

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 28 March 2017

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

SUBJECT: Outcome of the School Consultation on the Proposed Change to Preston Lodge High School Catchment Area and the Establishment of a New Primary School at Blindwells

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To approve the recommendations set out within the Consultation Report (Appendix 1) on the proposed change of secondary catchment area for the Blindwells primary school catchment area and the establishment of a new primary school for Blindwells new settlement (LDP Proposal BW1, *hereinafter referred to as 'BW1'*).

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Following completion of the statutory school consultation exercise, the Council has 3 options to consider, namely:
- i. approve, on the basis of the outcome of the school consultation and taking account of the educational and social benefits of the proposal, that:
 - a. subject to planning permission being approved for the current allocated Blindwells site (Proposal H1 of the East Lothian Local Plan 2008 / Proposal BW1 of the emerging East Lothian Local Development Plan), a new primary school with early learning and childcare provision will be established for the Blindwells primary school catchment area;
 - b. the new primary school will be established initially at Cockenzie Primary School through a "hosting" arrangement until the new primary school building is complete;

- c. the new primary school will relocate to its permanent site on the completion of the new building;
 - d. the Preston Lodge High School catchment area will be extended to include the Blindwells new settlement (BW1) and replace the Blindwells secondary catchment area established in 2010 with immediate effect; and
 - e. the St Gabriel's RC Primary School catchment area will be extended to include the Blindwells new settlement (BW1) in alignment with the proposed revised Preston Lodge High School catchment area with immediate effect.
- ii. withdraw the proposal and make no additional provision for primary education for Blindwells or alteration to the Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel's RC Primary School catchment areas. In withdrawing the proposal, the Council would not be able to accommodate the educational requirements of eligible pre-school, primary and secondary-aged children arising from planned housing developments in the Blindwells area (BW1).
 - iii. undertake a further consultation exercise on a new proposal.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The *Education (Scotland) Act 1980* places a legislative duty on the Council to provide sufficient school accommodation and plan for growth in our communities. In addition, the Council has a statutory duty to secure best value in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.
- 3.2 The Council must consult on certain changes in arrangements for educating children and young people in its area before it can commit to delivering them including, if required, to make proposed development sites effective.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 The LDP must be complemented by an educational solution that meets the increase in projected pupil numbers that will be generated from the new housing development. This includes a review of how such capacity will be provided for the new settlement at Blindwells.

- 3.5 The proposed housing development at Blindwells (BW1) will require a new primary education facility with early learning & childcare provision to be established in order for such development to be delivered. The alteration to Preston Lodge High School catchment area to include Blindwells primary school catchment area will also help enable the development of the current allocation for Blindwells (BW1), providing capacity until an on-site permanent secondary education facility is delivered in association with any further expansion of the new settlement as part of LDP Proposal BW2. Preston Lodge High School may also provide the permanent secondary education solution for Blindwells (BW1) if the settlement cannot grow any larger than the current allocation.
- 3.6 The statutory consultation regarding the proposed change of secondary catchment area for the Blindwells primary school catchment area and the establishment of a new primary school for Blindwells (BW1) commenced at 12.00am on Tuesday 8 November 2016 and lasted until 12.00am on Wednesday 21 December 2016, being a period of six weeks, which also included the statutory minimum 30 school days. This was in line with the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*. Notification of the consultation was given to all statutory consultees prior to the commencement of the consultation. The Consultation Document was published on [East Lothian Council's Consultation Hub](#) and paper copies distributed on Tuesday 8 November 2016.
- 3.7 Representations were sought from statutory consultees and the wider public by the completion of an online questionnaire available on the East Lothian Council Consultation Hub. The Consultation Hub also stored all relevant consultation documentation for public viewing. Paper copies of the questionnaire were also distributed at Council buildings within the Cockenzie and Prestonpans area.
- 3.8 Publicity material detailed an East Lothian Council email address, phone number and postal address, to which representations and any other queries could be submitted.
- 3.9 HM Inspectors from Education Scotland undertook their statutory duties in accordance with the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*, by reviewing the educational aspects of the proposal and completing their report. A full copy of the report can be found in Appendix 5 of the Consultation Report (Appendix 1).
- 3.10 All submitted representations, including the Education Scotland report, were analysed by East Lothian Council Officers, summarised and answered to in the Consultation Report (Appendix 1). The Consultation Report, summarising all representations and East Lothian Council's response, was published on

the East Lothian Council Consultation Hub on 27th February 2017. This was made publicly available for a minimum period of three weeks before consideration of the proposal by East Lothian Council, in line with the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*.

Summary

- 3.11 The Council received 81 responses to the questionnaire during the consultation period.
- 3.12 Of the responses which provided an overall view about the Council's proposal, almost all expressed support. In terms of the four individual elements of the proposal, a clear majority of respondents to the questionnaire (88.9%) support the proposal to establish a new school in the Blindwells primary school catchment area (3.7% oppose /4.7% have no opinion). A clear majority (50.2%) also support the proposal to host initially at Cockenzie Primary School until the new permanent facility is built (25.9% oppose/23.9% have no opinion). A greater proportion of respondents overall oppose the proposal to extend Preston Lodge High School catchment to include Blindwells (46.9% oppose/43.2% support/9.9% have no opinion). A greater proportion of respondents also oppose the proposal to extend St Gabriel's RC Primary School catchment to include Blindwells (50.6% oppose/33.3% support/16.0% have no opinion).
- 3.13 Although the responses to the questionnaire capture the flavour of opinions regarding the consultation and are all valued, it is important to note that such a small sample size is not statistically significant given the number of families living within the Prestonpans cluster. A summary of responses by demographic is provided in the Consultation Report (Appendix 1).
- 3.14 During the consultation period, Council officers visited Cockenzie Primary School, St Gabriel's RC Primary School and Preston Lodge High School, providing good opportunities for pupils to discuss their views. Overall, pupils showed support for the proposal.
- 3.15 A number of common themes emerged from the questionnaire and oral responses, and can be grouped as follows:
- Concerns over level of proposed housing & impact on infrastructure
 - Consultation with the community on the proposals
 - Impact on community identity
 - Clarification of schools within the proposed revised Prestonpans Cluster
 - Rationale for inclusion of Blindwells settlement (BW1) in the Prestonpans Cluster
 - Transport Links & Safer Routes to Schools

- Impact on capacity of Preston Lodge High School
- Impact on capacity of St Gabriel's RC Primary School
- Hosting arrangements at Cockenzie Primary School
- Ongoing consultation with stakeholders

East Lothian Council's response to these themes is detailed in Section 7 of the Consultation Report (Appendix 1).

3.16 In line with the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*, Education Scotland considered the educational aspects of the proposal and submitted a report to East Lothian Council. As part of this consideration, Education Scotland met with children, young people, staff and parents who may be affected by the proposal. The full report from Education Scotland can be found in Appendix 5 of the Consultation Report (Appendix 1).

3.17 Education Scotland reported that the proposal to establish a new primary school for Blindwells and alter the catchment area of Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel's RC Primary School to include the Blindwells new settlement has clear educational benefits as follows:

- the proposal has the potential to provide children who will reside in the Blindwells housing development with modern, purpose built accommodation designed to meet the needs of its learners;
- the new school will provide a range of leisure and learning facilities which will potentially benefit the wider community;
- changing the secondary catchment area of the current Blindwells secondary catchment into Preston Lodge High School catchment, ensures secondary pupils from the Blindwells area will attend a school offering access to a broad curriculum which already has very well established community links;
- Similarly, changing the denominational catchment of Blindwells to St Gabriel's ensures the denominational pupils from Blindwells will be attending a school aligned to the same cluster community and secondary school as their non-denominational peers.

3.18 Education Scotland reported that almost all parents, pupils and staff who met with HM Inspectors supported the proposal.

3.19 Education Scotland noted that East Lothian Council needs to ensure the following, if the proposal is taken forward:

- During the interim 'hosting' period the Council should provide both groups of children with a high quality education; and

- Continue to engage with stakeholders and ensure that all arrangements are well planned and clearly communicated to all stakeholders to meet the needs of all children who attend Cockenzie Primary School, St Gabriel's RC Primary School, Preston Lodge High School and the new Blindwells primary school.

3.20 Following receipt of a total of 81 questionnaire responses and consideration of oral representations made at a public meeting held during the consultation period, a range of officers from Education, Finance, Planning, Property and Road Services reviewed the proposal. This ensured that the Council met the requirements of sections 9(1), 12 and 13(3) (b) of the 2010 Act. 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.

3.21 Having reviewed the feedback from consultees, officers conclude that the basis of the original proposal remained the best solution to provide appropriate and effective early learning & childcare, primary and secondary education provision for the Blindwells area (BW1).

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process. Potential impacts have been identified and will be addressed.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial – Developer contributions will be sought from the developers of relevant sites allocated in the Blindwells new settlement area (BW1) to fund the costs of the permanent early learning & childcare and primary school provision at Blindwells which will be the subject of legal agreement with relevant landowners. Developer contributions will also be sought from the developers of relevant sites allocated in the proposed revised catchment areas of Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel's RC Primary School, including Blindwells (BW1), to ensure there is sufficient capacity and facilities to provide suitable education to all at Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel's RC Primary School, which will be the subject of legal agreement with relevant landowners. Developer contributions will not be sought to

resolve pre-existing deficiencies or shortfalls in accommodation, unrelated to the new proposed housing developments.

School revenue budgets and staffing complements are set in line with the school roll in accordance with the approved Scheme of Delegation for Schools and the Council's devolved school management (DSM) policies. The Council will incur additional revenue costs associated with the day to day running of the new early learning & childcare and primary school provision at Blindwells (BW1) as well as any increase to revenue budgets and staffing complements for Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel's RC Primary School as a result of increased rolls from planned and committed housing in the area.

6.2 Personnel - The Education Service closely monitors school rolls and plans staff recruitment in response to increases in rolls. The new Blindwells primary school and any increase to the staffing complements at Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel's RC Primary School will be staffed in line with current East Lothian recruitment procedures, appointing the best candidates for each vacancy. Recruitment will be open to all appropriately qualified staff from East Lothian and beyond. Whilst this will provide career opportunities for many of our existing staff, the staffing will be phased in over a number of years and should not have a detrimental impact on the teaching and learning in neighbouring schools. A senior management team will be recruited a number of months before the new Blindwells school is open. The key tasks of this group will be to appoint the staff team in readiness for the school opening, and to prepare for transition.

6.3 Other – None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Consultation Report on the outcome of the consultation on the proposed change to Preston Lodge High School catchment area and the establishment of a new primary school at Blindwells (Appendix 1).

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DATE	13 th March 2017



EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL
RESOURCES AND PEOPLE SERVICES
EDUCATION
CONSULTATION REPORT

**REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE TO PRESTON LODGE
HIGH SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW
PRIMARY SCHOOL AT BLINDWELLS**

February 2017

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 following proposal:

- A new primary school with early learning and childcare provision will be established for the Blindwells primary school catchment area;
- The new primary school will be established initially at Cockenzie Primary School through a “hosting” arrangement until the new primary school building is complete;
- The new primary school will relocate to its permanent site on the completion of the new building;
- The Preston Lodge High School catchment area will be extended to include the Blindwells new settlement and replace the Blindwells secondary catchment area established in 2010; and
- The St Gabriel’s RC Primary School catchment area will be extended to include the Blindwells new settlement in alignment with the proposed revised Preston Lodge High School catchment area.

This proposal **directly affected** the following schools:

- Preston Lodge High School
- Cockenzie Primary School
- St Gabriel’s RC Primary 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 29th November 2016
- c) Oral representations made to it at the public drop-in sessions
- d) Oral representations made to it at the pupil voice sessions
- 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 29th November 2016;
- 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 Proposal 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.

- 2.2 East Lothian Council is committed to raising educational attainment and ensuring that all children and 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 Proposal Document.
- 2.3 The Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for South East Scotland was approved by Scottish Ministers in June 2013. The SDP with its Supplementary Guidance on Housing Land requires the Local Development Plan (LDP) to ensure sufficient housing land is available to deliver 10,050 homes during the period 2009 – 2024 with 6,250 of those homes capable of being delivered across East Lothian in the period to 2019.
- 2.4 In order to accommodate these strategic development requirements for East Lothian, East Lothian Council approved a Proposed LDP 2016 for representation on 6th September 2016. Once adopted, this plan will replace the current East Lothian Local Plan 2008. The Proposed LDP 2016 sets out East Lothian Council's proposed future spatial strategy for East Lothian. As part of this, the Blindwells new settlement (BW1) is one of the main development proposals to be retained from the current East Lothian Local Plan 2008 (Proposal H1); Blindwells is currently allocated for a mixed-use development including circa 1,600 homes. In future, the Council has a vision to expand this further east to a size of around 6,000 homes (LDP Proposal BW2, *hereinafter referred to as BW2*), however, an appropriate comprehensive solution that could deliver this vision has not yet been found and will continue to be sought during the life of the plan.
- 2.5 Significant additional education capacity at primary and secondary level will be needed to support the new housing development proposed in the Blindwells settlement, including a new primary school for the site at Blindwells (BW1). The Council must ensure provision is and can be made for the education of children in its area, and therefore wants to align the future provision of additional education capacity with its proposed development strategy for the area. This includes a review of how such capacity will be provided for the new settlement at Blindwells.
- 2.6 The Council must consult on certain changes in arrangements for educating children and young people in its area before it can commit to delivering them including, if required, to make proposed development sites effective. The LDP must be complemented by an educational solution that meets the increase in projected pupil numbers that will be generated from the new housing development.
- 2.7 The proposed housing development at Blindwells (BW1) will require a new primary education facility with early learning & childcare provision to be established in order for such development to be delivered. The alteration to Preston Lodge High School catchment area to include Blindwells primary school catchment area will also help enable the development of the current allocation for Blindwells (BW1), providing capacity until an on-site permanent secondary education facility is delivered in association with any further expansion of the new settlement as part of LDP Proposal

BW2. Preston Lodge High School may also provide the permanent secondary education solution for Blindwells (BW1) if the settlement cannot grow any larger than the current allocation.

2.8 On 24th February 2015, approval was given by East Lothian Council to undertake consultations relating to the school estate (i.e. schools, catchment areas, locations) as necessary to support the emerging 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.

2.9 The proposed change of secondary catchment area for the Blindwells primary school catchment area and the establishment of a new primary school will directly affect the following schools and was considered in the Consultation Proposal Document:

- Preston Lodge High School
- Cockenzie Primary School
- St Gabriel's RC Primary School

3. CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The main considerations relating to the establishment of a new primary school for the current Blindwells allocation (BW1) and the proposed revisions for Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel's RC Primary School catchment areas are fully explained in the Consultation Proposal Document and the main points are highlighted below:

- The need to address early learning & childcare, primary and secondary education provision for the Blindwells area (BW1) and create a sustainable school estate for future generations;
- The increasing pupil roll projection in the area;
- The condition and suitability of the establishments to facilitate learning and teaching processes in the 21st Century; and
- The need to develop inspirational learning environments which raise the aspirations of children and young people, staff and the wider community.

4. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

4.1 The Council has met the minimum requirements set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 with regards to ensuring the views of all members of the community were listened to and their views are included in this report. The Council believes that this report accurately reflects the views of the community, which have been gathered through a range of engagement events and response mechanisms. It is for members of East Lothian Council to decide to adopt the proposal, withdraw it or seek to consult on another proposal.

- 4.2 On 24th February 2015, approval was given by East Lothian Council to undertake consultations relating to the school estate (i.e. schools, catchment areas, locations) as necessary to support the emerging 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.
- 4.3 Notification of the consultation was given to all statutory consultees prior to the commencement of the consultation.
- 4.4 The Consultation Proposal Document was published on East Lothian Council's website and paper copies distributed on 8th November 2016 to:
- Preston Lodge High School
 - Cockenzie Primary School
 - Longniddry Primary School
 - Prestonpans Primary School
 - Prestonpans Infant & Nursery School
 - St Gabriel's RC Primary School
 - Camperdown Children's Nursery, Prestonpans
 - Seahorse Nursery, Cockenzie
 - Prestonpans Community Centre
 - Port Seton Centre
 - Prestonpans Library
 - John Muir House, Haddington
- 4.5 The consultation period commenced at 12.00am on **Tuesday 8th November 2016** and lasted until 12.00am on **Wednesday 21st December 2016**, being a period of six weeks, which also included the statutory minimum 30 school days.
- 4.6 The proposals on which consultation took place were to:
- Establish a new school with primary education and early learning & childcare provision for the Blindwells primary school catchment area;
 - Establish the new primary school initially within Cockenzie Primary School and relocate to its permanent site on the completion of the new school building;
 - Alter the Preston Lodge High School catchment area to include the Blindwells primary school catchment area, as defined by Blindwells new settlement (LDP Proposal BW1, *hereinafter referred to as 'BW1'*), currently in the Blindwells secondary catchment area established in 2010; and
 - Alter the St Gabriel's RC Primary School catchment area to include the Blindwells new settlement (BW1) in alignment with the proposed revised Preston Lodge High School catchment area.

- 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 Proposal Document. Advice on where the complete Consultation Proposal Document could be obtained was included and was published on East Lothian Council’s Consultation Hub <https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/education/blindwells-catchment>
- 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: <https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/education/blindwells-catchment>
- 4.11 An advertisement was placed in the local newspaper on **10th November 2016** and **1st December 2016**. A pre-announcement was also made on the Council’s website and social media posts on the **7th November 2016**. In addition, there were announcements related to the consultation process on East Lothian Council’s website, linked via a Facebook page and Twitter feeds.
- 4.12 The public meeting was held in **Prestonpans Community Centre** on **29th November 2016 at 7.30pm**.
- 4.13 In addition to specific meetings with statutory consultees, drop-in sessions were also held in respect of the proposal at the venues below, at which any members of the public and staff were welcome to attend:

Venue	Date	Time
Preston Lodge High School	15 November 2016	12:00pm – 5:00pm
Prestonpans Community Centre	29 November 2016	6.45pm – 7.30pm

- 4.14 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following persons, including those indirectly affected, were consulted:
- The Parent Councils of Preston Lodge High School, Cockenzie Primary School and St Gabriel’s RC Primary School
 - The parents of pupils at Preston Lodge High, Cockenzie Primary School and St Gabriel’s RC Primary School
 - The pupils at Preston Lodge High School, Cockenzie Primary School and St Gabriel’s RC Primary School
 - The staff at Preston Lodge High School, Cockenzie Primary School and St Gabriel’s RC Primary School

- The parents of any children expected to attend Preston Lodge High School, Cockenzie Primary School and St Gabriel's RC Primary School within two years of the publication of the proposal
- Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership
- Cockenzie & Port Seton Community Council
- Longniddry Community Council
- Prestonpans Community Council
- Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh

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

- Preston Lodge High School
- Cockenzie Primary School
- St Gabriel's RC Primary School

4.16 The following schools are **indirectly affected** by the proposal:

- Longniddry Primary School
- Prestonpans Infant & Nursery School
- Prestonpans Primary School

4.17 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 within the Cockenzie and Prestonpans 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 Education Consultations email inbox, to which any queries could be submitted during the consultation period;
- Flyer distribution to pupils at Cockenzie Primary School, Longniddry Primary School, Prestonpans Infant & Nursery School, Prestonpans Primary School, St Gabriel's RC Primary School and Preston Lodge High School. Head Teachers used their established methods of communication to engage/remind parents about the consultation and the Education Scotland independent evaluation visit.
- In addition to the public meeting, staff at the affected schools were also invited to attend the public drop-in sessions to discuss the proposals;

- A representative group of pupils from Cockenzie Primary School, St Gabriel's RC Primary School and Preston Lodge High School attended a workshop where they were able to express their views on the proposals;
- A joint Parent Council meeting of the Prestonpans Cluster schools was held with representatives from Cockenzie Parent Council and Preston Lodge High School Parent Council in attendance.

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

4.19 This Consultation Report will be published for a period of three weeks before a final decision is taken by East Lothian Council on 28th March 2017.

5. THE PUBLIC MEETING

5.1 A public meeting was held in Prestonpans Community Centre on Tuesday 29th November 2016 which was attended by two members of the community. 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, drop-in sessions were arranged during the consultation period, enabling any member of the public and staff to ask questions and discuss the proposal, the consultation process and how they could make representations. The most commonly asked questions at the drop-in session, also informed the content of the Frequently Asked Questions document to provide relevant stakeholders and members of the public with points of clarification or further information.

6. RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE

6.1 As part of the consultation process, the Council sought the views of a wide range of stakeholders. Information about the consultation was placed in a local newspaper, on the Council's website and at the affected schools, as well as all Cockenzie and Prestonpans Partnership Nurseries, libraries and other centres within the Cockenzie and Prestonpans area.

6.2 The Council provided stakeholders with a short online or paper questionnaire and also made good arrangements for receiving additional written responses. The Council received eighty-one responses to its questionnaire. Of the responses which provided an overall view about the council's proposal, almost all expressed support. In terms of the four individual elements of the proposal, a clear majority of respondents to the questionnaire (88.9%) support the proposal to establish a new school in the Blindwells primary school catchment area (3.7% oppose /4.7% have no opinion). A clear majority (50.2%) also support the proposal to host initially at Cockenzie Primary School until the new permanent facility is built (25.9% oppose/23.9% have no opinion). A greater proportion of respondents overall oppose the proposal to extend Preston Lodge High

School catchment to include Blindwells (46.9% oppose/43.2% support/9.9% have no opinion). A greater proportion of respondents also oppose the proposal to extend St Gabriel's RC Primary School catchment to include Blindwells (50.6% oppose/33.3% support/16.0% have no opinion).

- 6.3 Although the responses to the questionnaire capture the flavour of opinions regarding the consultation and are all valued, it is important to note that such a small sample size is not statistically significant.
- 6.4 A summary of all questionnaire responses has been included in Appendix 2. The comments made as part of these questionnaires are also included in Appendix 3, 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 been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the response as detailed in paragraph 6.8.
- 6.5 The Council did not receive any written submissions to its consultation during the consultation period.
- 6.6 The summary of questionnaire responses to the individual elements categorised by demographic are as follows:

- **Parents of pupils currently at schools:**

A greater proportion of parents of pupils currently at school who responded, agreed with the proposals to establish a new school and "host" initially at Cockenzie than disagreed. In total, 88.6% supported the proposal for the new school (4.3% opposed) and 50.2% supported the "hosting" proposal (23.2% opposed). The greatest proportions who opposed the "hosting" were parents of pupils at Cockenzie Primary School (87.5% strongly disagreed) and Longniddry Primary School (100% strongly disagreed), although this is based on one respondent with a pupil currently at Longniddry Primary School. A greater proportion of parents of pupils currently at school disagreed with the catchment revision proposal for Preston Lodge High School than agreed. In total, 45.7% opposed this element with the greatest proportions opposing being the parents of current pupils at Longniddry (100%), Cockenzie Primary School (75%) and Prestonpans Primary (60%) while just over half of parents with pupils at Preston Lodge High School were opposed to it (52.4%). There were equal proportions of parents of current pupils at Prestonpans Infant and in the "Other School" category supporting/opposing the proposed revised catchment area for Preston Lodge (50%/50%) and a greater proportion supporting than opposing with pupils at St Gabriel's RC Primary School (49.1% supporting/35.8% opposing/15.1% no opinion). A greater proportion of parents of pupils currently at school disagreed with the catchment revision proposal for St Gabriel's RC Primary School than agreed.

- **Parents of future pupils at schools:**

A greater proportion of parents of future pupils agreed with the proposal to establish a new school at Blindwells than disagreed with the exception of Cockenzie Primary and Prestonpans Infant where there were equal proportions agreeing/disagreeing (50%/50%). In total, 87.1% supported the proposal for the new school, 9.7% were opposed and 3.2% had no opinion. Overall, a greater proportion of respondents within this demographic also supported the “hosting” element (46.7% supporting/33.3% opposing/20% no opinion). The greatest proportions who opposed the “hosting” were parents of future pupils at Cockenzie Primary School, Prestonpans Infant School and Longniddry Primary School (100% strongly disagreed), although this is based on one or two respondents. The greatest proportion in support of the “hosting” element, were parents of future pupils at St Gabriel’s RC Primary School (69.2%). A greater proportion of parents of future pupils at all schools opposed the proposed revised catchment areas for both Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel’s RC Primary School with 64.5% in total opposing the proposed revision for the Preston Lodge High School catchment area and 61.3% opposing the proposed revision for St Gabriel’s RC catchment area.

- **Parent respondents (with stage banding of pupils):**

A greater proportion of parents of pupils in all age bandings supported the proposal for a new school at Blindwells (89.3% supporting/4.0% opposing/6.7% no opinion). A greater proportion of parents of pupils in all age bandings (50.7%) also supported the “hosting” element at Cockenzie Primary School apart from those parents of pupils “Not yet in Education” of which 12.5% supported, 37.5% opposed and 50% had no opinion. A greater proportion of parents of pupils in all age bandings overall disagreed with the proposed revised catchment areas for Preston Lodge High School (42.7% supporting/46.7% opposing/10.7% no opinion) and St Gabriel’s RC Primary School (32% supporting/52% opposing/16% no opinion), with the exception of those with pupils in pre-school education and in P1-P3, of which a greater proportion (54.5% and 48.6% respectively) supported the proposed revised catchment for Preston Lodge.

- **Pupils currently attending school:**

There were two respondents within this demographic. There were equal proportions of pupils currently attending Preston Lodge High School supporting/opposing the proposals to establish a new school for Blindwells and “host” initially at Cockenzie and the proposed revised catchment area for Preston Lodge (50%/50%). One also supported the proposed revised catchment area for St Gabriel’s RC Primary School while the other had no opinion.

- **Members of Staff:**

In total, 88.9% of staff who responded via the questionnaire agreed with the proposal to establish a new school for Blindwells. There were equal proportions of staff overall agreeing/disagreeing (44.4%/44.4%) with the “hosting element” including staff from Preston Lodge High School (50%/50%) and St Gabriel’s RC Primary School (33.3%/33.3%). In total, just over half of staff members who responded (55.6%) opposed the proposed revised catchment areas for Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel’s High School. The greatest proportion of staff members in support of both these elements were from Preston Lodge High School (75%).

- **“Other” Respondents:**

There was one respondent within this demographic. The respondent agreed with the proposal to establish a new school for Blindwells but disagreed with the proposal for “hosting” and for the proposed revised catchment areas for Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel’s RC Primary School.

- **Catchment of Respondent:**

A greater proportion of respondents from all catchments supported the proposal to establish a new school for Blindwells than opposed. A greater proportion of respondents from the Longniddry catchment (100%), “Other School” catchment (83.3%) and Cockenzie Primary (66.7%) opposed the “hosting” element while greater proportions in all the other catchments supported this element. 100% of respondents in the Preston Lodge catchment supported the proposed revised catchment area for Preston Lodge, with 60% and 66.7% also in support from Prestonpans Infant and Prestonpans Primary catchments respectively. There are equal proportions of respondents supporting/opposing this element, who live in either St Gabriel’s RC catchment (41.7%/41.7%) or “Other School” (50%/50%). A greater proportion of those living in the Cockenzie catchment (66.7%) and Longniddry catchment (100%) opposed this element of the proposal. A greater proportion of those living in the Preston Lodge (44%), St Gabriel’s RC (63.9%) and Longniddry (100%) catchments opposed the proposed revised catchment area for St Gabriel’s RC Primary School. A greater proportion of those in the Prestonpans Primary catchment (66.7%) and “Other School” catchment (50%) supported this element of the proposals. There were equal proportions of those living in the Cockenzie Primary (33.3%/33.3%) and Prestonpans Infant (40%/40%) in support of this element.

6.7 During the consultation period, Council officers visited Cockenzie Primary School, St Gabriel’s RC Primary School and Preston Lodge High School providing good opportunities for pupils to discuss their views. Overall, pupils showed support for the proposal. Notes of the pupil voice sessions are included as Appendix 4.

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

- Concerns over level of proposed housing & impact on infrastructure
- Consultation with the community on the proposals
- Impact on community identity
- Clarification of schools within the proposed revised Prestonpans Cluster
- Rationale for inclusion of Blindwells settlement (BW1) in the Prestonpans Cluster
- Transport Links & Safer Routes to Schools
- Impact on capacity of Preston Lodge High School
- Impact on capacity of St Gabriel's RC Primary School
- Hosting arrangements at Cockenzie Primary School
- Ongoing consultation with stakeholders

7. EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO QUESTIONNAIRE AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS

7.1 Concerns over level of proposed housing & impact on infrastructure

7.1.1 These issues are addressed through the Local Development Plan process. The Council is formulating its responses to representations made to the Proposed Local Development Plan and any unresolved objections in respect of spatial strategy, site allocations and infrastructure requirements will be considered at examination.

7.1.2 The Blindwells site (BW1) already has an established primary catchment area, approved by East Lothian Council on 22nd June 2010, and the current allocation of circa 1,600 houses is of sufficient size to require a new permanent non-denominational primary school with early learning and childcare provision to accommodate the projected eligible pre-school and primary-aged pupils arising from these 1,600 houses. The new school facility provided at Blindwells will have sufficient capacity for the pupils expected to arise from the planned housing developments. The new school will also will provide community facilities.

7.1.3 The Proposed LDP has established development related impacts on education capacity based on a cumulative assessment of impact and the need for mitigation. The costs for interventions needed to deliver the LDP strategy and sites are identified and apportioned in line with Scottish Government Circular 3/2012. High level costs (set out in the Proposed LDP Technical Note 14: Draft Developer Contributions Framework) of providing education capacity for a peak primary roll of 700 and early learning & childcare provision of 110 places at Blindwells is estimated to be in the region of £15.8m dependent upon the final overall size of the school. Developer contributions will be sought from the developers of relevant sites allocated in the Blindwells new settlement area (BW1) to fund the costs of this permanent provision which will be the subject of legal agreement with relevant landowners.

- 7.1.4 The proposed revision to the Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel's RC Primary School catchment areas is to incorporate the current allocated Blindwells site (BW1) within the Prestonpans cluster, which is proposed for a mixed-use development including circa 1,600 homes. This will help enable the development of the current allocation for Blindwells (BW1), providing capacity until an on-site permanent secondary education facility is delivered at Blindwells in association with any further expansion of the new settlement as part of LDP Proposal BW2. Preston Lodge High School may also provide the permanent secondary education solution for current the allocation of 1,600 homes at Blindwells (BW1) if an appropriate comprehensive solution cannot be found to expand the Blindwells settlement further east.
- 7.1.5 Investment will be required to provide an extension to Preston Lodge High School for the proposed revised Preston Lodge High School catchment area as well as to provide additional classrooms for the peak rolls. The costs for interventions needed to deliver the LDP strategy and sites are identified and apportioned in line with Scottish Government Circular 3/2012. High level costs (set out in the Proposed LDP Technical Note 14: Draft Developer Contributions Framework) of providing capacity for a peak roll of 1,500 at Preston Lodge High School is estimated to be in the region of £8.4m dependent upon the final overall size of the school. Developer contributions will be sought from the developers of relevant sites allocated in the proposed revised catchment area, including Blindwells (BW1), to ensure there is sufficient capacity and facilities to provide suitable education to all, which will be the subject of legal agreement with relevant landowners.
- 7.1.6 Prestonpans Infant and Prestonpans Primary schools have been extended to accommodate the pupils arising from new houses built in the Prestonpans Infant /Primary catchment area. Further expansion of Prestonpans Infant school is proposed, and additional Early Years capacity will be provided in the Red School in 2017. Additional capacity will also be provided at St Gabriel's RC Primary School for the pupils projected to arise from Blindwells development, if the proposed catchment revision is approved, and developer contributions will be sought for this.
- 7.1.7 The overall project cost for the provision of additional education capacity in a school catchment area is divided between the assessed sources of capacity demand in proportion with the percentage of additional impact they each generate as follows:
1. increases in capacity to accommodate projected baseline pupil populations beyond current capacity will be met by the Council;
 2. further increases in capacity, beyond the baseline requirement, to accommodate additional pupils arising from committed housing developments (including proposals that have 'minded to grant' status) will be met via 'anticipated, gathered or committed' developer contributions (including that which is 'anticipated' from 'minded to grant' proposals);

3. further increases in capacity required to accommodate shortfalls in capacity or accommodation notwithstanding any committed capacity increases in association with point 2 above will be met by the Council;
4. further increases in capacity to accommodate planned housing development without planning permission (not including proposals with 'minded to grant' status) to be met by developer funding from any planned development proposal(s) that does not have planning permission and is therefore still 'eligible' to make a contribution.

7.1.8 Therefore, developer contributions will not be sought to resolve pre-existing deficiencies or shortfalls in accommodation, unrelated to the new proposed housing developments.

7.2 Consultation with the community on the proposals

7.2.1 The statutory consultation activities undertaken with regard to these proposals, as detailed in Section 4 of this report, fully met the legislative requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, and were designed to encourage maximum participation. The Council actively engaged with all stakeholders, including parents and pupils, and representations were sought from statutory consultees and the wider public through a range of communication mediums during the statutory consultation period as listed in paragraph 4.17. As referred to in Section 8, stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors felt that the council had provided good opportunities for being consulted and for giving their views.

7.3 Impact on community identity

7.3.1 As part of the mixed-use development, it is proposed that a new local centre will be introduced at Blindwells (BW1). If the proposed revisions to the Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel's RC Primary School catchment areas are approved, those moving into the proposed housing developments at Blindwells (BW1) will become part of two communities, a new community at Blindwells and the wider community of Prestonpans. The new primary school facility at Blindwells will provide a range of sports and community facilities within its locality for children, families and other users outwith core school hours and bring positive benefits to the whole community.

7.3.2 In terms of the school community, the Council will work closely with the children, young people and parents who move into the Blindwells development to establish a new sense of school community within the context of the wider Prestonpans community. Increasing the early learning & childcare and primary education provision in the Prestonpans cluster area will provide opportunities for schools to work in a new wider learning community. The temporary hosting arrangements at Cockenzie Primary School during the initial house build years, while the new primary school and early

learning and childcare facilities at Blindwells are being built, will help to develop links and integration across the existing Prestonpans cluster community.

7.4 Clarification of schools within the proposed revised Prestonpans Cluster

7.4.1 As stated in the Consultation Proposal Document, the proposed revised catchment area for Preston Lodge High School, which forms the Prestonpans Cluster, will include the existing feeder infant and primary schools (Cockenzie Primary School, Longniddry Primary School, Prestonpans Infant & Nursery School, Prestonpans Primary School and St Gabriel's RC Primary School) and the proposed new Blindwells primary school. As there are no changes to the secondary education provision for the existing feeder infant and primary schools within the Prestonpans Cluster, existing transition arrangements for these schools would not be affected by the implementation of this proposal.

7.5 Rationale for inclusion of Blindwells (BW1) in the Prestonpans Cluster

7.5.1 As stated in the Consultation Proposal Document, while the Council has safeguarded land to the east of the current Blindwells allocation (BW1) as a potential Blindwells Expansion Area (BW2), an appropriate comprehensive solution for a larger Blindwells settlement of around 6,000 homes has not yet been found. If the Blindwells settlement is unable to grow beyond its current allocation of circa 1,600 homes, while this is of sufficient size to require a permanent primary school facility on site at Blindwells, it is not feasible to provide an on-site permanent secondary facility in the medium to longer term for the projected secondary pupil numbers that will arise from these 1,600 homes. Whilst we recognise that there are some small secondary schools in Scotland, these tend to be in rural locations and the nature of these small schools reflect the particular communities they serve. By providing additional capacity at an established neighbouring secondary school, namely Preston Lodge High School in this instance, the Council is more able to offer a broad curriculum to meet the needs of its learners within the broad general education and in the senior phase, as well as ensuring equity of experience across its secondary education establishments.

7.5.2 The rationale for including Blindwells (BW1) within the Prestonpans Cluster rather than the Tranent Cluster is predicated on proximity and accessibility to the Prestonpans community and the capacity for Preston Lodge High School to be extended to accommodate the projected secondary-aged pupils arising from the current allocation of circa 1,600 houses at Blindwells (BW1). There is significant house building proposed for the Tranent Cluster within the 2016 Proposed LDP. The cumulative impact of the proposed sites in the Tranent cluster is anticipated to utilise the full expansion potential of Ross High School. Therefore, Ross High School cannot be extended further to accommodate the secondary-aged pupils projected to arise from the planned 1,600 houses in the Blindwells site (BW1). Providing additional capacity for denominational pupils from the Blindwells site at St Gabriel's RC Primary School rather than at one of the other denominational primary schools in East Lothian

will enable denominational pupils to attend a school within the same secondary cluster as their non-denominational peers.

7.6 Transport Links & Safer Routes to Schools

7.6.1 As stated in the Consultation Proposal Document, road safety will be a priority and measures needed to ensure there is sustainable travel to encourage people to walk and cycle and discourage vehicle trips during the school travel times and indiscriminate parking behaviour associated with the drop-off of children at the new school. Wider measures will also be needed to support, facilitate and encourage active travel, linked with safer routes to school. Consideration of improvements in the wider catchment area to remove barriers to cycling and walking will be considered and developed accordingly.

7.6.2 In terms of safe routes to schools during the “hosting” period, it is the Council’s intention through planning conditions to provide a bus to transport the primary-aged pupils between the Blindwells site (BW1) and Cockenzie Primary School. It is also the Council’s intention to provide better footpath and cycle links between the two sites giving further choice and reduce the dependency on the use of private vehicles.

7.6.3 The location and size of the Blindwells site (BW1) means that, depending on the final layout of the housing on the site itself, it is highly likely there will be pupils who will live within the 2 mile distance to either Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel’s RC Primary, and pupils who will live more than 2 miles away. It is current Council policy to provide free transport to and from school for primary and secondary aged pupils who reside more than 2 miles from their catchment area school.

7.7 Impact on capacity of Preston Lodge High School

7.7.1 As stated in the Consultation Proposal Document, Preston Lodge High School will require additional phased permanent extension to accommodate the projected pupil numbers that will arise from the planned and committed housing in the proposed revised Preston Lodge High School catchment area. Preston Lodge High School has a pupil planning capacity of 1,050 pupils. The projected pupil rolls for Preston Lodge High School to 2038 as at June 2016, taking into account pupils from new housing with consent and those that will arise from the emerging LDP, including secondary-aged pupils from the current Blindwells allocation (BW1) shows that the school capacity will be breached in 2022 and that the roll is projected to rise from 1088 pupils in 2022 to 1,527 pupils by 2038.

7.7.2 As stated previously in paragraph 7.1.5, investment will be required to provide an extension to Preston Lodge High School for the proposed revised Preston Lodge High School catchment area as well as to provide additional classrooms for the peak roll of 1,500 this will include any upgrading or refurbishment that is required to do this. Some contributions have already been committed from already consented

developments, and additional developer contributions will be sought to extend Preston Lodge High School to provide sufficient capacity and suitable accommodation for the anticipated pupil numbers. Secondary education is currently satisfactorily provided in the existing facility at Preston Lodge High School and there is no requirement to replace the current school on a new site.

7.7.3 The overall size of a secondary school is based on the area required for its projected pupil roll. Secondary school capacity is calculated in accordance with School Premises (General Requirements and Standards) (Scotland) Regulations 1967 (as amended). This sets out standards in relation to the minimum requirements for school sites, playing fields and educational accommodation as well as prescribing standards for the provision of ancillary accommodation. The appropriate statutory class maxima for secondary schools will continue to apply in line with current legislation and policy. The school's revenue budget and staffing complement is set in line with the school roll in accordance with the Secondary School Devolved School Management (DSM) Policy. The Education Department closely monitors school rolls and plans staff recruitment in response to increases in school rolls. Therefore, East Lothian Council anticipates, the need to recruit additional teachers will be an incremental process reflecting the year by year increase in the school roll. All teacher vacancies follow the standard East Lothian Council recruitment process.

7.7.4 The school roll of Preston Lodge High School is projected to grow gradually over a 22 year period. Interventions will be put in place to ensure there will be no disruption to the ongoing life and work of the school as a result of the population increase. This may include adjustments to the phasing of house building or developing school approaches to pastoral care. Implementing strategies for raising attainment is a priority for Preston Lodge and will continue to be so in line with priorities set out in the National Improvement Framework, taking into consideration its rising roll.

7.7.5 The school, pupils and parents will contribute to the proposals for the expansion, to increase capacity of Preston Lodge High School.

7.8 Impact on capacity of St Gabriel's RC Primary School

7.8.1 The 1918 Education Act in Scotland guarantees the following rights to the Catholic community:

- Catholic schools (designated as denominational schools) were to be funded by the State and open to inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectors;
- as public schools, Catholic schools were to be open to all, but were expected to retain their own ethos and identity in order to serve the needs of the Catholic community;
- any teacher appointed to any post was required to be approved by the Church with respect to their "religious belief and character";

- the local education authority was to appoint, with the approval of the Church, a Supervisor for Religious Education in Catholic schools.

7.8.2 St Gabriel’s RC Primary School has a pupil planning capacity of 175 pupils. P1 catchment placing requests for St Gabriel’s RC Primary School for the last four years show that there is a growing demand for denominational provision within the Prestonpans area from baptised pupils. Over 85% of the new P1 intake over the four-year period were baptised in the Catholic faith.

7.8.3 As stated in the Consultation Proposal Document and in paragraph 7.1.6, additional capacity will be required at St Gabriel’s RC Primary School to accommodate the projected pupils in the proposed revised St Gabriel’s RC Primary School catchment area.

7.8.4 The projected pupil rolls for St Gabriel’s RC Primary School to 2038 as at June 2016, taking into account pupils from new housing with consent and those that will arise from the emerging LDP, including the current Blindwells allocation (BW1) shows that the school will require 9 classes to accommodate the peak roll of 238 pupils in 2036 and that the additional capacity will be required to be in place by 2022 to meet the increasing roll. School staff, pupils and parents will contribute to the proposals to increase capacity of St Gabriel’s RC Primary School as part of its ongoing engagement with stakeholders.

7.8.5 The appropriate statutory maximum class sizes – P1 maximum of 25, primary two and three maximum of 30 and primary four to seven maximum of 33 - will apply to the class organisation for St Gabriel’s RC Primary School in line with current legislation and policy. In line with East Lothian Council’s Pupil Placement Policy, if at any stage, the local catchment denominational school was full the children would be offered a place at their non-denominational catchment school until a place became available.

7.8.6 The school’s revenue budget and staffing complement is set in line with the school roll in accordance with the Primary School DSM Policy. The Education Department closely monitors school rolls and plans staff recruitment in response to increases in school rolls. Therefore, East Lothian Council anticipates, the need to recruit additional teachers will be an incremental process reflecting the year by year increase in the school roll. All teacher vacancies follow the standard East Lothian Council recruitment process.

7.9 **Hosting Arrangements at Cockenzie Primary School**

7.9.1 Cockenzie Primary School has been identified as the best location for the temporary “hosting arrangement” for Blindwells primary school based on its relative proximity to the proposed Blindwells site (BW1) and its available capacity based on projected school rolls. Cockenzie Primary School has a planning capacity of 460 primary-aged pupils. Based on current demographics, planned & committed housing and historical

intake trends in the Cockenzie catchment area, school roll forecasts for the next 20 years show that the school roll is not projected to exceed 390 primary-aged pupils, during the projected house build period for the committed Blindwells allocation (BW1). The number of pupils projected to arise from new housing in the committed Blindwells allocation (BW1) during the first three years of house completions is expected to grow from a single figure within the first year that houses are ready for occupation to 30 primary-aged pupils by the start of the third year of house build completions growing to circa 50 pupils by the end of the third year of house build. This would suggest that there is sufficient capacity at Cockenzie Primary School for the Blindwells pupils to be temporarily hosted during the first three years of house build at Blindwells (BW1).

7.9.2 The temporary “hosting” arrangement is predicated on Cockenzie Primary school’s capacity to accommodate the projected pupil numbers arising from the proposed Blindwells housing development (BW1) during the first three years of house build. The timing of delivery of new education provision for new housing developments needs to take account of forming a viable roll for the new school as well as considering the upfront costs of funding the new school facility for both the Council and the developer. It is therefore appropriate to consider in some cases the temporary provision of education capacity in nearby schools if capacity is or can be made available. The Education Service can and does object to planning applications where suitable provision isn't or cannot be made available. The developer will require to pay the costs of temporary and permanent education provision and the nature and cost of that provision will be as required by the Council's Education and Asset Management services. There is no reason to assume that the provision required by the Education Service would disadvantage the community or result in inferior education provision.

7.9.3 Due to legislation, the “hosting” period can only last up to a maximum of 36 months, allowing a viable pupil roll to develop while the new permanent school facility is being built. The agreed house development phasing for Blindwells (BW1) would be such that the school would be ready for the children over that period of time. It should be noted that , in terms of a hosting arrangement , a number of factors are considered, as well as classroom space, the Council will consider the impact the hosting will have on other school facilities including playground space and dining hall capacity etc. The Council will ensure that there will be no negative impact on the life and work of the school. 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 house building (of 5 units or more) which occurs within this area.

7.9.4 The appropriate statutory maximum class sizes – P1 maximum of 25, primary two and three maximum of 30 and primary four to seven maximum of 33 - will apply to the class organisation for both Cockenzie Primary School and Blindwells primary school in line with current legislation and policy. Both Cockenzie Primary School and Blindwells primary school will have its own budget and staffing complement. The school revenue

budgets and staffing complements for both schools will be set in line with the school roll in accordance with the Primary School DSM Policy. The Education Department closely monitors school rolls and plans staff recruitment in response to increases in school rolls. Therefore, East Lothian Council anticipates, the need to recruit will be an incremental process reflecting the year by year increase in the school roll. All teacher vacancies follow the standard East Lothian Council recruitment process.

- 7.9.5 The new Blindwells primary school will be staffed in line with current East Lothian recruitment procedures, appointing the best candidates for each vacancy. Recruitment will be open to all appropriately qualified staff from East Lothian and beyond. Whilst this will provide career opportunities for many of our existing staff, the staffing will be phased in over a number of years and should not have a detrimental impact on the teaching and learning in neighbouring schools.
- 7.9.6 A key priority for officers is the development of the “hosting” arrangement at Cockenzie Primary School and a comprehensive transition programme to support the transition from Cockenzie Primary School into the new permanent Blindwells primary school facility once it is complete. We are aware of authorities elsewhere in Scotland who have hosting arrangements in place and will communicate with them and learn from their experiences.
- 7.9.7 The commencement of the “hosting” arrangement is dependent on when the first houses in the committed Blindwells (BW1) development are built and ready for occupation and families with primary-aged pupils move in. The Blindwells site (BW1) has a live planning application. The 2015 Housing Land Audit sets out an anticipated development start date for Blindwells (BW1) in 2020/21. The proposed new primary school at Blindwells, based on anticipated house build phasing in the 2015 Housing Land Audit, is projected to require the new Blindwells primary school facility to be completed in 2022 or as soon as thereafter.
- 7.9.8 Specific details on the hosting arrangements themselves will depend on the numbers, stages and ages of the children moving into the new housing developments. It is not possible to predict the exact numbers, ages and stages moving into the new housing and there will need to be a degree of flexibility in terms of the approach that is taken to be responsive to the particular needs of individual children. The Council will work with the Head Teacher, who will be the temporarily shared Head Teacher for both Cockenzie Primary School and Blindwells Primary School during the transition period, and other staff to discuss where children should be based and the composition of class groups as the individual pupils start to move into the Blindwells area. A Transitional Leadership Team will also be established and in place in the January before the move to the new Blindwells permanent facility to look at the arrangements needed in terms of staffing, class organisation etc.
- 7.9.9 For those children with Additional Support Needs there are well established procedures to identify particular learning needs and provide the required support

measures. Such work involves close liaison with parents and carers, and where relevant, Community Planning Partners. Pupil Support staff and teaching staff will work closely across both primary schools to ensure that the learning, pastoral and social needs of children are fully supported during the transition process, including enhanced arrangements for children and young people with Additional Support Needs.

7.10 Ongoing consultation with stakeholders

7.10.1 The Council will continue to consult and engage with affected stakeholders as the hosting and planned transition arrangements are developed and subsequently implemented. This will include staffing, safe routes to school, enrolment in the Cockenzie Primary School nursery and access to popular and well attended after school and school holiday programmes.

7.10.2 Timescales of the construction of the new permanent school facility at Blindwells will be closely monitored by East Lothian Council and one year's notice of the opening date will be communicated to parents and the public to assist transition preparation. This date would be the expected opening date, subject to ongoing construction timescales. The opening of the facility would not be before this date, and any amendments to this timescale would likewise be communicated as soon as possible.

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 5.

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

- attendance at the public meeting held on 29th November 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 the proposed new school, Cockenzie Primary School, St Gabriel's RC Primary School, Prestonpans Primary School and Preston Lodge High School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

8.3 The Education Scotland consideration of the proposal is summarised as follows:

- Education Scotland stated that almost all parents, pupils and staff who met with HM Inspectors supported the proposal. Of the responses to the Council's questionnaire which provided an overall view about the council's proposal, almost all expressed

support. There were considerable differences in responses to the detailed elements in the proposal. The element relating to hosting the new school in Cockenzie Primary School was supported by just less than half of those who responded to the questionnaire. The element to extend the catchment area of Preston Lodge High School was supported by just under half of the respondents and the element to extend the catchment area of St Gabriel's Primary School was supported by just over a quarter of all respondents.

- Education Scotland stated that stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors felt that the council had provided good opportunities for being consulted and for giving their views.
- Education Scotland stated that East Lothian Council's proposal to establish a new primary school for Blindwells and alter the catchment area of Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel's RC Primary School to include the Blindwells new settlement has clear educational benefits.
- Education Scotland believes that the proposal has the potential to provide children who will reside in the Blindwells housing development with modern, purpose-built accommodation designed to meet the needs of its learners. The new school will also provide a range of leisure and learning facilities which will potentially benefit the wider community.
- The report went on to state that changing the secondary catchment area of the current Blindwells secondary catchment into Preston Lodge High School catchment, ensures secondary pupils from the Blindwells area will attend a school offering access to a broad curriculum which already has very well established community links.
- Similarly, changing the denominational catchment of Blindwells to St Gabriel's ensures the denominational pupils from Blindwells will be attending a school aligned to the same cluster community and secondary school as their non-denominational peers.

8.4 In taking forward its proposal, the council should continue to work with stakeholders. During the interim 'hosting' period the council should provide both groups of children with a high quality education. The council should ensure that all arrangements are well planned and clearly communicated to all stakeholders to meet the needs of all children who attend Cockenzie Primary School, St Gabriel's RC Primary School, Preston Lodge High School and the new Blindwells school.

8.5 **East Lothian Council's Response to Education Scotland's Report**

East Lothian Council welcomes the report from Education Scotland and accepts its findings. The points raised by Education Scotland within the Education Scotland

Report were also key themes identified through the consultation process and are addressed in Section 7 of this report.

9. TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

- 9.1 As stated in the Consultation Proposal Document, at present the affected area of land at Blindwells (BW1) contains no properties. If approved, the new catchment arrangements for St Gabriel's RC Primary School and Preston Lodge High School would become operational with immediate effect.
- 9.2 Pupils currently attending St Gabriel's RC Primary School and Preston Lodge High School will not be significantly affected as the proposed catchment changes will only impact on future intakes once the Blindwells development (BW1) has planning consent and house build commences.
- 9.3 In respect of early learning & childcare and non-denominational primary school provision for the Blindwells settlement (BW1), it is intended that Blindwells primary school will be established initially at Cockenzie Primary School under a temporary "hosting" arrangement in sufficient time to accommodate primary aged pupils from the new housing developments at the Blindwells site (BW1).
- 9.4 An effective transition programme will be put in place to ensure continuity and progression in learning for those pupils attending Cockenzie Primary School as part of the "hosting" arrangement. The inclusion of children and families in the development of the new school from the outset should minimise any disruption to children's learning.
- 9.5 Parents of eligible pre-school children moving into planned housing in the affected area (BW1) would apply for early learning and childcare provision through the Council's existing Nursery Admissions processes.
- 9.6 Secondary pupils moving into planned housing in the affected area (BW1) following implementation of the proposal, if approved, will attend Preston Lodge High School. Denominational primary pupils will have the option to attend St Gabriel's RC Primary School if they wish to do so.

10. ALLEGED OMISSIONS OR 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 Consultation Proposal Document 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 the Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh from its list of consultees within the original Consultation

Proposal Document. The Council identified the omission two days after the start of the consultation period and contacted the Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh immediately to notify them of the consultation. The Council publicly notified this omission in the documentation by publishing these details in the 'Omissions, Corrections & Amendments' document on the Consultation Hub.

10.3 There were no other areas identified by the Council or respondents as being inaccurate or omitted from the Consultation Proposal Document 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 eighty one questionnaire responses 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 relevant officers across a number of Council Services including Education, Finance, Planning, Property and Road Services. 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 meeting 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 early learning & childcare, primary and secondary education provision for the Blindwells area (BW1).

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 on 29th November 2016;
- 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 27th February 2017, this meets the statutory requirement to publish this report more than three weeks before consideration of the proposal by East Lothian Council.

13. PERSONNEL ISSUES

13.1 No personnel issues have been identified with regard to this proposal.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

14.1 The impacts of the proposals are assessed as set out above and the relevant technical and environmental information is published alongside the Proposed LDP. The interim environmental assessments, site assessments and other technical documents for the Main Issues Report and 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 primary education for Blindwells or alteration to the Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel's RC Primary School catchment areas;
- c) undertake a further consultation exercise on a new proposal.

15.2 In withdrawing the proposal, the Council would not be able to accommodate the educational requirements of eligible pre-school, primary and secondary-aged children arising from planning housing developments in the Blindwells area (BW1).

15.3 Education Scotland has identified that the proposal would lead to clear educational benefits for children. This includes providing a modern, purpose built accommodation designed to meet the needs of its learners as well as providing a range of leisure and learning facilities which will potentially benefit the wider community.

15.4 If the Council adopts the proposal, it would be on the basis that the educational benefits set out in the Consultation Proposal Document 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.

15.5 The key messages deriving from the consultation period are as follows:

- A clear majority of respondents to the questionnaire (88.9%) support the proposal to establish a new primary school facility with early learning and childcare for the Blindwells settlement (BW1). 3.7% of questionnaire respondents oppose this proposal and 7.4% have no opinion.
- A clear majority of respondents to the questionnaire (50.2%) support the proposal to host initially at Cockenzie Primary School before relocating until the new permanent facility is built. 25.9% oppose the “hosting” element and 23.9% have no opinion.
- A greater proportion of respondents to the questionnaire (46.9%) oppose the proposed revised catchment area for Preston Lodge High School. 43.2% support and 9.9% have no opinion.
- A greater proportion of respondents to the questionnaire (50.6%) oppose the proposed revised catchment area for St Gabriel’s RC Primary School. 33.3% support and 16.0% have no opinion.
- During the consultation period, Council officers visited Cockenzie Primary School, St Gabriel’s RC Primary School and Preston Lodge High School, providing good opportunities for pupils and staff to discuss their views. Overall, pupils showed support for the proposal.

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 approves the following:

- Subject to planning permission being approved for the current allocated Blindwells site (Proposal H1 of the East Lothian Local Plan 2008 / Proposal BW1 of the emerging East Lothian Local Development Plan), a new primary school with early

learning and childcare provision will be established for the Blindwells primary school catchment area;

- The new primary school will be established initially at Cockenzie Primary School through a "hosting" arrangement until the new primary school building is complete;
- The new primary school will relocate to its permanent site on the completion of the new building;
- The Preston Lodge High School catchment area will be extended to include the Blindwells new settlement (BW1) and replace the Blindwells secondary catchment area established in 2010 with immediate effect; and
- The St Gabriel's RC Primary School catchment area will be extended to include the Blindwells new settlement (BW1) in alignment with the proposed revised Preston Lodge High School catchment area with immediate effect.

Fiona Robertson
Head of Education
February 2017

STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

**CHANGE TO PRESTON LODGE HIGH SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA AND ESTABLISHMENT OF
A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN BLINDWELLS**

**TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2016
PRESTONPANS COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT:

Fiona Robertson, Head of Education
Chris Webb, Independent Adviser, Chair of meeting
David Scott, Quality Improvement Officer
Liz Shaw, Corporate Finance Manager
Emma Taylor, Planning
Liz McLean, Property
Paul Zochowski, Planning
Rob Lewis, Senior Information Officer
Pauline Smith, Principal Officer (Information and Research)
Katy Johnstone, Graduate Intern
Councillor McKenzie
2 members of the public

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

Chris Webb introduced himself and outlined the purpose of the meeting.
Fiona Robertson reiterated that this evening's meeting was being held to discuss the following proposal:

1. The establishment of a new school, with primary and early learning and childcare provision, for the Blindwells primary school catchment area.
2. Establishing the new primary school initially within Cockenzie Primary School and relocating to its permanent site on the completion of the new building.
3. The alteration to the Preston Lodge High School catchment area to include the Blindwells primary school catchment area, as defined by Blindwells new settlement (LDP Proposal BW1), currently in the Blindwells secondary catchment area (established in 2010).

4. The alteration to the St Gabriel's RC Primary School catchment area to include the Blindwells new settlement (BW1) in alignment with the proposed revised Preston Lodge High School catchment area.

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

- The Strategic Development Plan for South East Scotland (SDP) was approved by Scottish Ministers in June 2013.
- The SDP with its Supplementary Guidance on Housing Land requires the Local Development Plan (LDP) to ensure sufficient housing land is available to deliver 10,050 homes during the period 2009-2024 with 6,250 of those homes capable of being delivered across East Lothian in the period to 2019.
- To accommodate these strategic development requirements, East Lothian Council approved a Proposed LDP 2016 for representation on 6th September 2016.
- On 24th February 2015, approval was given by East Lothian Council to undertake consultations relating to the school estate (schools, catchment areas, locations) as necessary to support the emerging LDP.
- As part of the LDP 2016, the Blindwells new settlement (area "A") is one of the main proposals retained from the LDP 2008.
- Blindwells settlement (area "A") is currently allocated for mixed use development and circa 1,600 homes.
- Land to east of Blindwells safeguarded to expand (to circa 6,000 homes).
- However: no comprehensive solution for the larger settlement to the east, as yet.
- The 1,600 homes in area "A" require a new primary education facility with early learning & childcare provision.
- Secondary provision for this housing development can be permanently provided by Preston Lodge High school, if housing does not expand beyond current allocation of 1,600 homes.
- If unable to grow beyond 1,600 homes, not a feasible solution to have a permanent on site secondary school at the Blindwells site, for the projected secondary pupil numbers.

Fiona outlined the catchment maps. Section A on the map shows the proposed addition to the current Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel's RC Primary catchment areas.

Fiona then highlighted the proposal. To accommodate the projected pupil population from the current allocation (1,600 homes) the council proposes:

- Establish a permanent early learning & childcare and primary school capacity at the Blindwells site.
- Blindwells primary school established initially at Cockenzie Primary School, under a temporary “hosting” arrangement, for up to 36 months – until the permanent Blindwells primary school facility is delivered.

To accommodate the projected pupil population from the current allocation (1,600 homes) the council proposes:

- Secondary school capacity will be provided at Preston Lodge High School (via a permanent extension to the school). Preston Lodge would continue to serve the Cockenzie Primary School, Longniddry Primary School, Prestonpans Infant & Nursery/Primary Schools and St Gabriel’s RC Primary School catchment areas.
- Capacity will be provided at St Gabriel’s RC Primary School for projected denominational pupils arising from the Blindwells site (area “A”).

Fiona then went on to explain the projected population data:

- Blindwells Primary School: Projected Pupil Population for proposed 1,600 houses in area “A”, require peak school roll of 700 primary pupils (24 classes). Pre-school provision of 110 places.
- Projected pupils arising from area “A” in first 3 years (during “hosting” arrangement at Cockenzie Primary School:

August, Year 1 = 0 pupils (1 class)

August, Year 2 = 7 pupils (1 class)

August, Year 3 = 30 pupils (2 classes)

- **Preston Lodge High School:** Secondary pupils arising from housing with consent and LDP (including area “A”), in excess of 1500 (in 2036). Phased permanent extension required at school.
- **St Gabriels RC Primary School:** Projected peak roll of 238 pupils in 2036 (9 classes).

Fiona Robertson then outlined the Educational Benefits through:

- Providing a hub for learning, activities and facilities that will make a contribution to improving health and wellbeing and achievement;

- Shared flexible learning and teaching spaces in the new school will enable staff to work together in a collaborative manner and provide more opportunities for co-operative working between pupils;
- Enabling the full potential of the use of technologies to enhance learning and teaching.

Fiona went on to explain the “Hosting” and transition arrangements:

- Key priority for officers is development of “hosting” arrangement.
- Comprehensive transition programme to support transition into new school.
- Hosting arrangement will last up to 36 months – subject to acceptable start date and programming for development at Blindwells site.

Fiona summed up the project time line:

- Emerging Local Development Plan (LDP)
- Impact assessment of LDP on East Lothian School Estate
- Proposal of PLHS Catchment change & new primary at Blindwells
- Statutory Consultation
- Final Proposal Paper
- Council Approval (catchment established immediately)
- User Reference Group
- Transitional and Leadership Arrangements
- New primary school and nursery facility open

Chris Webb invited questions from the public.

Councillor McKenzie asked about the hosting at Cockenzie Primary School and sought clarification on when children come from Blindwells, will they share outside space but have a separate teacher and have their own identity.

Fiona Robertson confirmed that they will be separate and have separate teachers but will share outside space. They will have their own identity but in the interim there will be shared headship. Fiona Robertson stressed that there has to be flexibility around groupings and how best to provide the education. In terms of how the authority would look at forming classes and determining the best education provision, the authority will explore this when looking at the different stages of the children that materialise from the development as it moves on.

Andrew Crummy, Preston/Seton/Gosford Area Partnership asked when the proposed start date would be.

Paul Zochowski explained that there is no exact proposed start date as yet. Blindwells is a site that has been allocated for some time. There is a planning application in the system for Blindwells - which has not yet been approved - and from a Council's perspective, would like this to start as soon as possible. Liz McLean advised that some modelling has been done around the anticipated annual completion rates and this is what has informed the pupil role projections. The anticipated commencement date is 2021 for the housing completions to commence. There are very detailed discussions taking place at the moment with the developer and some of the technical issues around the site.

Pauline O'Brien, Chair of Preston Lodge Parent Council raised concerns about the phased extension at Preston Lodge High School and the disruption to pupils.

Fiona Robertson mentioned the expansion that is currently happening at Dunbar Grammar School. The department has supported the senior management team to provide additional management time to be released to ensure that disruption to pupils is as limited as possible.

Fiona also highlighted the opportunities that it gives the school to think about that additional provision and what will be provided in the additional provision.

Liz McLean advised that the council does have experience in expansion projects and particularly in the procurement of contractors. As much as possible there would be minimum disruption to the internal alterations, with this taking place during summer holiday period. There will be full consultation with the Education Department, School, Parent Council and Head Teacher.

Pauline O'Brien also raised concerns about the people who are living near the school as they could be living with a building site for a number of years and the residents may not be aware of this.

Liz McLean advised that this would have to be managed and would come into consideration in terms of the scale of each of the phases. David Scott mentioned the extension at Pinkie St Peter's Primary School and highlighted that there was minimal disruption in terms of the teaching and learning. Chris Webb reiterated that every step will be taken to minimise the impact on both the community and the children and young people.

Pauline O'Brien made reference to the 9 classes at St Gabriel' RC and felt that parents would automatically think about composite classes and thought that this might be one for reassurance to parents.

Fiona Robertson explained that the authority does operate composite classes across the school estate, however engagement with the community and the school around what the arrangements would be, will be important.

Pauline O'Brien asked if children will be transported to Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriels RC from Blindwells.

Fiona Robertson advised that the distance will be taken into account and the Transport Policy would be applied, however the pupils who are being hosted at Cockenzie Primary School will be transported.

The Officers were unable to provide the distance from Blindwells to Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel's RC Primary School however Fiona Robertson agreed to provide information on this.

There will be a transport plan put in place and part of that plan would be to look at safer routes to school. Further information on the transport plan and infrastructure will be provided.

Andrew Crummy asked about the expansion to Preston Lodge High School and what that means.

Fiona Robertson explained that the expansion is to extend the number of classrooms within the building and the facilities. Liz McLean advised that the expansion will take account of the provision of pupils from the likely increase in accommodation. This will include anything from general classrooms to specialist spaces like science labs and social spaces. There will be new buildings required. There will be opportunities to improve and enhance what is already there.

Andrew Crummy then asked if there was any area of Preston Lodge that was 'lagging behind' at the moment and through this be able to upgrade.

Liz McLean advised that at the moment the school has the accommodation that it needs for the number of pupils.

Andrew Crummy then asked where the new facilities will be on the Preston Lodge site.

Liz McLean explained that the most likely area for expansion is to the east of the school and there is also some space to the west of the school.

Andrew Crummy also asked what the Preston Lodge High School roll will be when it reaches its peak.

Pauline Smith confirmed that it will increase to just over 1500, it is currently just over 1000. Pauline advised that there are a number of different housing proposals that are feeding in along with this development.

Andrew Crummy then asked if Preston Lodge would get more funding due to the increase in school roll.

Fiona Robertson advised that the funding would be in line with the increasing roll and the staffing required.

Andrew Crummy also asked what the average size of a secondary school was.

Fiona Robertson explained that the size of secondary schools vary quite considerably, however 1500 pupils would be slightly above average but it is hard to tell because school estates are changing all the time. The largest secondary school in Scotland has a school roll of 2000, which is in Glasgow.

Chris Webb highlighted that 1500 allows the school to offer a very rich curriculum for the pupils and can deliver a very good senior phase curriculum.

Andrew Crummy asked if there would be more consultation on this and how to engage more parents on this.

Fiona Robertson advised that the authority has engaged with Parent Councils, have invited Parent Council members to meetings and had drop in sessions. There has been a range of opportunities for the wider community to engage.

Councillor McKenzie suggested that it might help if this was on the agenda for each of the Parent Councils and Area Partnership meetings.

Pauline O'Brien suggested that perhaps because this has been spoken about for some time and perhaps once the community know that the building works have started, a more meaningful conversation could be had with the community.

Fiona Robertson advised that the authority does intend to engage as the development moves forward. The first stage is to move the proposal through for Council approval and there will be plans in place from that point forward in relation to the communication and engagement plan.

Chris Webb drew the meeting to a close and thanked everyone who attended the meeting.

Appendix 2:

This is a summary of each category of respondent, in relation to the extent to which they agree/disagree. Please Note: A respondent can identify as more than one category - therefore the totals in the tables below do not add up to the total number of responses received via questionnaire (81)

Q1 - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to establish a new primary school (with early learning and childcare) in the Blindwells primary school catchment area?

Table 1

All responses:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
	45	27	6		3	81		88.9%	3.7%

Table 2

Parent of Pupil at:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	39	23	5		3	70		88.6%	4.3%
Preston Lodge High School	10	8	2		1	21		85.7%	4.8%
St Gabriel's RC Primary	27	21	5			53		90.6%	0.0%
Cockenzie Primary	5	1			2	8		75.0%	25.0%
Prestonpans Infant	7				1	8		87.5%	12.5%
Prestonpans Primary	4	1				5		100.0%	0.0%
Longniddry Primary		1				1		100.0%	0.0%
Other School	2					2		100.0%	0.0%

Table 3.../

Table 3

Parent of Future Pupil at:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	23	4	1		3	31		87.1%	9.7%
Preston Lodge High School	14	2	1		3	20		80.0%	15.0%
St Gabriel's RC Primary	11	2				13		100.0%	0.0%
Cockenzie Primary	1				1	2		50.0%	50.0%
Prestonpans Infant	1				1	2		50.0%	50.0%
Prestonpans Primary	3				1	4		75.0%	25.0%
Longniddry Primary		1				1		100.0%	0.0%
Other School									

Table 4

Pupil Attending:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	1		1			2		50.0%	0.0%
Preston Lodge High School	1		1			2		50.0%	0.0%
St Gabriel's RC Primary									
Cockenzie Primary									
Prestonpans Infant									
Prestonpans Primary									
Longniddry Primary									
Other School									

Table 5.../

Table 5

Member of staff at:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	4	4			1	9		88.9%	11.1%
Preston Lodge High School	1	2			1	4		75.0%	25.0%
St Gabriel's RC Primary	3					3		100.0%	0.0%
Cockenzie Primary									
Prestonpans Infant		1				1		100.0%	0.0%
Prestonpans Primary									
Longniddry Primary									
Other School		1				1		100.0%	0.0%

Table 6

"Other" Category	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
All "Other" Categories		1				1		100.00%	0.0%

Table 7

Parent of pupils aged:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	42	25	5		3	75		89.3%	4.0%
Not yet in Education	7	1				8		100.0%	0.0%
Pre-school Education (3-5 year old)	13	7			2	22		90.9%	9.1%
P1-P3	20	14	2		1	37		91.9%	2.7%
P4-P7	18	12	3		1	34		88.2%	2.9%
S1 - S6	10	8	2		1	21		85.7%	4.8%
No longer in school Education		1						100.0%	0.0%

Table 8

Catchment	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total	% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	45	27	6		3	81	88.9%	3.7%
Preston Lodge High School	14	10	2		1	27	88.9%	3.7%
St Gabriel's RC Primary	21	11	4			36	88.9%	0.0%
Cockenzie Primary	6	1			1	8	87.5%	12.5%
Prestonpans Infant	3	1			1	5	80.0%	20.0%
Prestonpans Primary	2	1				3	100.0%	0.0%
Longniddry Primary	1	1				2	100.0%	0.0%
Other School		2				2	100.0%	0.0%

Q2 - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to establish the new Blindwells catchment primary (and early learning and childcare) school at Cockenzie Primary School, through a hosting arrangement, until the new school building is complete?

Table 1

All responses:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total	% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
	13	28	19	6	15	81	50.2%	25.9%

Table 2

Parent of Pupil at:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total	% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	11	24	18	2	14	69	50.2%	23.2%
Preston Lodge High School	1	7	7		6	21	38.1%	28.6%
St Gabriel's RC Primary	10	21	17	2	2	52	59.6%	7.7%
Cockenzie Primary		1			7	8	12.5%	87.5%
Prestonpans Infant	2	2	2		2	8	50.0%	25.0%
Prestonpans Primary	2	3				5	100.0%	0.0%
Longniddry Primary					1	1	0.0%	100.0%
Other School		1	1			2	50.0%	0.0%

Table 3

Parent of Future Pupil at:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	8	6	6	2	8	30		46.7%	33.3%
Preston Lodge High School	4	3	5	1	7	20		35.0%	40.0%
St Gabriel's RC Primary	5	4	3	1		13		69.2%	7.7%
Cockenzie Primary					2	2		0.0%	100.0%
Prestonpans Infant					2	2		0.0%	100.0%
Prestonpans Primary	1	1			2	4		50.0%	50.0%
Longniddry Primary					1	1		0.0%	100.0%
Other School									

Table 4

Pupil Attending:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	1			1		2		50.0%	50.0%
Preston Lodge High School	1			1		2		50.0%	50.0%
St Gabriel's RC Primary									
Cockenzie Primary									
Prestonpans Infant									
Prestonpans Primary									
Longniddry Primary									
Other School									

Table 5.../

Table 5

Member of staff at:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL		4	1	2	2	9		44.4%	44.4%
Preston Lodge High School		2		1	1	4		50.0%	50.0%
St Gabriel's RC Primary		1	1	1		3		33.3%	33.3%
Cockenzie Primary									
Prestonpans Infant		1				1		100.0%	0.0%
Prestonpans Primary									
Longniddry Primary									
Other School					1	1		0.0%	100.0%

Table 6

"Other" Category	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
All "Other" Categories					1	1		0.00%	100.0%

Table 7

Parent of pupils aged:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	12	26	19	4	14	75		50.7%	24.0%
Not yet in Education		1	4	1	2	8		12.5%	37.5%
Pre-school Education (3-5 year old)	4	8	5	1	4	22		54.6%	22.7%
P1-P3	9	15	5	1	7	37		64.9%	21.6%
P4-P7	4	12	13	2	3	34		47.1%	14.7%
S1 - S6	1	7	7		6	21		38.1%	28.6%
No longer in school Education		1				1		100.0%	0.0%

Table 8

Catchment	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total	% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	13	28	19	6	15	81	50.6%	25.9%
Preston Lodge High School	4	9	6	2	4	25	52.0%	24.0%
St Gabriel's RC Primary	7	13	12	2	2	36	55.6%	11.1%
Cockenzie Primary		1	1		4	6	16.7%	66.7%
Prestonpans Infant		3			2	5	60.0%	40.0%
Prestonpans Primary	2	1				3	100.0%	0.0%
Longniddry Primary				1	1	2	0.0%	100.0%
Other School		1		2	3	6	16.7%	83.3%

Q3 - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to extend the Preston Lodge High School catchment to include the Blindwells new settlement?

Table 1

All responses:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total	% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
	14	21	8	15	23	81	43.2%	46.9%

Table 2

Parent of Pupil at:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total	% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	10	20	8	13	19	70	42.9%	45.7%
Preston Lodge High School	3	3	4	4	7	21	28.6%	52.4%
St Gabriel's RC Primary	10	16	8	12	7	53	49.1%	35.8%
Cockenzie Primary		2			6	8	25.0%	75.0%
Prestonpans Infant	1	3			4	8	50.0%	50.0%
Prestonpans Primary	1	1			3	5	40.0%	60.0%
Longniddry Primary					1	1	0.0%	100.0%
Other School		1			1	2	50.0%	50.0%

Table 3

Parent of Future Pupil at:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	4	5	2	4	16	31		29.0%	64.5%
Preston Lodge High School	3	2	1	1	13	20		25.0%	70.0%
St Gabriel's RC Primary	2	3	1	3	4	13		38.5%	53.8%
Cockenzie Primary					2	2		0.0%	100.0%
Prestonpans Infant					2	2		0.0%	100.0%
Prestonpans Primary		1			3	4		25.0%	75.0%
Longniddry Primary					1	1		0.0%	100.0%
Other School									

Table 4

Pupil Attending:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	1			1		2		50.0%	50.0%
Preston Lodge High School	1			1		2		50.0%	50.0%
St Gabriel's RC Primary									
Cockenzie Primary									
Prestonpans Infant									
Prestonpans Primary									
Longniddry Primary									
Other School									

Table 5.../

Table 5

Member of staff at:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	3	1		2	3	9		44.4%	55.6%
Preston Lodge High School	3				1	4		75.0%	25.0%
St Gabriel's RC Primary		1		1	1	3		33.3%	66.7%
Cockenzie Primary									
Prestonpans Infant				1		1		0.0%	100.0%
Prestonpans Primary									
Longniddry Primary									
Other School					1	1		0.0%	100.0%

Table 6

"Other" Category	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
All "Other" Categories					1	1		0.0%	100.0%

Table 7

Parent of pupils aged:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	11	21	8	14	21	75		42.7%	46.7%
Not yet in Education	1	2			5	8		37.5%	62.5%
Pre-school Education (3-5 year old)	3	9	1	3	6	22		54.5%	40.9%
P1-P3	7	11	2	9	8	37		48.6%	45.9%
P4-P7	3	11	5	5	10	34		41.2%	44.1%
S1 - S6	3	3	4	4	7	21		28.6%	52.4%
No longer in school Education									

Table 8

Catchment	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total	% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	14	21	8	15	23	81	43.2%	46.9%
Preston Lodge High School	6	5				11	100.0%	0.0%
St Gabriel's RC Primary	5	10	6	8	7	36	41.7%	41.7%
Cockenzie Primary		2			4	6	33.3%	66.7%
Prestonpans Infant		3			2	5	60.0%	40.0%
Prestonpans Primary	1	1		1		3	66.7%	33.3%
Longniddry Primary					2	2	0.0%	100.0%
Other School	2				2	4	50.0%	50.0%

Q4 - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to extend the St Gabriel's RC Primary School catchment area to include the Blindwells new settlement?

Table 1

All responses:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total	% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
	11	16	13	19	22	81	33.3%	50.6%

Table 2

Parent of Pupil at:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total	% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	9	13	12	17	19	70	31.4%	51.4%
Preston Lodge High School	1	5	5	4	6	21	28.6%	47.6%
St Gabriel's RC Primary	7	11	6	16	13	53	34.0%	54.7%
Cockenzie Primary		2	5		1	8	25.0%	12.5%
Prestonpans Infant	2	1	1	3	1	8	37.5%	50.0%
Prestonpans Primary		2		1	2	5	40.0%	60.0%
Longniddry Primary					1	1	0.0%	100.0%
Other School				2		2	0.0%	100.0%

Table 3

Parent of Future Pupil at:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	4	3	5	8	11	31		22.6%	61.3%
Preston Lodge High School	3	1	4	4	8	20		20.0%	60.0%
St Gabriel's RC Primary	1	2		5	5	13		23.1%	76.9%
Cockenzie Primary			2			2		0.0%	0.0%
Prestonpans Infant				1	1	2		0.0%	100.0%
Prestonpans Primary		1	1	1	1	4		25.0%	50.0%
Longniddry Primary					1	1		0.0%	100.0%
Other School									

Table 4

Pupil Attending:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	1		1			2		50.0%	0.0%
Preston Lodge High School	1		1			2		50.0%	0.0%
St Gabriel's RC Primary									
Cockenzie Primary									
Prestonpans Infant									
Prestonpans Primary									
Longniddry Primary									
Other School									

Table 5.../

Table 5

Member of staff at:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	1	2	1	2	3	9		33.3%	55.6%
Preston Lodge High School	1	2	1			4		75.0%	0.0%
St Gabriel's RC Primary				1	2	3		0.0%	100.0%
Cockenzie Primary									
Prestonpans Infant				1		1		0.0%	100.0%
Prestonpans Primary									
Longniddry Primary									
Other School					1	1		0.0%	100.0%

Table 6

"Other" Category	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
All "Other" Categories					1	1		0.0%	100.0%

Table 7

Parent of pupils aged:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	9	15	12	18	21	75		32.0%	52.0%
Not yet in Education		1	1	3	3	8		12.5%	75.0%
Pre-school Education (3-5 year old)		3	6	1	5	22		40.9%	54.5%
P1-P3		7	8	7	8	37		40.5%	40.5%
P4-P7		3	8	5	9	34		32.4%	52.9%
S1 - S6		1	5	5	4	21		28.6%	47.6%
No longer in school Education			1			1		100.0%	0.0%

Table 8

Catchment	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	11	16	13	19	22	81		33.3%	50.6%
Preston Lodge High School	5	5	4	4	7	25		40.0%	44.0%
St Gabriel's RC Primary	4	5	4	12	11	36		25.0%	63.9%
Cockenzie Primary		2	2	1	1	6		33.3%	33.3%
Prestonpans Infant	1	1	1	1	1	5		40.0%	40.0%
Prestonpans Primary	1	1			1	3		66.7%	33.3%
Longniddry Primary					1	1		0.0%	100.0%
Other School		2	2			4		50.0%	0.0%

Appendix 3 - Comments from Questionnaire responses

Of the 81 questionnaire responses, 15 declined permission to publish their comments. However, their representations have been taken account of and responded to in this Consultation Report. The summary of comments below, were made from the remaining 66 responses who gave permission to share their comments.

COMMENT
I am concerned with the level of new housing and how this will impact on current services in the vicinity. I have two children who currently fall into the Prestonpans cluster therefore depending on when this change may or may not take place, could have an impact on friendship made at primary school age, if friends then end up at different schools. Clarification via primary schools is important. Will Longniddry remain in this cluster or perhaps become part of the North Berwick cluster? Many children already attend NB from Longniddry.
Surely if the amount of housing being placed in the area of blindwell site the building of a primary school should be one main priorities for developers instead of money gained from housing. Primary schools in area are all ready near capacity what will extra numbers do to class sizes. And if integration of numbers for Preston lodge does go ahead what measures are in place for these extra numbers or have kids just to be crammed in to fit.
Preston lodge is steeped in a rich history of local villages as because of this PL celebrates a strong sense of community. The diversity works and has always worked It should not be messed with. It would mean dramatic negative changes to more than just the school environment. It would see many community groups loosing their identity and split from long established links with businesses and clubs. This move has more at risk here than a mere rerouting of a school bus
I feel Prestonpans catchment area is already at bursting point and to add another 4000 houses to the mix would just create more problems. The last development of houses within Prestonpans catchment was not taken into consideration with the local schools and to add further to this infrastructure would not be in the best interests of our children already attending the primary and high schools.
I am concerned preston lodge will become too large, and it will impact on my younger sons education. I worry about class sizes, and too many children which may have social issues disrupting the classes more than they are now. As it stands preston lodge is struggling, as proved by exam league tables.
Sorry forgot to mention disruption of primary years at cockenzie whist nw school us built, taking in extra children. These years are so important, the building blocks of their school journey. Where learning is done at such a fast pace. I believe any larger classes will affect this, and not give my son the best education he deserves, in the most important years of his life. ADDED to my concerns for preston lodge in later years. The school struggles to preform now, and I worry that increasing numbers so much will impact on his education.
Our schools are bursting at the seems. Preston lodge are struggling to teach the kid that are already there , never mind adding more. And good old council just like the meeting for the proposals at Cockenzie power station land you put it in one news paper and sneak everything past the community that it involves . It's about time our elected councillors started listening to the people that voted for them.
If there is significant building at Blindwells then is there not justification to ensure the builders build schooling in the Blindwells area for both primary and secondary at the start of the building process.

COMMENT

A new primary school in Blindwells is necessary to provide children with the best education possible and avoid overloading other primaries.

I think adding Blindwells to Prestonlodge High school seems to make sense however, I am concerned about the size of the school in terms of numbers of pupils. I'd be interested to know if Prestonlodge will be refurbished and expanded or if it will be a brand new building. It seems that at the moment some parts of the school have seen better days, Some parts of the grounds are grey and unwelcoming. A new building would fit an education of the 21st century.

I also have questions about keeping St Gabriel's as a Catholic school. Could it not be another non denominational school to accommodate all the new houses which have been built in Prestonpans? East Lothian does not have a Catholic high school and the nearest are St David's in Dalkeith or Holyrood in Edinburgh. It seems to me people send their children to st Gabriel's because it is a small school, near their home or saves them the journey between the Infant school and the primary school of they have several children....but not for religious reasons.

I agree with the proposal to invest in and provide good quality primary and secondary education close to where families live locally.

the class sizes at cockenzie primary school are already large - there is also issues in relation to staffing re teacher numbers. I can see this having a significant impact on the current pupils who attend this school in relation to their learning.

St Gabriel's can more concentrate on pupils if classes are not so big.

PL High School has already lots of pupils and I don't think it can cope with more

Our schools all need extended/updated.

They cannot accept another catchment.

The class sizes already exceed the SNP promise of smaller class sizes.

Teachers would be under pressure and the pupils will not receive the education they deserve.

Fed up of giant schools! East Lothian is being swamped by new housing and schools juts keep getting bigger.

Not enough information. This is first I have heard of this.

St Gabriel's needs a significant extension before it can be used to cover the area.

There are a lot of new build houses and schools are already overloaded. New school is necessary in Prestonpans area.

There is no space in St Gabriel's to do this unless an extension of the school was planned.

St Gabriel's PS already receives more applications than there are places - will St Gabriel's be extended to accommodate the increased catchment area?

What happens to catholic children who live in catchment but cannot get a place at their local catchment catholic school?

As usual Cockenzie is being disregarded by ELC - remember wind turbine development plans.

Why should pupils, teachers and parents at CPS be disadvantaged by a huge housing development being built.

COMMENT

Why do the developers who are going to make plenty profit from the development, build the school at the same time as the houses? Why should the community be disadvantaged by greed of developers and Council?

Why should we pay council tax for inferior child education?

Why is there no consultation at CPS which is going to be affected by the issue - ELC trying to railroad plans through.

If a new school is built then the catchment area should be Tranent. There are enough children already in the catchment area for St Gabriel's and Preston Lodge.

Preston Lodge High School would require significant upgrading. Potential for a new high school to be built on the old power station site perhaps?

There will need to be infrastructure investment to cope with increased numbers. St Gabriel's will need to be expanded to cope with at least two classes per year. Extra building work/new buildings needed.

Education is being stretched currently due to house building in Prestonpans, therefore new estate at Wallyford should cover the Wallyford and Musselburgh catchment

As it is, Prestonpans Primary/Infant Schools cannot cope with the intake of new families coming to the area. All of our schools cannot make provision for anymore families coming to Prestonpans. How these houses were built in the first place before a new school was even built is beyond me. Why has Wallyford and Tranent been given new schools?

Appendix 4 – Pupil Voice Interviews

The Pupil Voice Interviews were a structured workshop session with a representative group of pupils from the school. The following are summaries of the discussions and questions/answers.

PUPIL VOICE

COCKENZIE PRIMARY SCHOOL P1 –P7 PUPIL REPRESENTATIVES

15th November 2016

David Scott and Pauline Smith met with a group of about six pupils and the Head Teacher. David Scott described the proposal and then there was a group discussion around the following questions, the responses are listed below.

What do you think of having a school in Blindwells?

Could be a lot more pupils, almost same size as Cockenzie

Friendly with new pupils who move in

How could you make good relationships with new children?

Find out similarities/likes/dislikes

Play with them

Are there any issues if have different school sharing playground/lunch? Small classes/split stages?

Could do activities together - Assembly Bingo, PE

Invite them for different things we do in school, make them feel welcome

What rooms could use or should they have their own annexe?

ICT room/ class space

Own annexe/separate class rather than 1 or 2 within existing class

Blindwells class would be better in the annexe

Music room could double-up elsewhere in another class, possibly ICT etc

Any difficulties with hosting?

HT - consult in Action Teams and feedback to dept

What about textbooks etc?

May share accommodation but would have own resources for things like that

Would school lunches still be the same?

HT - Yes, in terms of same lunch times. Maybe Blindwells pupils sit with you for lunch.

PUPIL VOICE

ST GABRIEL'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

P1 –P7 PUPIL REPRESENTATIVES

16th November 2016

David Scott and Katy Johnstone met with a group of pupils. David Scott described the proposal and then there was a group discussion around the following questions, the responses are listed below.

Why do we need to get children into a school? (rough approximation of question)

In case they get hurt – children from houses

Children are entitled to an education

What do you think of the school?

Its good but we need more children

What's good about the school?

It's enjoyable

Everything is planned out

Good teachers

The Right to respect

Good because it believes in Jesus

The teachers get on well

The big playground area is good

There is a good quiet zone

Not every class is crammed

What could be improved?

Could do more to respect the world and nature

Would like a yearbook with things like Class clown etc

Bigger variety of books, not that much to read at a higher level

What do you think of more pupils coming into the school?

Wouldn't mind

Distract learning

Harder for teachers and pupils

Got to get used to it

Worried about space, some classes are full, some almost

Not really any spare rooms in the school

Good to have more students

More friends but probably need an extension

Overall good – more friends but issue with space

Would need a bigger kitchen

Need a bigger hall, wouldn't have enough space if more children

Depends on the amount of children that come in, may need more classes e.g. P1 and P1A

Could get rid of the PE cupboards for space – move them to the basement

How would you welcome new pupils?

Welcome in the assembly

Make friends with them

Make them feel at home

Be nice to them, hope they are comfortable

Celebration for them if a lot come in at the same time

Someone shows them around and looks after them

What would you want if you were a new pupil?

Expect people to be friendly – makes them feel at ease

Go in for half a day before you start to see what it's like

Do the small things – good first impressions

Don't try too hard, don't be too nicey nicey, be cool

Overall Feeling

No big issues with children coming in, they should be welcome

Should be able to join any school – should feel they are welcome in the same way everywhere.

PUPIL VOICE

PRESTON LODGE HIGH SCHOOL

S1 –S6 PUPIL REPRESENTATIVES

15th November 2016

David Scott and Pauline Smith met with a group of pupils. David Scott described the proposal and then there was a group discussion around the following questions, the responses are listed below.

How do you feel about more pupils coming into the school?

Would be a welcoming school but need adequate resources and facilities in place.

Look for expansion of school to accommodate them: Class sizes, Teachers

What about the Social Spaces in the school?

Currently more people go out than use social spaces – timeout from school, lunches

They're in wrong place/not big enough/boring/garden (cold)

Corridors are used more, leads to crowding

Canteen/ maths social area for senior pupils but juniors don't have own space

Social space for each year group would help – lack of spaces at the moment.

Classrooms?

Good sized and good number of pupils

Study space is an issue for senior pupils

Assembly not always appropriate – no PCs, not necessarily a quiet space and only part of space is for study

Social studies computer base is available but small room and it's also used in class time

Layout of School?

Sometimes classes are spread out in terms of scheduling

Does space lend itself for positive behaviour?

Lots of nooks and crannys.

Littering

Not that open plan, narrow corridors.

Staff room in awkward place for circulation and moving from one class to next

Sports Facilities?

Good facilities

PE classbase smaller now, staffing increase

Changing rooms are small for whole year groups and scattered around

Music practice rooms small too

How to welcome new pupils to school?

Paired up in classes

Regular meetings with guidance teacher

Signage would help, none just now for this

How could help transition in, establish relationships/friendships?

Pairing up, map of school

Courses – could be coming from different senior phases – how do you integrate into that?

Introduce them to the guidance teacher

Encourage them to join groups – find out what they like

Clubs – many in school, open to all?

Sport clubs (£30 registration fee to join each sport – Active schools)

Clubs in library – magazine club, coding club

STEM club run by CDT

Subject specific clubs

Need to be advertised better

Would a Pupil group actively engaged in inducting throughout the year help?

Yes but takes responsibility off others in class

General Feeling?

Okay with the proposal

Appendix 5: Education Scotland Report

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by East Lothian Council to establish a new primary school for Blindwells and alter the catchment area of Preston Lodge High School to include the Blindwells new settlement.

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 East Lothian Council's proposal to establish a new primary school for Blindwells and alter the catchment area of Preston Lodge High School to include the Blindwells new settlement. 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 neighbouring schools; 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 29 November 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 the proposed new school, Cockenzie Primary School, St Gabriel's RC Primary School, Prestonpans Primary School and Preston Lodge 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 council consulted on the overarching proposal and also on the following associated elements:

- a new primary school with early learning and childcare provision will be established for the Blindwells primary school catchment area;
- the new primary school will be established initially at Cockenzie Primary School through a 'hosting' arrangement until the new primary school building is complete when the new school will transfer to its final site;
- the Preston Lodge High School catchment area will be extended to include the Blindwells new settlement and replace the Blindwells secondary catchment area established in 2010; and
- the St Gabriel's RC Primary School catchment area will be extended to include the Blindwells new settlement in alignment with the proposed revised Preston Lodge High School catchment area.

2.3 The consultation process ran from 8 November 2016 to 20 December 2016. During this period the council held a public meeting at Prestonpans Community Centre which was attended by two parents or other members of the public. Statutory consultees, including Parent Councils of the schools directly involved and the three Community Councils of Longniddry, Cockenzie and Port Seton and Prestonpans, were informed of the consultation in writing. Consultation documentation was published on the East Lothian Council website and copies were available for public consultation at several venues during the consultation period, including the schools concerned. A proforma questionnaire and an email address were made available for responses. The council received 81 responses. Of the responses which provided an overall view about the council's proposal, almost all expressed support. There were considerable differences in responses to the detailed elements in the proposal. The element relating to hosting the new school in Cockenzie Primary School was supported by just less than half of those who responded. The element to extend the catchment area of

Preston Lodge High School was supported by just under half of the respondents. The element to extend the catchment area of St Gabriel's RC Primary School was supported by just over a quarter of all respondents. Stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors felt that the council had provided good opportunities for being consulted and for giving their views.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

3.1 This proposal involves a change to the existing St Gabriel's RC Primary School catchment area, Preston Lodge High School catchment area and Blindwells secondary catchment area. A new primary school will also be established for the Blindwells area. This school has still to be built but will serve planned new housing developments in the Blindwells area on the edge of Prestonpans. The affected area of land currently contains no residential properties. The new primary school will be established initially at Cockenzie Primary School through a 'hosting' arrangement for up to 36 months until the new Blindwells primary school building is complete. Upon completion, the new primary school will relocate to its permanent site.

3.2 The planned new Blindwells primary school will accommodate the projected school roll arising from the proposal. It has the potential to provide children who will attend the new school with a purpose-built learning environment well-suited to their learning needs. East Lothian Council has successfully developed new schools in a number of its communities.

3.3 Almost all parents, pupils and staff who met with HM Inspectors support the proposal. Given that the new housing development has not yet commenced, there were many areas relating to the practicalities of hosting the new Blindwells primary pupils within Cockenzie Primary School and the pressure on the capacity of St Gabriel's RC Primary School to meet an increase in requests to attend a denominational school that were unclear at this time. There is still further detail to be supplied on the timeline for extensions to both Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel's RC Primary School as the proposal shows that both schools will be significantly over capacity as a result of the proposed extension of their catchment areas. East Lothian Council should continue to liaise and communicate with staff, parents, young people and other stakeholders.

3.4 In taking forward its proposal, the council should continue to work with stakeholders and the Headteachers, Parent and Pupil Councils of the Preston Lodge High School cluster and the Prestonpans, Port Seton and Gosford Area Partnership. The council should ensure that interim transition arrangements apply to children living in the new Blindwells housing development who will be initially 'hosted' at Cockenzie Primary School and children who attend Cockenzie Primary School. During the interim 'hosting' period the council should provide both groups of children with a high quality education. These transition arrangements relate to class arrangements and use of existing classroom space as the first groups of children from the new Blindwells catchment begin to attend Cockenzie Primary School. Parents, children and staff from all schools visited by HM Inspectors also wished to continue to be consulted about staffing, safe routes to school, enrolment in the Cockenzie Primary School nursery and access to popular and well attended after school and school holiday programmes. East Lothian Council should continue to do this. The council should

ensure that all arrangements are well planned and clearly communicated to all stakeholders to meet the needs of all children who attend Cockenzie Primary School, St Gabriel's RC Primary School, Preston Lodge High School and the new Blindwells school.

4. Summary

East Lothian Council's proposal to establish a new primary school for Blindwells and alter the catchment area of Preston Lodge High School and St Gabriel's RC Primary School to include the Blindwells new settlement has clear educational benefits. The proposal has the potential to provide children who will reside in the Blindwells housing development with modern, purpose-built accommodation designed to meet the needs of its learners. The new school will provide a range of leisure and learning facilities which will potentially benefit the wider community. Changing the secondary catchment area of the current Blindwells secondary catchment into Preston Lodge High School catchment, ensures secondary pupils from the Blindwells area will attend a school offering access to a broad curriculum which already has very well established community links. Similarly, changing the denominational catchment of Blindwells to St Gabriel's ensures the denominational pupils from Blindwells will be attending a school aligned to the same cluster community and secondary school as their non-denominational peers.

Almost all stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors support the proposal. In taking its proposal forward, the council should continue to engage with all stakeholders.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
January 2017**