

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 the Letham Mains Primary School Catchment Area

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To approve the recommendations set out within the Consultation Report (Appendix 1) on the proposal to extend Letham Mains Primary School catchment area to include the Letham Mains Expansion Area (LDP Proposal HN2, *hereinafter referred to as 'HN2'*), currently in the Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School catchment areas.

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. Letham Mains Primary School catchment area will be extended to include the Letham Mains Expansion Area (HN2) and remove this area of land from the Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School catchment areas; and
 - b. the new catchment and admission arrangements for Letham Mains Primary School, Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School would become operational with immediate effect.

- ii. withdraw the proposal and make no alteration to the Letham Mains Primary School, Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School catchment areas. In withdrawing the proposal, the Council would not be able to accommodate the educational requirements of primary-aged pupils arising from the Land at Letham Mains Expansion area (HN2). The projected pupil numbers arising from both this site and other committed housing developments outlined in the Proposed LDP 2016 cannot be accommodated in Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School.
- 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. The proposed housing development at Letham Mains Expansion (HN2) identified in the 2016 Proposed LDP will require the revision to the Letham Mains catchment area for such development to be delivered. The Letham Mains Primary School will also need to be further extended to accommodate the proposed expansion of the Letham Mains allocation (HN2).
- 3.5 The statutory consultation regarding the proposed revised catchment area for Letham Mains Primary School 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.

- 3.6 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 in Haddington.
- 3.7 Publicity material detailed an East Lothian Council email address, phone number and postal address, to which representations and any other queries could be submitted.
- 3.8 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).
- 3.9 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

- 3.10 The Council received 26 responses to the questionnaire during the consultation period.
- 3.11 Within this small sample size 46.2% of respondents to the questionnaire support the proposal. 38.5% of questionnaire respondents oppose the proposal while 15.4% had no opinion.
- 3.12 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 Haddington community. A summary of responses by demographic is provided in the Consultation Report (Appendix 1).

3.13 During the consultation period, Council officers visited Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School providing good opportunities for pupils to discuss their views. Overall, pupils showed support for the proposal.

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

- Concerns over the proposed revised catchment area for Letham Mains
- Concerns over building a separate primary school
- Community Division, SIMD profile & diversity
- Capacity for "Hosting" Arrangements
- Consultation with Staff & Pupils
- Staff Retention
- Housing Developments not supported by the Community

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

3.15 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).

3.16 Education Scotland reported that the proposal to extend the catchment area of the planned Letham Mains Primary School has clear educational benefits to children in each of the affected schools:

- the proposal has the potential to provide children who will reside in the Letham Mains housing development with modern, purpose built accommodation designed to meet the needs of its learners;
- children who come to live in the planned housing development at Letham Mains Expansion area (HN2) attending Letham Mains Primary School will reduce the possibility of overcrowding at both Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School.

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

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

- continue to engage with stakeholders over its planned transition arrangements for children who will attend Letham Mains Primary School.

- 3.19 Following receipt of a total of 26 questionnaire responses and consideration of oral representations made at a public meeting held during the consultation period, a range of officers from Education, 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.
- 3.20 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 and primary education provision for the Letham Mains Expansion area (HN2).

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 – The planned new Letham Mains Primary School will be extended to accommodate the projected primary-aged pupils arising from the Letham Mains expansion site (HN2) and additional pre-school capacity will also be provided. Developer contributions will be sought from the developers of relevant sites in respect of the additional education capacity required to accommodate the cumulative impact of development, which will be the subject of legal agreement with relevant landowners.

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 planned new Letham Mains Primary School.

- 6.2 Personnel – The Education Service closely monitors school rolls and plans staff recruitment in response to increases in rolls. Letham Mains 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 Letham Mains Primary 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 school consultation on the proposed change to the Letham Mains Primary School catchment area (Appendix 1).

AUTHOR'S NAME	Fiona Robertson
DESIGNATION	Head of Education
CONTACT INFO	frobertson@eastlothian.gov.uk Tel No – 01620 827834
DATE	13 th March 2017



EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL
RESOURCES AND PEOPLE SERVICES
EDUCATION
CONSULTATION REPORT

**REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED
CHANGE TO THE LETHAM MAINS PRIMARY SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA**

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:

- The Letham Mains Primary School catchment area will be extended to include the Letham Mains Expansion Area (LDP Proposal HN2, *hereinafter referred to as 'HN2'*), currently in the Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School catchment areas.

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

- Haddington Infant School
- King's Meadow 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 1st December 2016
- c) Oral representations made to it at the public drop-in session
- 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 1st December 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 proposal.

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. The Proposed LDP sets out East Lothian Council's proposed spatial strategy for East Lothian. As part of this, the Land at Letham Mains Expansion, Haddington (HN2) is one of the main development proposals in the Haddington Cluster which is proposed to be allocated for a development of circa 275 homes.
- 2.5 The Letham Mains Expansion (HN2) will form an extension of the original Letham Mains allocation (LDP Proposal HN1, *hereinafter referred to as 'HN1'*), which is proposed to be allocated for a mixed use development for circa 800 homes plus education and community facilities
- 2.6 Significant additional education capacity at primary and secondary level will be needed to support the new housing development proposed in the Haddington cluster including a planned new primary school for the original strategic housing site allocation at Letham Mains (HN1). 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.
- 2.7 In Haddington there is significant constraint in primary education capacity. Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School have significant capacity constraints beyond that needed to accommodate the proposed sites.
- 2.8 Whilst a new primary school is planned at Letham Mains (HN1) and a catchment area is associated with the new primary school, approved at Council Committee for Education on 15th March 2011, the school has not yet been delivered and will be required to enable the development of the site at Letham Mains.
- 2.9 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. The proposed

housing development at Letham Mains Expansion (HN2) identified in the 2016 Proposed LDP will require the revision to the Letham Mains catchment area for such development to be delivered.

2.10 The Letham Mains Primary School will also need to be further extended to accommodate the proposed expansion of the Letham Mains allocation (HN2).

2.11 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.

2.12 The proposed revised catchment area for Letham Mains Primary School will directly affect the following schools and was considered in the Consultation Proposal Document:

- Haddington Infant School
- King's Meadow Primary School

3. CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The main considerations relating to the alterations to the Letham Mains Primary School, Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow 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 and primary education provision for the Letham Mains Expansion area (HN2) 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:
- Haddington Infant School
 - King's Meadow Primary School
 - St Mary's RC Primary School
 - Knox Academy
 - Compass School, Haddington
 - Pear Tree Nursery, Haddington
 - Pumpkin Patch Nursery, Haddington
 - John Gray Centre, Haddington
 - 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 proposal on which consultation took place was to:
- Extend Letham Mains Primary School catchment area to include the land at Letham Mains 'South West Field', referred to as Letham Mains Expansion (HN2), and remove this area of land from the Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School catchment areas.
- 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/lethammains-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/lethammains-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 **Haddington Town House** on **1st December 2016 at 7.00pm**.

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

Venue	Date	Time
King’s Meadow Primary School	22 November 2016	12:00pm – 5:00pm

4.14 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following persons, including those indirectly affected, were consulted:

- The Parent Councils of Haddington Infant School and King’s Meadow Primary School;
- The parents of pupils at Haddington Infant School and King’s Meadow Primary School;
- The parents of any children expected to attend Haddington Infant School and King’s Meadow Primary School within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper;
- The pupils at Haddington Infant School and King’s Meadow Primary School;
- The staff at Haddington Infant School and King’s Meadow Primary School;
- Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership;
- Haddington Community Council.

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

- Haddington Infant School
- King’s Meadow Primary School

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

- Knox Academy
- St Mary’s RC 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 in Haddington. 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 Haddington Infant School, King's Meadow Primary School, St Mary's RC Primary School and Knox Academy. 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 session to discuss the proposal;
- A representative group of pupils from both current catchment schools attended a workshop where they were able to express their views on the proposal;
- All Parent Councils in the Haddington Cluster were invited to attend a joint meeting to discuss the proposal.

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 Haddington Town House on Thursday 1st December 2016 which was attended by four members of the public. 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, a drop-in session was arranged during the consultation period, enabling any member of the public to ask questions and discuss the proposal, the consultation process and how they could make representations. The most commonly asked questions at this 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 all Haddington schools, as well as all Haddington Partnership Nurseries, John Gray Centre and John Muir House in Haddington.
- 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 twenty six responses to its questionnaire. A majority of respondents to the questionnaire (46.2%) support the proposal. 38.5% of questionnaire respondents oppose the proposal while 15.4% had 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 categorised by demographic are as follows:

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

Overall, a greater proportion of parents of pupils currently at school, agreed with the proposal than disagreed. In total, 47.6% supported the proposal, 38.0% opposed the proposal and 14.4% of respondents had no opinion. The greatest proportion who supported the proposal was parents of pupils at Haddington Infant School (53.3% agreed/strongly agreed) and in the category of 'Other School' (80% agreed/strongly agreed). The greatest proportion who opposed the proposal were parents of pupils at King's Meadow Primary School (54.6% disagreed/strongly disagreed).

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

Overall, a greater proportion of parents of future pupils at schools agreed with the proposal than disagreed. In total, 40.0% supported the proposal, 33.3% opposed the proposal and 26.7% of respondents had no opinion. There were equal

proportions of respondents supporting/opposing the proposal from parents of future pupils at Haddington Infant (33.3%/33.3%) and King's Meadow Primary (40%/40%). The greatest proportion who opposed the proposal were parents of future pupils in the 'Other School' category (80% disagreed/strongly disagreed).

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

A greater proportion of parents of pupils in pre-school education (50%), P1-P3 (53.3%) and S1-S6 (60%) supported the proposal. Those parents of pupils who are no longer in education (100%), in P4-P7 (50%) or are not yet in Education (71.4%) opposed the proposal.

- **Pupils currently attending school:**

No responses within this demographic.

- **Members of Staff:**

Only one respondent identified themselves within this demographic. The respondent opposed the proposal.

- **“Other” Respondents:**

These respondents included other local residents, members of the public. There were equal proportions of 'other' respondents supporting/opposing the proposal from this demographic (50%/50%).

- **Catchment of Respondent:**

A greater proportion of respondents from both Haddington Infant and King's Meadow Primary catchment areas supported (44.4%) the proposal than opposed (38.9%). There were equal proportions of respondents supporting/opposing the proposal within the 'Other School' catchment category (50%/50%).

6.7 During the consultation period, Council officers visited Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary 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 written and oral responses and can be grouped as follows:

- Concerns over the proposed revised catchment area for Letham Mains
- Concerns over building a separate primary school
- Community Division, SIMD profile & diversity
- Capacity for “Hosting” Arrangements
- Consultation with Staff & Pupils
- Staff Retention

- Housing Developments not supported by the Community

7. EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO QUESTIONNAIRE AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS

7.1 Concerns over the proposed revised catchment area for Letham Mains

7.1.1 As stated in the Consultation Proposal Document, the proposed revised catchment area for Letham Mains Primary School is defined by the site boundaries of the committed and planned developments at Letham Mains (HN1 and HN2) and the planned primary school at Letham Mains will serve the proposed revised Letham Mains catchment only. The existing properties to the South and west of the proposed revised catchment area and the new developments to the north and south of Letham Mains (LDP Proposals: Dovecot HN3, Gateside East HN4 and Gateside West HN5) of the committed and planned developments at Letham Mains would remain within the Haddington Infant and King's Meadow Primary schools catchment area, and no change is proposed to this arrangement.

7.1.2 The original Letham Mains development (HN1) is of sufficient size to require a new primary school and the planned new primary school and associated catchment area for this development was approved by Council on 15th March 2011 following a statutory school consultation. The planned new permanent primary school facility at Letham Mains, which received planning permission on 5th June 2015, has a planned capacity to accommodate the projected pupils arising from the committed Letham Mains development (HN1), the boundary of which defines its current associated catchment area. The land that has already been allocated for the planned new primary school facility is sufficient to allow a permanent extension to the school to accommodate the projected pupils arising from the proposed Letham Mains Expansion area (HN2) in addition to the projected pupils from the original Letham Mains allocation (HN1). However, the agreed school campus site is not of a sufficient size to include a larger catchment revised beyond the boundary of the two Letham Mains developments (HN1 and HN2).

7.1.3 The new housing developments to the north and south of Letham Mains (HN3, HN4 and HN5) came at a time when the area for the school site had already been established. The Letham site was sized and established for the allocation HN1 in the 2008 LDP, with some provision for expansion of Letham, now HN2. Dovecot (HN3) was granted consent under appeal in the interim and the Gateside allocations, HN4 and 5 were allocated for employment in the 2008 LDP when the Letham site was established. The masterplan for Letham (HN1) is minded to be granted subject to a S.75 agreement in place. Any change to the planned Letham campus for HN1 and HN2 would trigger a need for land and a bigger school, both of which would mean significant additional capital cost to the Council and would not represent best value when capacity can be provided with contributions sought from developers, at

Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School to accommodate the pupils arising from sites HN3, HN4 and HN5.

7.1.4 The land at West Letham, subject to Proposal of Application Notice 16/00020/PAN', is not proposed to be allocated in the Council's Proposed Local Development Plan and is not as yet subject of a planning application. Any application for this would be contrary to the existing and proposed plans and, if over 300 units, could not be supported under the Council's Housing Land Supply: Interim Guidance.

7.2 Concerns over building a separate primary school for Letham Mains & Community Division

7.2.1 The campus sites of Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School are constrained and there is no potential to extend either school site to provide the scale of accommodation required to accommodate all the projected pupils from both of the Letham Mains Housing sites (HN1 and HN2) in addition to the other planned and committed housing set out in the Proposed LDP 2016 at Dovecot (HN3), Gateside East (HN4), Gateside West (HN5) and Alderston (HN7), within the Haddington Infant & King's Meadow Primary school catchment areas.

7.2.2 While a new local centre will be introduced at Letham Mains (HN1) as part of the mixed-use development, those moving into the new committed and planned housing developments at Letham Mains (HN1 and HN2) will be part of two communities, a new community at Letham Mains and the wider community of Haddington. Increasing the early learning & childcare and primary education provision in the Haddington cluster area will provide opportunities for schools to work in a new wider learning community. The Council will work closely with the children, young people and parents who move into the developments to establish a new sense of school community within the context of the wider Haddington community.

7.2.3 It will be the responsibility of all schools within the Haddington Cluster and the community to cooperate closely, as is current practice across our schools. This is in line with national expectations as set out within Education Scotland's 'How good is our school? Self-evaluation Framework Quality Indicator 2.7 Partnerships' which provides an illustration of effective partnership practice. Schools recognise that Curriculum for Excellence cannot be delivered in isolation. They particularly need to work with their associated primary and secondary partners. This will also involve working with other partners including Community Learning and Development, the Community Council and Police.

7.2.4 The temporary hosting arrangements during the initial house build years at King's Meadow Primary School, while the new primary school facilities at Letham Mains are being built, will help to develop links and integration with the existing Haddington community. While it is important the pupils from Letham Mains have their own school

identity it is equally important that they integrate well with the children from King's Meadow Primary School and the other schools across the Haddington Cluster.

7.3 SIMD Profile & Diversity

7.3.1 The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) identifies concentrations of deprivation across Scotland by dividing the country into datazones. These datazones are then ranked against key measures of deprivation – income, education, crime, health, employment, geographic access and housing – as well as by overall deprivation. There are 11 datazones in the town of Haddington itself. Based on 2016 SIMD data, none of these 11 datazones fall within the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland (Quintile 1). 2 of these datazones are ranked within the 20% least deprived (Quintile 5). Of the remaining 9 datazones, 5 are ranked within Quintile 3 and 1 is ranked within Quintile 4. Of the 8,831 population living within the town of Haddington itself, 28.4% live within Quintile 2, 44.7% live within Quintile 3, 8.9% live within Quintile 4 and 17.9% live within Quintile 5.

7.3.2 The SIMD profile and social demographic in the Haddington area will change as new houses are built and new families move in to the area. This has already happened within the town of Haddington itself with the proportions living within each Quintile having changed as follows between the 2012 SIMD update and the 2016 SIMD update: Quintile 2 (0.3% less than 2012), Quintile 3 (9.6% more than 2012), Quintile 4 (0.3% more than 2012) and Quintile 5 (9.5% less than 2012). This change over time is also reflected in the change of the SIMD Profiles of the existing schools in Haddington.

7.3.3 The Council's Affordable Housing Policy states that development proposals of five or more dwellings must make provision for affordable housing as part of the proposal. A wide range of housing tenures can be affordable including homes for social and mid-market rent, shared ownership and shared equity models, and subsidised and unsubsidised low cost housing for market sale and self-build plots. 17% of the homes committed to be built at Letham Mains (HN1) and 25% of the homes committed to be built at Dovecot (HN3), Gateside East (HN4) and Gateside West (HN5) are affordable homes. Additional affordable homes will also be delivered as part of the Letham Mains Expansion area (HN2). This helps to establish a wider demographic in new developments.

7.4 Capacity for "Hosting" Arrangements at King's Meadow Primary School

7.4.1 The temporary "hosting" arrangement at King's Meadow Primary School is predicated on the school's capacity to accommodate the projected pupil numbers arising from the committed Letham Mains housing development (HN1) during the first two to three years of house build. King's Meadow Primary School has a planning capacity of 504 pupils. Based on current demographics and both planned and committed housing developments in the Haddington area (as set out in the Proposed LDP 2016), the school is not projected to be at capacity until 2027/28. Current roll projections for

King's Meadow Primary School, which take into account new housing with consent, shows that there is a period of time up to 2019 where there is capacity at the school for the Letham Mains pupils to be temporarily hosted. 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 housing development phasing is such that the school would be ready for the children over that period of time.

- 7.4.2 The commencement of the "hosting" arrangement is dependent on when the first houses in the committed Letham Mains (HN1) development are built and ready for occupation and families with primary-aged pupils move in. The 2015 Housing Land Audit sets out a projected development start date for Letham Mains (HN1) in 2016/17. The planned new primary school at Letham Mains, based on current house build phasing in the 2015 Housing Land Audit, is projected to require the new Letham Mains Primary School facility to be completed in 2019 or as soon as thereafter. The number of pupils projected to arise from new housing in the committed Letham Mains allocation (HN1) 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 48 pupils by the third year of house build completions.
- 7.4.3 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.
- 7.4.4 A key priority for officers is the development of the "hosting" arrangement at King's Meadow Primary School and a comprehensive transition programme to support the transition from King's Meadow Primary School into the new permanent Letham Mains 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.
- 7.4.5 Staff and pupils at King's Meadow Primary School will continue to have appropriate access to areas of the school building, including the dining area, gym facilities and outdoor areas. The proposed shared campus arrangement during the "hosting" period will build on current best practice within East Lothian and other local authorities leading to the delivery of high-quality education within this arrangement and will be part of discussions with the design team and affected stakeholders. The Council is aware of the issues with acoustics at Kings Meadow Primary School, and is committed to resolving these. It is planned that these works will be completed during the Summer Holidays 2017.
- 7.4.6 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 Letham Mains Primary School and King's Meadow 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 Letham Mains area. The appropriate statutory maximum class size – 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 schools in line with current legislation and policy. A Transitional Leadership Team will also be established and in place in the January before the move to the new Letham Mains permanent facility to look at the arrangements needed in terms of staffing, class organisation etc.

7.4.7 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.

7.5 Consultation with Staff & Pupils

7.5.1 The Council will continue to consult and engage with affected stakeholders as the hosting and planned transition arrangements are developed and subsequently implemented.

7.5.2 Timescales of the construction of the new permanent school facility at Letham Mains 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.

7.5.3 The school, pupils and parents will also contribute to the proposals for the expansion, to increase capacity of Knox Academy.

7.6 Staff Retention

7.6.1 The new Letham Mains 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.

7.7 Housing Developments not supported by the Community

7.7.1 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.

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 1st December 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 sites of Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary 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.
- Education Scotland stated that stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors felt that the council had provided good opportunities for consultation and for giving their views.
- Education Scotland stated that the change to the zone boundary of Letham Mains Primary School and the extension to the planned new school has the potential to provide children who will attend the new school with a purpose-built learning environment well-suited to their learning needs while reducing the possibility of overcrowding at both Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School.

8.4 Education Scotland concluded that the Council's proposal to extend the catchment area of the planned Letham Mains Primary School has clear educational benefits to children in each of the affected schools. Projected increases in the school rolls for Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School as a result of significant housing developments in the area would result in both schools becoming overcrowded and, eventually, over capacity. If the proposal is implemented, children

who come to live in the planned housing development at Letham Mains Expansion area (HN2) attending Letham Mains Primary School will reduce the possibility of overcrowding at both these schools. In taking its proposal forward, the Council should continue to engage with stakeholders over its planned transition arrangements for children who will attend Letham Mains Primary School. In its final consultation report, the Council will need to set out the actions it has taken to address any alleged inaccuracies and omissions notified to it.

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 Letham Mains Expansion, Haddington (HN2) contains no properties. If approved, the new catchment arrangements for Letham Mains Primary School, Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School would become operational with immediate effect.

9.2 Pupils currently attending Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School will not be significantly affected as the proposed catchment changes will only impact on future intakes once house build commences.

9.3 Parents of eligible pre-school children moving into planned housing in the affected area (HN2) would apply for early learning and childcare provision through the Council's existing Nursery Admissions processes.

9.4 Primary pupils moving into the affected area (HN2) following implementation of the proposal will attend Letham Mains Primary School.

9.5 Denominational primary pupils moving into the affected area (HN2) will continue to be served by St Mary's RC Primary School and secondary pupils will continue to be served by Knox Academy as per the existing Letham Mains Primary School catchment arrangements.

9.6 Parents of eligible pre-school children moving into planned housing in the affected area (HN2) would apply for early learning and childcare provision through the Council's existing Nursery Admissions processes.

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 During the consultation period the Council identified that it had incorrectly stated the planning application reference for the planned new primary school at Letham Mains within the Consultation Proposal Document. The Council publicly notified this inaccuracy in the documentation by publishing the details along with the correct planning application reference 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 twenty six 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, 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 and primary education provision for the Letham Mains Expansion area (HN2).

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 1st December 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 alteration to the Letham Mains Primary School, Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow 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 primary-aged pupils arising from the Land at Letham Mains Expansion area (HN2). The projected pupil numbers arising from both this site and other committed housing developments outlined in the Proposed LDP 2016 cannot be accommodated in Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School.

15.3 Education Scotland has identified that the proposal would lead to clear educational benefits for children. This includes providing a modern purpose-built learning environment which is designed to deliver a 21st century education in line with the principles of Curriculum for Excellence, offering greater flexibility for all school activities as well as 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 for the interim transition arrangements, 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 (46.2%) support the proposal. 38.5% of questionnaire respondents oppose the proposal.
- During the consultation period, Council officers visited Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary 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:

- To extend Letham Mains Primary School catchment area to include the Letham Mains Expansion Area (LDP Proposal HN2, *hereinafter referred to as 'HN2'*) and remove this area of land from the Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School catchment areas.
- The new catchment and admission arrangements for Letham Mains Primary School, Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School would become operational with immediate effect.

Fiona Robertson
Head of Education
February 2017

Appendix 1: Note of Public Meeting, 1st December 2016

STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE LETHAM MAINS PRIMARY SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA

THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2016

TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON

PRESENT:

Fiona Robertson, Head of Education
Chris Webb, Independent Adviser, Chair of Meeting
Eddie Reid, Team Manager, Property
Marshall Greenshields, Transportation Planning Officer
Andy Stewart, Principal Planner (Policy & Projects)
Sinead Moloney, Planner (Policy & Projects)
Richard Parker, Education Service Manager
Fiona Brown, Principal Officer, Education Business Unit
Pauline Smith, Principal Officer (Information and Research)
Karen Haspolat, Quality Improvement Officer
Rob Lewis, Senior Information Officer
David Gilmour, Web Officer
Anna Bennett, Business Support Officer
Katy Johnstone, Graduate Intern
Phil Denning, Education Scotland
Four parents/members of the public were in attendance:
Al Bryce, Jane Hobbs, Claire Young, Andrew Wilson

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

He informed the attendees that the meeting was being recorded to allow the Council to have an accurate transcript of the meeting, any questions raised and views recorded to allow them to form part of the consultation exercise. It also allows any issues arising that are unable to be dealt with tonight to be answered at a later time.

A Google link is provided to allow questions to be raised that you may not wish discussed at the public meeting, this will feed into the Council and someone will respond.

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

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act came into force in 2010 and was amended in 2015. The Act, as amended, has established an open and transparent system for consulting changes to the school estate as proposed by councils. Once a council has taken the decision to consult in a proposal the Act requires all councils to follow the same basis sequence:

- The Council had to prepare a proposal paper, including any educational benefits. The Council had produced this.

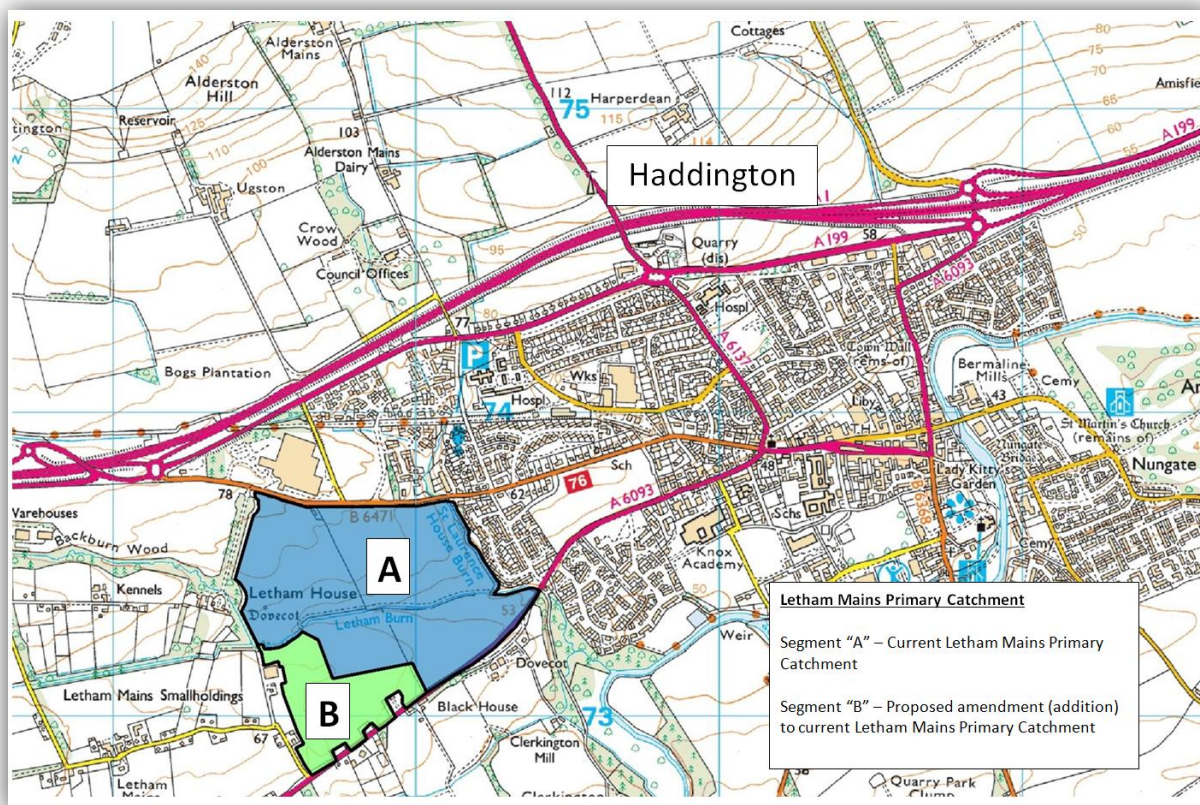
- The Council then had to publish the proposal paper, advertise the fact and notify the mandatory consultees and Education Scotland.
- The consultation had to run for at least 30 school days and include a public meeting.
- Once the consultation period is over, the Council must send relevant papers to Education Scotland. Once these have been received HM Inspectors have three weeks to prepare a report on the proposal and send it to the Council.
- Once the Council has received the report from the HM Inspectors, it has to review the proposal and take account of the report by HM Inspectors and any representations you might make during the consultation period.
- The Council must then prepare and publish a final consultation report three weeks before the Council takes its final decision.

Purpose to give members of the public the opportunity to hear more about the proposal, ask questions about the proposal and have their views recorded as part of the consultation process.

Fiona Robertson then went on to explain the background to the consultation with regard to the proposal for the extension of the Letham Mains Primary School catchment area, to include the Letham Mains Expansion area (area “B”), currently in Haddington Infant School and King’s Meadow Primary School catchment areas.

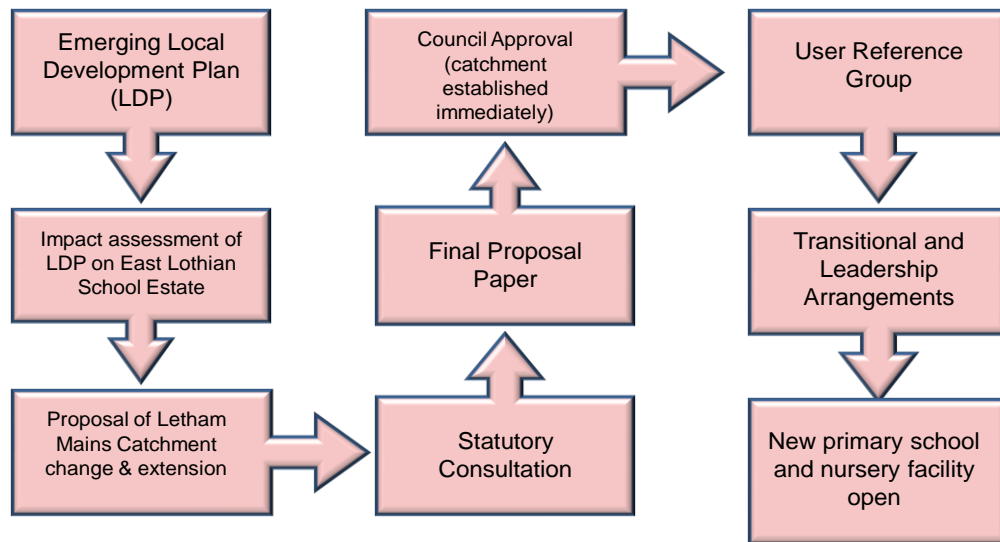
- The Strategic Development Plan for South East Scotland (SDP) was approved by Scottish Ministers in June 2013.
- The SDP with its Supplementary Guidance on Housing Land requires the Local Development Plan (LDP) to ensure sufficient housing land is available to deliver 10,050 homes during the period 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 Proposed LDP 2016, the land at Letham Mains Expansion (area “B”) is one of the main development proposals in the Haddington Cluster – with a proposed allocation for development of circa 275 homes.
- The Letham Mains Expansion will form an extension of the original Letham Mains allocation (area “A”) – which is proposed to be allocated for a mixed use development, including circa 800 homes.
- The original Letham Mains Primary School catchment area (as defined by area “A”) was approved at Council Committee for Education on 15 March 2011.
- The proposed housing development at Letham Mains Expansion (area “B”), identified in the Proposed LDP 2016 will require the revision to the Letham Mains catchment area, to be delivered.
- The Letham Mains Primary School will also need to be further extended to accommodate the proposed expansion.

Map of proposed catchment area



- To accommodate the projected pupil population from the proposed allocations (areas "A" and "B") the Council proposes to provide education capacity as follows:
- Expansion to the planned new permanent early learning & childcare and primary school capacity at the Letham Mains site.
- The Letham Mains Primary School will be established initially at King's Meadow Primary School under a temporary "hosting" arrangement, until the permanent Letham Mains Primary School facility is delivered.
- Additional secondary school capacity will be provided at Knox Academy.
- The Letham Mains Primary School: The LDP projected pupil population for the original Letham Mains allocation (area "A") and the Letham Mains expansion area (area "B") requires a peak roll of 488 primary pupils (17 classes) and pre-school provision of 70 places.
- The school extension and catchment change will have educational benefits through: The alteration to the catchment areas will ensure that primary aged children from both the Letham Mains sites will be able to attend the school providing opportunity for those children to develop and sustain strong relationships both at school and at home.
- The removal of area "B" from Haddington Infant/King's Meadow catchment area will relieve pressure at these schools where there would be significant capacity constraints.

Project Timeline



Fiona Robertson asked if there were any questions.

Al Bryce – 2 pre-school children, soon to move to Gateside estate asked why these houses are not included in the catchment area for Letham.

Fiona Robertson replied with a prepared clarification:

When Letham Mains Catchment was originally established and agreed at Council in 2011, the land north of Letham Mains, at Gateside was at that point, allocated for Business and Industry use and was not included as part of the catchment establishment consultation. Since then, planning consent has been granted for mixed use including housing.

The school campus site at Letham Mains is not of a sufficient size to include a larger catchment.

To increase the size of the school site would require the Council to purchase more land, which would in turn reduce the number of houses that could be built.

There would be significant costs to Council to purchase more land to increase the school site and to enlarge the size of the school facility to accommodate pupils from out-with the Letham Mains development, as these would not be funded by the developer.

Al Bryce also asked if the Council is ignoring the educational benefit for children who will be living in Gateside who would form friendships with children from Letham catchment.

Fiona Robertson replied that children from Gateside would form relationships with children within the community and catchment area that they are part of.

He then commented that his children would effectively be walking past Letham Mains School to go to a school further away. He asked about the possibility of transport being provided for children from Gateside.

Marshal Greenshields replied that there is no provision for transport and there would be encouragement for children to walk and cycle to school.

Al Bryce asked how long it should take primary school children to walk to school.

Marshal Greenshields replied that the catchments are set and were agreed prior to Gateside being built. As the new Letham school is not built yet children from Gateside will be travelling to their catchment school.

Al Bryce then asked if there was any point in the consultation if no changes can be made.

Fiona Robertson replied that the intention is to change the catchment and in order to have an effective local development plan there must be an education solution in place in order to bring that local development plan forward.

Chris Webb replied that from a national prospective the Council is bound by law to deliver best value in delivery of services so that means there are constraints on what the Council can do sometimes because of that requirement and if a cost neutral situation would then become not cost neutral.

Al Bryce asked if timing was an issue regarding the consultation – running the consultation before there are people living in Gateside who may wish to have a say on the consultation.

Fiona Robertson replied that the consultation is in line with the Local Development Plan, but members of the public could then put forward their comments on the issues which must then be included in the consultation process and taken back to Council.

Chris Webb confirmed that the public have the right to comment on the proposal or submit alternates which the Council must then give due consideration to and reply to why this would not be viable if that is what they decide. Council has a duty in the final report to state why the decision they make is the most reasonable and viable option that provides the best Education options and best value. They must demonstrate that any counter proposal is not viable or reasonable.

Parent of child attending Haddington Infants but works at King's Meadow commented on the interim accommodation at King's Meadow is bursting at the seams and asked how children will be accommodated during the hosting period?

Fiona Robertson responded that there is capacity at the school within the hosting timeframe to accommodate the Letham Mains pupils and this will not be breached during the hosting period. She then introduced Pauline Smith who confirmed that King's Meadow Primary

School has a planning capacity of 504 pupils. The roll projections for King's Meadow, which take into account new housing with consent, shows that there is a period of time up to about 2020 where there is capacity at the school for the Letham Mains pupils to be temporarily hosted. Pauline also clarified that when new housing sites are built out, pupils don't appear all at once en masse, they appear in stages over time. The pupil roll for Letham Mains in the first year of house build may have no pupils at the start of the academic session in August then over the following months, may have one or two pupils arising from the development with that pupil number growing from there over time as the development is built out.

The parent stated that she had experienced a transition herself which was awful with huge classes; the school was bursting at the seams and did not allow for pupils who may have been struggling to cope due to crowds.

Fiona Robertson reiterated that it was very important for the Transition Leadership Group to be in place before the build is completed to deal with managing the situation and also enable the children to be involved with the design and build of areas before moving into the new school. If the school was due to move in August then there would be a longer lead in time for the new staff to enable everything to be in place.

Parent of 2 boys commented that one child had experienced St Mary's transition and found it difficult, capacity within the school was an issue and the constraints on the dining room proved difficult, with children having to eat in classrooms, children also had to move to undertake certain activities as no room within the normal areas. King's Meadow is an open plan school and this has an impact on noise levels. This is not acceptable or conducive to Education.

Eddie Reid commented that he was aware of some acoustic issues but plans are in place for this to be dealt with but he was not aware of pressure on the dining room.

Parent replied to say that children had to eat in classrooms and her son had to move to another facility to access PE sessions.

Eddie Reid replied to state that this would be taken up with the Head Teacher to address use of space.

Fiona added that she had spent two full days in King's Meadow and reiterated that there is capacity within the school but acknowledged that it is really important to manage the transition and consider PE facilities and any impact the hosting may have. This will be discussed with the design team, to discuss where children will be based, along with ages of children which will also need to be considered and how this is managed in determining the make-up of class groups as the pupils start to move into the area.

The parent then asked if Knox Academy would be prepared to accommodate all the additional children expected.

Fiona Robertson replied that there is a plan for Knox Academy to be extended to accommodate the rising number of children and that all facilities would be taken into

consideration, not just classrooms, including science labs, PE facilities in light of all housing developments taking place currently and proposed.

A Parent living in Letham Mains Small Holdings with child at King's Meadow – currently out of catchment asked if they will still be out of catchment for the new school.

Pauline Smith confirmed that the houses at Letham Mains Small Holdings would be out-with the Letham Mains catchment area and would remain within the Haddington Infant and King's Meadow Primary school catchment areas.

Parent stated that they received a letter a few years ago stating that their children would go to the Letham Mains school, this will mean that they are crossing over the catchment area for Letham and walking 1.5 miles to King's Meadow. Is there an opportunity to change the catchment for their children?

Pauline Smith confirmed that only one existing property, Gateside Cottage, that falls within part of the original Letham Mains allocation and catchment boundary and no other existing properties fall within the proposed revised Letham Mains catchment area. Chris Webb emphasised his previous point regarding putting forward alternative proposals and that the consultation process allows you to put these forward for consideration.

Parent stated it made sense for these children to be able to attend the closest school rather than walking to one some distance away.

Chris Webb replied that an idea can be put to the consultation before it is finalised, if this turns out to be an anomaly that can be fixed it might be, but he was unable to say that it would be. It would have to be included in the final consultation document and the Council would be duty bound to explain why it chose not to then implement that in its final consultation.

Parent stated that they are currently far enough away from King's Meadow to be able to request transportation but they choose not to so it would appear to make sense that they go to the new school.

Andrew Wilson resident at Letham Mains Small Holdings asked 2 questions:

- 1. Why for the purposes of this consultation have the Council chosen as designations area A/B when the local development plan identifies these as HN1 and HN2 as it makes it much more difficult to follow.**

Fiona Robertson replied that for the purposes of this consultation Area A is the existing catchment area and B is the proposed expanded area. It was just for the purposes of this proposal to make it easy to understand rather than having to read through the whole Local Development Plan.

Pauline Smith added that HN1 and HN2 are referenced in the proposal paper and equate it to area A and area B on the maps of the catchment areas.

He replied that this tends to exclude discussion of other areas such as Gateside, which also has an HN designation, it focuses on the areas which are already part of the proposal and the purpose of the consultation is to consider some minor alternatives to that and focusing on area A and are B only focuses on the agenda the Council has. He would ask that HN1 and HN2 are used.

Fiona Robertson stated that for the purposes of this evening and the proposal exercise 'A' and 'B' are used. She also stated that the Council must consult on a relevant proposal and this is the proposal, and that the public can reply to the proposal with their views and they are entitled to respond on this matter which the Council must then respond to. When the final report is produced you will be able to see that the Council has responded to any comments. Chris Webb mentioned best value and Fiona Robertson explained that the Council understands that altering or extending the proposal would result in the purchase of further land, the change is sizes of schools and these are the implications as to best value and keeping a viable school roll at King's Meadow Primary, Haddington Infant and Letham Mains Primary.

2. Significance of the hosting arrangements and the disruption – time period is critical and can someone confirm the expected start day, month and year of the hosting arrangement and the expected end day, month and year of the arrangement

Fiona Robertson explained that the hosting would start as families moved into the phased housing developments and the hosting arrangement can only last a period of up to 36 months.

He asked if that was a maximum figure.

Fiona replied that it tends to be up to 36 months to allow a viable school roll. The housing development phasing is such that the school would be ready for the children over that period of time.

Parent of child at King's Meadow asked who would be the Head Teacher of the new school and when would they come into post.

Fiona Robertson explained that the Head Teacher post would be shared by King's Meadow during the transition period but the Transition Leadership Team would be in place the January before the move was to take place and this would be based on the number of children from the new development. The Head Teacher and staff would be in post prior to the opening of the new school.

Chris Webb drew the meeting to a close and reiterated the purpose of the consultation is for consultees to suggest alternatives or amendments, once these have been suggested the Council is duty bound in its final report to explain why it is not a reasonable or viable alternative for the Council to adopt. This will allow the councillors to see that alternatives or amendments have been put forward. He informed the attendees that they should not just rely on the meeting to make their points, and that they could put their points in writing to the Council to allow them to be given due consideration, councillors can ask officers for information on any alternate proposals and why these were not included in the original proposal.

He informed the meeting that Phil Denning was in attendance as an observer who will be responsible for providing the report on the consultation process and the recommendations; this will then be in the public domain for three weeks to allow for a fair, open and transparent process. This report will be published along with the Council's final consultation report. It is then the Elected Members who will make a decision. He thanked the members of the public for coming along and also commented that the number of officers present from the Council showed the commitment to the process.

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 (26)

Q - Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to extend the Letham Mains catchment area to include the area referenced in the consultation document?

Table 1

All responses:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
	4	8	4		10	26		46.2%	38.5%

Table 2

Parent of Pupil at:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	3	7	3		8	21		47.6%	38.0%
Haddington Infant	2	6	1		6	15		53.3%	40.0%
King's Meadow Primary	2	1	2		6	11		27.3%	54.6%
Other School	1	3			1	5		80.0%	20.0%

Table 3

Parent of Future Pupil at:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	2	4	4		5	15		40.0%	33.3%
Haddington Infant	1	2	3		3	9		33.3%	33.3%
King's Meadow Primary	1	3	2		4	10		40.0%	40.0%
Other School			1		4	5		0.0%	80.0%

Table 4.../

Table 4

Member of Staff at:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL					1	1		0.0%	100.0%
Haddington Infant									
King's Meadow Primary									
Other School					1	1		0.0%	100.0%

Table 5

"Other" Category	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
All "Other" Categories		2			2	4		50.0%	50.0%

Table 6

Parent of Pupil Aged:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	4	7	4		10	25		44.0%	40.0%
Not yet in Education		1	1		5	7		14.3%	71.4%
Pre-school Education (3-5 year old)	1	1	2			4		50.0%	
P1 - P3	2	6	1		6	15		53.3%	40.0%
P4 - P7	2	2	2		6	12		33.3%	50.0%
S1 - S6	1	2	1		1	5		60.0%	20.0%
No longer in school Education					1	1		0.0%	100.0%

Table 7.../

Table 7

Catchment	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Grand Total		% STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	% STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE
TOTAL	4	6	4		10	24		41.6%	41.6%
Haddington Infant	3	5	3		7	18		44.4%	38.9%
King's Meadow Primary	3	5	3		7	18		44.4%	38.9%
Other School		1			1	2		50.0%	50.0%

Appendix 3 Comments from Questionnaire responses

Of the 26 questionnaire responses, 8 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 18 responses who gave permission to share their comments.

COMMENT
<p>I find it hard to believe that the catchment doesn't include other nearby houses and not just the proposed new development. Myself and my family live opposite the new development site, on West Road. We will be able to see the school from our house, have put up with years of building works on our doorstep, our children will presumably make friends with the children living in the new development, but will not be able to benefit from them attending the new school. Our children will have to continue walking to the Primary schools in the centre of Haddington, 1 mile away, when there will be a primary School on their doorstep.</p> <p>Not including current nearby residents in the catchment area is bringing absolutely nothing to our community. Letham Mains itself is not even included in the catchment area!! This seems ridiculous.</p>
<p>1. The existing Letham Mains catchment already excludes children in the lower income parts of town. This extension to mainly private housing will increase the differences in social profile of the Kings Meadow and Letham Mains catchments. This will increase inequality as Kings Meadow/Haddington infants will contain a greater proportion of disadvantaged children. Children at Letham Mains are likely to learn in classes which have less disruption and less teacher effort put into children coming from a lower starting point educationally, and so add to the advantage they already have from their home environment.</p> <p>2. Excluding the existing houses on the north of the Pencaitland Road (and arguably further up Letham Mains holdings) seems to make no sense in any terms other than the Council avoiding paying for the school extension. They should be included in the catchment. If some of those further out were included the Council might be able to save on school transport.</p>
<p>Shortly going to be moving into the new housing development at Gateside and find it very odd that we will have to walk past the new primary school at Letham Mains to go to Haddington Infant / King's Meadow.</p> <p>It's approximately a 22 minute (adult pace) walk from our new house at Gateside to Haddington Infant school. Ignoring the fact that 1.2 miles is substantial for a 5 year old, for the parent who needs to drop off and collect, you are looking at 2 x return journeys totalling nearly one and a half hours and nearly 5 miles per day. When there will be a alternative primary school, literally over the road, it seems crazy that the catchment area doesn't include Gateside.</p> <p>In addition to this, we're going to be in a situation where pupils living on the A6093 side of Letham Mains are going to be further from their school than they will be from Haddington Infant School. Surely the catchment boundary could be amended to make more practical sense for both Gateside residents and Letham Mains residents.</p>

COMMENT

I think what is happening to East Lothian is dreadful. The new buildings at North Berwick and in Haddington and elsewhere are going to put terrific strain on the meagre resources of these small towns. The buildings are all faceless new builds that are still too expensive for most people who need family homes and they are crammed in doing nothing for the environment or surrounds. East Lothian is special in its character and these horrible developments are ruining it. What about building new infrastructure first. A new school a new doctors surgery. Upgrade the sewage system. Make sure there is enough green space for new residents and so that the current residents don't feel like they are being urbanised. Or are there not enough developer backhanders in that?

The whole project is too much too quickly and smells of money grabbing [individuals].

These developments are too big!!

I feel that the decision to build a separate primary school for the Letham Development is the wrong one. In other East Lothian communities a single primary school has been the preferred option, for example Dunbar Primary school which is on two sites, the planned new Wallyford Primary school which is being built in the new development and the recently announced significant extension to Law Primary school in North Berwick. It is my opinion that Haddington is being treated differently to the other East Lothian communities in proposing a separate primary school purely for the Letham Development. The new families in Dovecot will have to use the existing schools which are considerably further away, and the new families at Saxon Field and Moncrieff Meadows will have to walk past the Letham school to get to KMPS and HIS - this just seems very shortsighted to me. Also the proposed catchment means that families living in Letham Mains currently (and other communities to the west of the town) will have to do likewise. I am aware that due to the current split between HIS and KMPS it would be more challenging to have a single school (or even single infant and single 4-7 solution) but I don't think this is an insurmountable problem. I would urge the council to reconsider this decision as I think it will lead to significant division between the existing community and new residents in Dovecot, Saxon Field and Moncrieff Meadows on the one hand and Letham on the other.

The proposed campus at Letham should have an open catchment for all the children of Haddington.

It is unfortunate that a new school is being built in Haddington, this in my opinion will divide the community. Improvements should have been made to the existing schools in Haddington (particularly Kings Meadow). The fact this was not considered when the new Infant and St Marys Campus was built is incredibly short sighted.

The new school should serve a wider catchment area than just the new development. The school will not be integrated into Haddington community if it only accommodates new families. Also, if the new houses have a school and facilities locally, it will form a separate town within Haddington and will not benefit local business. It is also likely that the new houses will be used by people who commute into Edinburgh for work. This will further disconnect them from the Haddington community. The catchment areas should include a mixture of current families and new families.

COMMENT

The proposed catchment area for the new school (A and/or B) is a poorly conceived idea that will only emphasise the inevitable feeling of isolation the new development will have with respect to the rest of the town. It seems utterly bizarre that children from surrounding houses including the new developments at Clerkington Mill, will pass by the new school to go to an already pressurised Infant School and Kings Meadow. If the intention of the boundary scheme is to ensure the new development remains an unintegrated ghetto then this plan will be a success - whether this is good for the town is unlikely. I suspect, however, this is maybe a way for the developers to minimise the cost of the new school by limiting the area it needs to serve.

If this proposal is given consent then a new primary school is vital to cope with projected pupil increases in the area/town

Attended public meeting on 1 December 2016. I strongly disagree with proposed extension Area B for the following reasons:

- Parent from Gateside asked about their development and why not in catchment area.

Answer: not the capacity

- no plans to extend Knox for a number of years which would have a huge impact on children's education (mention of management and planning group at 1 Dec but at no point in the meeting did I feel pupils, support staff and importantly, teachers views/affects were considered)

- Classes at host school (Kings Meadow) could become too large (cutbacks happening so how would teachers and pupils be supported). Staff sickness and retention could become an issue which would have a huge impact on all children's education (could become exclusive if some parents can afford extra tuition to make up for disruption and could lead to lower attainment leading to more child poverty in the future. We have a fairly inclusive education system but if classes become too large or too many then I believe this could be hugely detrimental to many pupils.

The teachers are currently doing a fantastic job but are not miracle workers so they should be able to be consulted fully - not just through management groups

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

HADDINGTON INFANT SCHOOL

(P1-P3 Pupil Representatives)

22nd November 2016

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

How do you feel about new school?

Excited

New friends

More jobs

Positives?

More space for new pupils because can't always fit into existing schools

Haddington schools would be less crowded

More houses for people moving here from other countries and Scotland

There would be more teachers

More houses for people in Haddington as well

Negatives?

Might lose friends if they choose the new school

Might be nervous if moving into new school

Could be hard making new friends

If more houses are built on fields there could be less plants

How could you help with them being nervous, making new friends?

Make them feel welcome

PUPIL VOICE

KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

(P4-P7 Pupil Representatives)

22nd November 2016

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

What do you think about building a new school?

Good because there will be more people to meet and become friends with at Knox

Would be good because it would make sure that this school is not overcrowded

It's good because the p7 year is overcrowded

What worries you about the new school?

Families maybe being split, younger siblings would go to another school and wouldn't know the new school

What do you think about hosting children here?

Fine with me, making new friends, I would like that

Good idea that they're coming here

It would be hard to make good friends and then have them move away

Could get around this by keeping in contact with them to maintain links

How would you treat the new children?

Good to include them in activities in the school

Make them welcome and let them try things

Problems with hosting?

People feeling squashed

Don't think we have enough resources to support more people, how would we do this?

Appendix 5: Education Scotland Report

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by East Lothian Council to alter the catchment area for Letham Mains Primary School.

1. Introduction

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

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

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

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

- attendance at the public meeting held on 1 December 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 Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary 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 consultation process ran from 8 November 2016 to 20 December 2016. During this period the council held a public meeting at Haddington Town House which was attended by four parents or other members of the public. Statutory consultees, including Parent Councils of the schools directly involved and Haddington Community Council, 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 26 responses. Of the responses which provided an overall view about the council's proposal, a majority expressed support. 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 zone boundary of Letham Mains Primary School. This school has still to be built but will serve planned housing developments in the Letham Mains area of the town of Haddington. The proposal involves extending the original planned catchment area for Letham Mains Primary School with a consequent small reduction in the catchment areas of both Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School. The affected area of land currently contains no residential properties.

3.2 The planned new Letham Mains Primary School will be extended to accommodate the increased 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. At the same time, the proposal will reduce the possibility of overcrowding at both Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School. As a result, the proposal offers clear educational benefits to children in each of the three schools.

3.3 Almost all parents, pupils and staff who met with HM Inspectors support the proposal. There is a clear understanding that the rolls of both Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary School would outstrip capacity in coming years as a result of the significant housing developments in the area.

3.4 In taking forward its proposal, the council should continue to work with stakeholders to ensure that interim transition arrangements, whereby children living in the new Letham Mains housing development will be initially ‘hosted’ at King’s Meadow Primary School, are well planned to meet these children’s needs.

3.5 During the consultation period the council identified a minor inaccuracy in its proposal paper. In its final consultation report, the council should ensure that this inaccuracy is corrected.

4. Summary

East Lothian Council’s proposal to extend the catchment area of the planned Letham Mains Primary School has clear educational benefits. The proposal has the potential to provide children who will reside in the Letham Mains housing developments 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. The proposal will also reduce the possibility of overcrowding at Haddington Infant School and King’s Meadow Primary School. Almost all stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors support the proposal. In taking its proposal forward, the council should continue to engage with stakeholders over its planned transition arrangements for children who will attend the new school.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
January 2017**