.1 Representations made on the proposals during the consultation period.....	6
2.2 Education Scotland Report Summary .....	9
2.3 Midlothian Council's response to representations made during the consultation period and to Education Scotland's report. ....	9
2.4 Statement of how Midlothian Council has reviewed the proposals having regard to any relevant representations made during the consultation period and to Education Scotland's report.....	12
2.5 Time for further consideration .....	13
3. Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Midlothian Council to establish the catchment area for a new primary school at Bilston and amend the catchment areas of Loanhead, Paradykes and Roslin Primary Schools.....	14

## 1. Summary of the proposals

Midlothian Council has consulted on four proposals relating to the A701 corridor:

1. To establish a new primary school at Bilston Public Park, Bilston and create its catchment area;
2. To rezone Damhead, Lothianburn, Nivensknowe Park, Pentland Park, Straiton Park and recently built houses at Corby Craig to the catchment of the new Bilston primary school, currently in the catchment for Loanhead Primary School;
3. To adjust the catchment areas for Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools;
4. To relocate Paradykes Primary School to the replacement school site at George Avenue, Loanhead.

Three non denominational primary schools currently serve the A701 corridor with a 2014 pupil roll totalling 657 pupils:

<b>Primary School</b>	<b>Houses in Catchment</b>	<b>Pupils Resident</b>	<b>Current Class Capacity</b>	<b>Pupil Capacity</b>	<b>Pupil Roll Census 2014</b>
Loanhead	1,655	206	7 classes	217	178
Paradykes	1,484	248	12 classes	342	250
Roslin	1,316	200	11 classes	317	229
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,455</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>30 classes</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>657</b>

The A701 corridor also has one Roman Catholic primary school: St Margaret's in Loanhead. St Margaret's is on a joint campus with Loanhead Primary School and shares some facilities such as the dining hall and playground.

Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools, along with Bonnyrigg, Hawthornden, Burnbrae, Lasswade and Rosewell Primary Schools are catchment schools for Lasswade High School in Loanhead. Roslin Primary School is a catchment school for Beeslack High School in Penicuik, along with Glencorse and Mauricewood Primary Schools.

The Midlothian Local Plan contains provision for significant house building in the A701 corridor on the development sites detailed in the following table. The projected pupil product from the house building will take the school roll at Loanhead and, particularly, Roslin Primary School above capacity.

<b>Housing Developments</b>	<b>Catchment</b>	<b>Site Reference</b>	<b>Proposed Units</b>	<b>Primary Pupil Product</b>
Seafield Moor Road, Bilston	Bilston	H13	150	46
Seafield Road East, Bilston	Bilston	H14	198	61
Site BN1 Seafield Road, Bilston	Bilston	Hs16	350	108
Pentland Plants by Bilston	Bilston	Hs17	75	23
Penicuik Road, Roslin	Roslin	H15	50	15
Rolin Institute, Roslin	Roslin	Hs18	200	62
Roslin Expansion	Roslin	Hs19	260	80
Ashgrove, Loanhead	Loanhead	H12	268	83
Edgefield Road, Loanhead	Loanhead	Hs15	25	8
Burghlee, Loanhead	Loanhead	AHs2	175	54
			<b>1,751</b>	<b>540</b>

As a result, one new primary school and two replacement primary schools are planned for the A701 corridor, with the new primary school in Bilston scheduled to open in August 2016 and replacement Roslin and Paradykes schools scheduled for 2017. All are non denominational primary schools. The primary school in Bilston will be a catchment school for Beeslack High School.

In order to establish this new school in Bilston with a sustainable pupil population, as well as maintaining those of Roslin, Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools, the Council proposed adjustment to the catchment areas of these primary schools.

The proposals meant:

- All housing in Bilston would move from the catchment of Roslin Primary School to form the catchment area of the new school in Bilston.
- The residential areas at Damhead, Lothianburn, Nivensknowe Park, Pentland Park, Straiton Park and recently built houses at Corby Craig would transfer from the catchment of Loanhead Primary school into the catchment of the new Bilston primary school.
- The residential areas in the vicinity of Mayshade Road and Park Avenue and housing development site h54 "Ashgrove" would transfer from the catchment of Loanhead Primary School to the catchment of Paradykes Primary School.

## 2. Consultation Findings

### 2.1 Representations made on the proposals during the consultation period

#### 2.1.1 Summary of written representations

In total 14 written representations were made on the proposals. In summary:

##### **Proposal 1**

Establish Bilston Primary School at Bilston Public Park and create its catchment area by rezoning all housing in Bilston, currently in the catchment of Roslin Primary School.

7 respondents made clear statements supporting the proposal, 7 did not comment on the proposal. Comments were:

- Sensible and provides better local amenities
- Makes sense, nice community feel to walk to local school

##### **Proposal 2**

Rezone the residential areas at Damhead, Lothianburn, Nivensknowe Park, Pentland Park, Straiton Park and recently built houses at Corby Craig from the catchment area of Loanhead Primary School to the new Bilston primary school.

7 respondents made clear statements supporting the proposal, 4 did not comment on the proposal. Comments were:

- Catchments and zoning should not apply.
- Should be shared between Bilston and Paradykes.
- Sensible, although some pupils may have a longer journey.
- Corby Craig should be Bilston primary, other areas should be Loanhead Primary.
- Makes sense to include Damhead, could lead to safer routes to school if lowered speed limit on Seafield Moor Road (A703) and/or laid new paths (mentioned by two respondents).
- Table shows Bilston significantly over capacity and Roslin over capacity, need information on how this will be managed/more information so can tell what alternative catchments might be more sustainable.
- Information on impact on high school rolls should be included so can be considered.
- Will children from Damhead attending Loanhead remain entitled to transport?
- Many may choose to go out of catchment until Bilston builds its reputation up.

##### **Proposal 3**

Transfer the residential areas in the vicinity of Mayshade Road and Park Avenue and housing development site h54 "Ashgrove" from the catchment of Loanhead Primary School to the catchment of Paradykes Primary School.

5 respondents made clear statements supporting the proposal, 4 did not comment on the proposal. Comments were:

- Residents should be able to go to either school
- Makes sense
- In favour, need to address traffic speed on B702 to make safe for walking to school
- [in relation to h54 and the Mayshade area] does not make sense to make children cross main road [B702], some of whom will walk past Loanhead Primary School (mentioned by four respondents)
- Pupils crossing main road will increase traffic congestion
- h54 developers should put in direct safe route to school
- Loanhead Primary School should be extended or St Margaret's shut down

#### **Proposal 4**

When the replacement for Paradykes Primary School is ready for occupation, planned for 2017, change the location and address of Paradykes Primary School to the site of the replacement school at George Avenue, Loanhead.

5 respondents made clear statements supporting the proposal, 7 did not comment on the proposal. Comments were:

- Should be a given and not need consultation
- Would be strange to do otherwise
- Paradykes needs upgraded but dislike hub idea as school should be safe and secure place for children so not close to roads and easily accessible to the public. Playground and parking awful there. Nursery appears to be merging with baby services but should be part of school as 3-18 curriculum

#### **Additional comments**

- Great idea the catchment for Lasswade High School should change too so all Loanhead children go to Penicuik as Lasswade at capacity
- Concerned Corby Craig residents won't utilise Bilston, some go to Loanhead at the moment
- Overall there is limited information available in consultation paper, impossible to know alternatives, concerned that Bilston and Roslin are projected to be overcapacity from the start. Positive that siblings will get priority in placement requests
- Difficult to comment without information on high school catchment areas. If Damhead (i.e. Bilston) is Beeslack then welcomed.

#### **2.1.2 Summary of oral representations made at the public meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

- What impact will the changes have on children already attending Loanhead Primary School if their catchment school changes to Paradykes Primary School?

- Nursery pupils already attending Loanhead would no longer be in catchment for Loanhead when they go into P1 in 2 years – it would be better to delay the changes to the catchments areas of Loanhead and Paradykes to coincide with the date for the replacement Paradykes i.e. August 2017

### **2.1.3 Summary of oral representations made at the pupil consultations held on 26<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015**

- Will the name of “new” Paradykes be Loanhead Community Campus? This would cause confusion over the identity of the schools in Loanhead as Loanhead Primary School is part of the Loanhead & St Margaret’s Primary Schools & Lifelong Learning and Employability Campus.
- Does Loanhead Primary School have space for catchments pupils?
- Transport to Beeslack High School is by public bus which we pay for as we are not in catchment for Beeslack. Transport to Lasswade High School is free.
- Will the new schools have more facilities?
- Will they be open plan?
- Does the advancement of learning and the increase in the number of houses lead to the greater facilities?
- The pupils thought that it was good that the new school would have more facilities as it will be bigger and agreed that the idea of going to a school in their local area was good.
- Will children still be able to go to a different school to the one they live in the catchment for?
- What will happen to the playpark as it is good for younger children?

### **2.1.4 Summary of oral representations made at the staff consultation held in Roslin Primary School on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015**

- When will the Bilston Head Teacher be appointed? Suggestion to recruit administrative support at same time as the Head Teacher.
- Transport may be deciding factor for some families, whereas others will prefer to keep their child at their current school. Concerns about possible division in the community between the schools, linked to the transport provision.
- How long will parents get to decide as classes will need to be planned and teacher numbers identified and recruited etc?
- Will the proposals reduce the numbers at Loanhead Primary School and cause concern?
- Teachers will need to do a lot of transition work with pupils, particularly those with ASN, in preparation for moving to new Bilston as there will not be a building or teacher to visit.

## **2.2 Education Scotland Report Summary**

The proposal has the potential to be of educational benefit to children and the local communities served by the schools affected. The benefits will derive largely from the enhanced facilities and the corresponding additional capacity. The proposal has the support of the majority of stakeholders. In taking forward the proposal and finalising its report, the council should look to provide further detail in relation to the reasonable points raised by the small number of parents who responded to the consultation. It should address concerns related to safe routes to school, traffic management and the provision of crossing patrol attendants.

## **2.3 Midlothian Council's response to representations made during the consultation period and to Education Scotland's report.**

### **Primary School Capacity**

Two respondents queried the table in the consultation document showing the projected pupil roll of the new Bilston primary school exceeding capacity (and, to a lesser extent, Roslin Primary School). Newly built developments produce more pupils per house than existing developments, before the numbers fall back as it becomes established. This means that the timing of the increase and subsequent falling back is dependent on the house builders' scheduling and this can be variable, therefore the maximum roll of the school may be different to that initially predicted. The table in the consultation document showing the new schools and their projected pupil rolls shows the new primary school in Bilston becoming overpopulated. The table shows the capacity as it will be when completed in August 2016, however the school has been designed to allow for sufficient additional classrooms to be added at a later date to accommodate the projected pupil roll as and when required, and as and when the developer contributions are available to finance it.

Queries were received around increasing or decreasing pupil numbers at Loanhead Primary School, its capacity and the changes in its catchment area. A high proportion of comments related to the inclusion of development site h54 in the catchment for Paradykes Primary School and the requirement to cross the B702.

A number of options were considered when formulating proposal 3 to alter the catchment areas for Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools. The proposal as set out will balance the occupancy rates of both schools at around 82-84% of capacity as the house building takes place. Over 60% of the pupils attending non-denominational primary schools from the streets that are proposed to transfer already attend Paradykes Primary School as a result of placing requests.

The proximity of the two schools and the location of the existing and planned houses make it inevitable that some pupils will travel past one school to attend the other, and that some children will need to cross the main thoroughfares of the town.

### **Safe Routes to School**

A common topic raised during the consultation was safe routes to schools and this was noted by Education Scotland, who requested that this report address concerns related to safe routes to school, traffic management and the provision of crossing patrol attendants.

When detailed planning work is done for a new school the access routes using all modes of transport from the housing areas in the catchment are considered and the Policy and Road Safety Team creates a School Travel Plan with safe routes to school. Walking routes, cycle paths, roads, bus routes and parking are revised, where appropriate, with lowered speed limits, additional crossings and lighting etc. Traffic flow and road design is considered in the review although it must be acknowledged that the peak times for pupils travelling to and from school are short and any impact on traffic flow is short-lived. School Travel Plans for existing schools will be reviewed in light of the changes to catchment areas.

### **Registration/enrolment**

Some of the responses asked what will happen to children who are already attending, or registering to attend, one of the schools affected by the proposals and will become out of catchment when they are implemented, and about younger siblings who will attend the schools in future years. A related query was raised regarding children already at a nursery attached to a primary school who will have a different catchment school when they start Primary 1.

All pupils already attending a school whose house is moving from the catchment of one school to the catchment of another can remain at their current school.

The transition arrangements the Council will put in place will minimise adverse effects. The Council will continue to prioritise the granting of placing requests for siblings of children already at a school.

- In relation to Proposals 1 and 2 (establishing Bilston primary school and its catchment area, and rezoning the area of Loanhead Primary School's catchment west of the A701 to Bilston primary school).  
For pupils entering Primary 1 in August 2016 and 2017, the Council will prioritise the granting of placing requests for children who would have been in the catchment had it not been for the changes. The Council will include enrolment at nursery when considering priority for pupils entering Primary 1 in August 2016 and 2017 for the schools affected by these proposals.
- In relation to Proposal 3 (transferring areas from the catchment of Loanhead Primary School to Paradykes Primary School).  
The implementation of Proposal 3 will be delayed until the replacement Paradykes Primary School is completed, scheduled for August 2017. For pupils entering Primary 1 in the first year of the replacement school's operation, the Council will prioritise the granting of placing requests to Loanhead Primary School for children who would have been in the Loanhead catchment had it not been for the changes. The Council will

include enrolment at nursery when considering priority for pupils entering Primary 1 at Loanhead in the first year of the replacement Paradykes School's operation.

Thereafter the Council will continue to support parental choice, where there are school spaces available, via normal placing request procedures.

### **Transport to school**

Similarly, where transport is currently provided to pupils attending their catchment school, the transport will continue to be provided if their catchment school changes but they continue to attend their original school.

For example this will apply to pupils from Bilston who will be attending Roslin Primary School in Primary 6 or 7 from August 2016, where it will be continued until the end of academic year in July 2018 when the last of these pupils will transition to secondary school. It will also apply to pupils from areas such as Damhead who attend Loanhead Primary School.

### **Secondary schools**

Responses included comments around the secondary schools and the pressure on capacity at Lasswade High School. The Bilston annex has been operating as additional capacity for Roslin Primary School, which is in the Beeslack High School Associated School Group. The new Bilston primary school will join the Beeslack Associated School Group. Loanhead Primary School is a member of the Lasswade High School Associated School Group and Proposal 2 will mean that children who live in the section of Loanhead Primary School catchment that lies to the west of the A701 will now progress to Beeslack High School rather than Lasswade. Transition arrangements will be put in place for a period of 3 years to allow affected pupils currently attending Loanhead Primary School to progress to Lasswade High School should they wish to.

Lasswade High School is currently operating at capacity and in 2016 the Council will be undertaking a review of options for secondary schools to serve the A701 Corridor and Penicuik which will address this.

### **Implementation group**

An implementation group is being set up to facilitate the opening of the new school in Bilston and the remit for this group will include involvement in recruiting the head teacher and assisting them in getting the school up and running. The transfer of teaching staff from Roslin Primary School (including the Bilston Annex) to the new primary school in Bilston will be on a voluntary basis, with subsequent vacancies filled through recruitment.

## **2.4 Statement of how Midlothian Council has reviewed the proposals having regard to any relevant representations made during the consultation period and to Education Scotland's report**

The proposal to Council will be to implement as set out in the consultation documents, with effect for primary pupil intake from August 2016, the proposals to:

- Establish a new primary school at Bilston Public Park, Bilston and create its catchment area, rezoning all housing in Bilston to the new school.
- Rezone Damhead, Lothianburn, Nivensknowe Park, Pentland Park, Straiton Park and recently built houses at Corby Craig to the catchment of the new Bilston primary school, currently in the catchment for Loanhead Primary School.

And, with effect for primary pupil intake from August 2017, to:

- Transfer the residential areas in the vicinity of Mayshade Road and Park Avenue and housing development site h54 "Ashgrove" from the catchment area of Loanhead Primary School to the catchment of Paradykes Primary School.
- Relocate Paradykes Primary School to the replacement school site at George Avenue, Loanhead.

Revising Proposal 3 so that both these proposals take effect from the opening of the rebuilt school, scheduled for August 2017.

In consideration of the representations made during the consultation and in Education Scotland's report, the proposals have been reviewed as follows:

- In relation to Proposals 1 and 2, transition arrangements have been reviewed and will be extended to give consideration to attendance at the associated nursery for those enrolling in Primary 1 in August 2016 and 2017
- Also in relation to Proposals 1 and 2, transition arrangements have been reviewed and will be extended for pupils entering Primary 1 from August 2016 to August 2017, as the Council will prioritise the granting of placing requests for children who would, except for the catchment changes, have been in catchment
- In relation to Proposal 3, transition arrangements have been reviewed and will be extended to give consideration to attendance at the associated nursery for those enrolling in Primary 1 in August 2017
- Also in relation to Proposal 3, transition arrangements have been reviewed and will be extended for pupils entering Primary 1 from August 2017 as the Council will prioritise the granting of placing requests for children who would, except for the catchment changes, have been in catchment
- Reassurances have been made that all pupils already attending a school whose house is moving from the catchment of one school to the catchment of another can remain at their current school

- In relation to Proposal 2, transition arrangements will be put in place to allow pupils currently in Primary 5, 6 and 7 living in the area transferring from the catchment of Loanhead Primary School to the new primary school in Bilston to elect to attend Lasswade High School.
- The Council's Policy and Road Safety Team will review School Travel Plans for existing schools in light of the changes to catchment areas and revise them where appropriate

## **2.5 Time for further consideration**

There will be a period of 3 weeks for further consideration and any further representations in respect of this report should be emailed to [sandra.banks@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.banks@midlothian.gov.uk) by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016.

Council will meet on 9th February 2016 to make a decision on whether to progress with the proposals, either in whole or in part.

### **3. Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Midlothian Council to establish the catchment area for a new primary school at Bilston and amend the catchment areas of Loanhead, Paradykes and Roslin Primary Schools.**

#### **1. Introduction**

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 Midlothian Council's proposal to establish the catchment area for a new primary school at Bilston and amend the catchment areas of Loanhead, Paradykes and Roslin Primary Schools. 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.

#### **1.1 HM Inspectors considered:**

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools affected; 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.

#### **1.2 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:**

- attendance at the public meeting held on Tuesday 6 October 2015 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 sites of Loanhead, Paradykes and Roslin Primary Schools, including discussion with relevant consultees.

## **2. Consultation Process**

2.1 Midlothian 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 consultation period ran for six weeks, from 14 September until 3 November 2015. The council held two public meetings during this period. No one attended the meeting at Roslin Primary School and three parents attended the meeting at Loanhead Primary School. The council undertook discussions with the staff and pupils of all three schools affected by the proposal. The council also consulted the Parent Councils of all three schools affected by the proposal and the parents of pupils at the three schools. It further consulted the Community Councils of Damhead and district, Roslin and Bilston and Loanhead and district. The council received 14 responses as a result of its consultation. Ten of these were in favour.

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

3.1 The proposal is of potential educational benefit. In adjusting the schools' catchment areas, travelling distances to and from school will be minimised for the majority of children, with the likelihood that more children will choose to walk to school. Beyond supporting their health and wellbeing, this should also allow for easier access for a greater number of children to attend afterschool activities. This has the potential to support the development of children's social skills, confidence, team working and wider talents. The provision of modern flexible learning spaces, inside and outdoors, will be better suited to support the delivery of the key entitlements of Curriculum for Excellence. Local communities will benefit from an increased number of school places. This includes the community of Bilston, where children will have the opportunity to complete their early and primary school education on one site. In addition, the community will enjoy access to a much improved community facility. The relocation and replacement of the current Paradykes Primary School with a larger building, will ensure additional capacity which will be required to meet increasing demand for school places resulting from recent and proposed new house building.

3.2 Most stakeholders who responded to the consultation were in favour of the proposal. They recognised that in establishing a new local school for the Bilston community, it made sense for the council to alter the corresponding school catchment areas. A few parents had a number of reasonable concerns. These included the need to manage traffic congestion and ensure safe walking routes to school. A small number of parents wanted more detail to understand the projected capacity of the planned new school at Bilston. Parents and children from the Bilston area were not clear whether transport would continue to be provided for those children already enrolled at Roslin Primary School and who wanted to finish their

primary years education in the same school. In taking forward its proposal, the council will need to address these concerns.

3.3 Children were mainly concerned about whether there would be adequate parking at the new location of Paradykes Primary School and whether the outdoor pitches would be large enough. They looked forward to having a separate space for physical education which no longer doubled up as a dining hall. They were a little anxious about crossing a busy road to get to the new school when currently there is no crossing patrol attendant. Children at Roslin Primary School were concerned about the loss of playground space and access to some of the facilities during the construction of the new school. In taking forward its proposal, the council will need to address these concerns.

3.4 Staff at Roslin Primary School welcomed the proposals but were anxious to know where they would be placed in August 2016. Staff at Paradykes Primary School were looking forward to new facilities, particularly the opportunity to have a much needed performance space, and additional spaces for physical education. They considered it beneficial to have links to both the community library and the leisure centre on the new site in the hope of offering more regular and varied opportunities to children to participate.

#### **4. Summary**

The proposal has the potential to be of educational benefit to children and the local communities served by the schools affected. The benefits will derive largely from the enhanced facilities and the corresponding additional capacity. The proposal has the support of the majority of stakeholders. In taking forward the proposal and finalising its report, the council should look to provide further detail in relation to the reasonable points raised by the small number of parents who responded to the consultation. It should address concerns related to safe routes to school, traffic management and the provision of crossing patrol attendants.

**HM Inspectors  
Education Scotland  
November 2015**