

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

4 October 2018

Report by Director of Education

CONSULTATION REPORT ON THE CONSULTATIVE PROPOSAL:  
FUTURE NON-DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF  
NEILSTON PRIMARY AND MADRAS FAMILY CENTRE; AND  
FUTURE DENOMINATIONAL (ROMAN CATHOLIC) EDUCATION PROVISION  
FOR CHILDREN OF ST THOMAS' PRIMARY, NEILSTON

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To report on the results of the consultation exercise on the proposal for *Learning in Neilston* to renew both Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools and Madras Family Centre on a joint site. It is noted that at present funding is not yet available, but the consultation is a necessary step in seeking to establish this new education provision and ensures the Council is prepared to benefit from potential funding opportunities.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. Education Committee is asked to:
- a) Note the results of the education consultation on Learning in Neilston; and
  - b) Instruct the Director of Education to progress a learning campus on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre when sufficient financial resources become available.

**BACKGROUND**

3. In May 2018 the Education Committee approved that the Director of Education should proceed with a consultation on the proposal for a learning campus on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre. A copy of the original consultation document is included as Appendix A of the report on the consultation appended to this paper.

4. The proposal set out in the consultation was designed to:
- consider the establishment of a learning campus comprising of new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre.
  - discuss the potential location of ERCL Trust operated leisure and community facilities within the campus.

- note that at present funding is not yet available to undertake new education build in the village of Neilston, but that the new replacement schools are a priority for investment.

## REPORT

5. A full report on the consultation is included in the Consultation Report on the consultative proposal in the appendix (A) to this paper.

6. There were 512 responses in total to the consultation. 94% (479) of all responses were from statutory consultees and of those 89% (426) were from pupils and 11% (53) from other individuals / groups. There were 33 returns from non-statutory respondees, mainly from local residents.

7. External independent consultants managed the consultation with children in Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools and analysed their responses. Their report can be found as appendix 2 of the Consultation Report.

8. The vast majority of those who responded to the consultation were in favour of the proposal. 71% of pupils agreed with the proposal and 89% of statutory respondees other than pupils agreed with the proposal. In addition other statutory groups agreed with the proposal including the Parent Council of Neilston Primary, staff groups at both Neilston and St Thomas' Primary, the Diocese of Paisley for the Roman Catholic Church and Neilston Community Council.

9. Of the views expressed in favour of the proposal, the main themes from comments made by statutory respondees other than pupils are paraphrased below:

- Agree with single site / campus approach providing improved facilities for all learners.
- Agree that the existing buildings need replacement.
- Economic, social and community benefits.
- Desire to protect outdoor learning space.

The above reasons were cited by 10 or more statutory respondents.

10. The main concern raised by statutory respondees, other than pupils, who disagreed with the proposal can be paraphrased into the following reason:

- Parking and traffic concerns.

This reason was cited by 2 statutory respondents. Any other issues expressed by statutory respondees against the proposal were raised by single respondents.

11. 61% (20) of non-statutory respondees were in favour of the proposal. The majority cited the same reasons outlined in paragraph 9 for their decision. A small number (5) of other non-statutory respondees expressed a view that all schools should be non-denominational.

12. In line with their requirement under the relevant legislation concerning schools consultation, Education Scotland submitted a report in relation to the proposal. Their full report is provided as appendix 3 of the Consultation Report.

13. In their summary report Education Scotland note that “A new campus as proposed should provide an improved learning environment for children which will be easier to maintain and more efficient. There is a clear potential educational benefit from this aspect of the proposal.”

14. Education Scotland report contains views expressed by consultees and a summary of these is noted below:

- Staff advantages in being able to work more closely together leading to improved outcomes for children.
- Children’s enthusiasm about the possibility of new improved facilities and having both primary schools on the same site.
- Parents’ involvement as the proposal develops.
- Outdoor learning space.
- The need to recognise the “distinct religious nature and reality” of St Thomas’ Primary is not diminished.

15. Comments addressing the issues, including those expressed to Education Scotland, are outlined in paragraphs 34 and 40 of the appended report on the consultation.

16. The Education Department recognises that it is important to both the Catholic and non-denominational communities to maintain their own ethos and school’s identity whilst respecting each other’s vision and values in a proposed shared site.

17. The Education Department has stated that any new built environment would be designed in full consultation with parents/carers, pupils, key groups / leaders of the Diocese of Paisley and the local stakeholders to ensure all facilities best meet the needs of children, staff, parents and the community. The specific design brief would be agreed with key stakeholders, take account of the points already established and consider those expressed during this consultation.

18. In addition discussions would take place with colleagues in the Environment Department (Roads and Transportation) to ensure safe routes for pupils and to agree appropriate mitigation measures / traffic management following completion of a comprehensive Transport Impact Assessment and surrounding road network appraisal.

## **FINANCIAL AND EFFICIENCY IMPLICATIONS**

19. At present there is no identified finance to take forward the proposal to provide the new schools and family centre; *Learning in Neilston*. The consultation process is a statutory step in seeking to establish this new educational provision. The Council

will be ready to take advantage of any investment programme to support such a development.

20. *Learning in Neilston* would be similar in size to the Faith Schools' Joint Campus (St Clare's Primary and Calderwood Lodge Primary and Nursery Class) which opened in August 2017 at a total capital cost of £17 million. This capital cost is provided for illustration purposes only, since the specifics of the Neilston proposal are not yet developed. Additional resources would be required, as well as obtaining necessary planning approvals to establish the wider campus approach to *Learning and Leisure* in Neilston.

## CONSULTATION

21. The paper reports the results of a statutory education consultation.

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

22. Should elected members approve the recommendation of the paper then as soon as practically possible the new provision would be established. This would be taken forward when sufficient financial resources became available and be progressed to meet any specified financial timeframe. The Council will continue to explore opportunities for investment to take forward improved provision whilst progressing the Council's Capital Planning Process.

23. Once enabling finances are secured, a paper would be taken to Cabinet which would include the timeframe to establish the new provision and the anticipated academic year the facilities would open. This would be communicated to stakeholders, in particular to pupils, parents / carers and staff. Thereafter, engagement over the design of the new campus build for *Learning in Neilston* would take place with its stakeholders and the community.

24. In establishing the new education provision, St Thomas' Primary School would be relocated to the site in the locale of Neilston and Madras. Once the new campus build for *Learning in Neilston* is operational, the existing family centre and school buildings would be closed.

25. This proposal is not subject to ministerial call in.

26. East Renfrewshire Council's Legal Services have been fully involved and are aware of the proposal and consequential outcomes for the Council.

## CONCLUSION

27. It is accepted by the vast majority of respondees that the proposal will lead to benefits for the children, parents and community of Neilston.

28. 71% of pupils agreed with the proposal and 89% of statutory respondees other than pupils agreed with the proposal. Statutory groups including the Diocese of Paisley and the Neilston Community Council agreed with the proposal.

29. The Education Scotland report records that the *Learning in Neilston* joint campus proposal provides a number of significant educational benefits for all children, staff and the communities they serve; and that it has the overall support of stakeholders.

## RECOMMENDATION

30. Education Committee is asked to:

- a) Note the results of the education consultation on Learning in Neilston; and,
- b) Instruct the Director of Education to progress a learning campus on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre when sufficient financial resources become available.

Mhairi Shaw  
Director of Education  
4 October 2018

### Convener Contact Details

Councillor Paul O'Kane, Convener for Education and Equalities

Tel: Mobile 07718 697115

Local Government Access to Information Act 1985

### Report Author

Janice Collins, Head of Education Services (Equalities and Equity)

Tel: 0141 577 3204

[Janice.Collins@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:Janice.Collins@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

### Appendix

1. Consultation Report on the Consultative Proposal: Future Non-Denominational Education Provision for Children in Neilston Primary and Madras Family Centre; and Future Denominational (Roman Catholic) Education Provision for Children of St Thomas' Primary, Neilston.

### Background Papers

1. Report to Education Committee: Future Non-Denominational Education Provision for Children of Neilston Primary and Madras Family Centre; and Future Denominational (Roman Catholic) Education Provision for Children of St Thomas' Primary, Neilston.

### Key Words

Non-denominational, denomination, campus, ERCL Trust

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**REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

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FUTURE DENOMINATIONAL (ROMAN CATHOLIC) EDUCATION PROVISION  
FOR CHILDREN OF ST THOMAS' PRIMARY, NEILSTON**

**BACKGROUND**

1. On Thursday 10 May 2018, the Education Committee approved the issue of a consultative document on the proposal for a learning campus on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre. A copy of the original consultation document is attached as Appendix 1.
2. The consultative document discusses "Learning in Neilston" and the proposal to provide new accommodation on a single site for all 3 establishments. In addition to building the required educational establishments, this proposal discusses the possibility of ERCL Trust operated leisure and community facilities being located on the campus.
3. The document outlines the current condition of the education estate in Neilston. This identifies both primary schools as in a poor (C) state of condition.
4. At present there is no identified finance to take forward the proposal to provide the new schools and family centre; *Learning in Neilston*. The consultation process is a statutory step in seeking to establish this new educational provision.
5. If investment becomes available, the consultative document makes the proposal to:
  - i. consider the establishment of a learning campus comprising of new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre.
  - ii. discuss the potential location of ERCL Trust operated leisure and community facilities within the campus.

**CONSULTATION PROCESS**

1. The Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 and amendments in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
2. The formal consultative document was issued with an accompanying letter explaining the process and inviting views. This pack was issued to statutory consultees and made publicly available. The information included prior notice of a public meeting to discuss the proposal.

3. Written representations on the consultative proposal were sought from all interested parties including the Catholic Church, the Parent Councils of St Thomas' Primary School, Neilston Primary School, in terms of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010. Meetings with the Parent Councils were arranged.
4. In accordance with statutory requirements, pupils, parents/carers affected by the proposal, the Parent Councils, members of staff and unions representing staff in the affected schools were invited to respond to the proposal. Copies of the consultative document were also sent to members of the Education Committee, Community Councils, local elected members, local Members of Parliament representing residents in East Renfrewshire. Education Scotland was advised of the consultation and a copy of the consultation pack was sent.
5. Head teachers of affected schools (Neilston Primary School and Madras Family Centre, and St Thomas' Primary School) were asked to ensure that they included the consultative document on a staff meeting agenda to advise staff of the consultation period and that they could submit an individual and/or a group response or respond through their union representative(s).
6. The Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that the pupil voice is heard on this matter in so far as the authority considers them to be of suitable age and maturity. The Education Department followed the guidance for local authorities on pupil consultations provided by Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People, with the assistance of Children in Scotland, under the 2010 Act and engaged independent educational consultants to conduct the consultation exercise with the affected children in Neilston Primary School and St Thomas' Primary School. The consultants independently managed the primary pupil consultation exercise and produced a report of all the results of the pupil consultations which is attached as Appendix 2. Given the complexity of the proposal the Education Department did not consult with children currently attending Madras Family Centre.
7. The consultation period was from Friday 11 May 2018 to midnight on Tuesday 26 June 2018.
8. The existence of the consultative document was publicised in the press and copies were made available in Council Offices and affected schools. A dedicated page on the Council's website was established to facilitate information and invite interested parties to respond to the proposal. Responses were invited to be submitted by completing an online form, by posting a hard copy of the form supplied with the consultative document, by writing to the Education Department or emailing the education service. A proforma was provided to help consultees submit a response is shown as part of the original consultative proposal document in Appendix 1.
9. Consultees were asked to be clear about who they were, where they lived, why they were interested including their relationship with the affected schools (e.g. parent of pupil in an affected school, member of staff at an affected school, relative of a pupil at an affected school etc.). They were also asked whether or not they agreed with the proposal, offered the opportunity to give reasons for their agreement or otherwise, or had any additional comments. Consultees were advised that petitions would be treated as a single response.

10. Officers attended meetings of St Thomas' Primary and Neilston Primary Parent Councils on 22 and 23 May 2018 respectively to further discuss the proposal. Notes of these meetings are included in Appendix 4. Representatives from both St Thomas' and Neilston Parent Councils responded positively during their respective meetings. Parents discussed possible benefits and had an opportunity to ask questions specific to them. In response to a parental request, officers organised a joint visit to the Faith Schools' Joint Campus, where parent council members met the two head teachers to share their experience of the campus and its creation.
11. To provide further background about the consultative proposal, the Head of Education Services (School Performance and Provision) delivered a presentation at a public meeting at Glen Halls, Neilston on 5 June 2018. The Convener for Education and Equalities chaired the public meeting which was also attended by the Director of Education, Leader of the Council and senior Education and Council officers. The main purpose of the meeting was to set out the proposal and provide further background information and clarification in answering questions from the audience. The public meeting was well attended and a note of this meeting is attached as Appendix 4.
12. Officers responded to any requests for further information and enquiries relating to the proposal.
13. All responses to the consultation were logged, numbered and acknowledgements sent.
14. Written representations were invited by letter/email and considered up to and including midnight on Tuesday 26 June 2018.

#### THE CONSULTATION: NUMBER OF RESPONSES

15. This section of the report provides information on the number of written responses. Details from pupils are considered first, followed by all other written responses.
16. As noted in paragraph 6 above, independent consultants conducted the consultation exercise with the affected children in Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools. A copy of the consultants' report is provided in appendix 2. The consultants note that valid returns are all returns excluding any spoilt/ incomplete returns.
17. The actual number of valid returns by pupils is shown below:

Number of Pupil Responses: Valid Returns by School		
Neilston Primary	St Thomas's Primary	Total
291	135	426

18. A total of 86 letters, emails, proforma returns and on-line submissions were received in response to the consultation, other than the pupil responses directly managed by the consultants. These 86 returns were acknowledged and recorded. Where a reply was clearly a response by more than one individual, such replies were recorded as 2 or more responses as appropriate. There were a few duplicate returns made by the same individuals. Where a duplicate response was made this was counted as one entry.

19. After taking account of returns noting responses from more than one individual and removing duplicate responses, a total of 86 responses were received. This was in addition to the 426 pupil responses noted above in paragraph 17.
20. The table below shows the number of written responses including those submitted by pupils and showing whether or not the response is from a statutory consultee.

Total Number of Responses: Statutory/ Non-Statutory			
Respondee	From Statutory Respondee	From Non-Statutory Respondee	Total
Pupil	426	NA	426
All Other Responses	53	33	86
Total	479	33	512

21. Including pupils there were therefore 512 responses in total as shown in the table above. 94% (479) of all responses were from statutory consultees and of those 89% were from pupils and 11% from other individuals/groups.

#### THE VIEWS EXPRESSED: SUMMARY OF VIEWS

22. This section provides a summary of the views within the written submissions.
23. As noted in paragraph 11 above, the views of pupils are recorded in the independent consultant's report in Appendix 2. The table below provides a summary of the views in the consultant's report in addition to an overall pupil total. It shows the percentage of pupils who made a valid return, who agreed with the "*Learning in Neilston*" proposal and those who disagreed with the proposal.

School	School Roll	Number of valid returns	% Roll: Total valid returns	% Valid returns: Agree with proposal	% Valid returns: Disagree with proposal	% Valid returns: Undecided with proposal
Neilston PS	296	291	98%	69%	23%	8%
St Thomas' PS	158	135	85%	74%	21%	5%
Percentages of total roll, i.e. combined roll of schools						
Total	454	426	94%	71%	22%	7%

The highest return rate was in Neilston Primary (98%). Of the valid returns made the majority of pupils agreed with the proposal (71%).

24. The table below provides an analysis of the views of all respondees other than pupils showing whether they are statutory or non-statutory.

All Responses (Other than Pupils)

Respondee (Other than Pupils)	Number of Responses by View		
	Agree	Disagree	Total
Parent/Carer*	37	5	42
Future Parent/Carer*	3	1	4
Group	2		2
Staff	4		4
Other	1		1
<b>Statutory Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>53</b>
Relative / Carer (other)	1	1	2
Resident	13	11	24
Group	2		2
Other	4	1	
<b>Non-Statutory Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>33</b>

(\*where a carer means the responsible adult with whom the affected young person lives)

25. 89% (47 out of 53) of statutory respondees agreed with the proposal. Of the total number of parents/carers\*, 88% (37) agreed with the proposal; and of 4 staff who responded, all agreed with the proposal.
26. This table also shows the total number of non-statutory responses received (33). 61% of non-statutory respondees agreed with the proposal; 39% disagreed.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED: MAIN POINTS

27. This section details the main points raised at the public meeting and within the written submissions. All submitted written responses were read by officers to ensure that the main points from respondees were included in this report.

Main Points – Pupils

28. As noted in paragraph 6 above, the views of pupils are recorded in the independent consultants' report in Appendix 2. The consultant's report provides the results of the written responses by pupils to the consultation and records any oral views that were expressed by pupils to the consultants.
29. The following is a summary of the main points arising from the written responses submitted by pupils in each school to the *Learning in Neilston* proposal. Almost all comments were expressed by fewer than 5 pupils with those receiving 5 or more being noted below:

*Neilston Primary School*

- Sharing a playground / making new friends / playing with my friends at school (27 such comments noted by pupils agreeing with the proposal)
- Old school is very old / new build / more space and resources (43 such comments noted by pupils agreeing with the proposal)

*St Thomas' Primary School*

- New school will be in better condition / bigger with more space / more resources (31 such comments noted by pupils agreeing with the proposal)
- Meet new people / socialise with others from different schools (10 such comments noted by pupils agreeing with the proposal)

Main Points – Of All Statutory Respondeees Other than Pupils

30. Various themes were highlighted by respondees to the proposal. The most popular themes were those expressed by statutory respondees in favour of the proposal.
31. Of the views expressed in favour of the proposal, the main themes by statutory respondees are paraphrased below:
- Agree with single site / campus approach providing improved facilities for all learners.
  - Agree that the existing buildings need replacement.
  - Economic, social and community benefits.
  - Desire to protect outdoor learning space.

All these reasons were cited by 10 or more statutory respondees. Any other issues expressed by statutory respondees in favour of the proposal were raised by under 5 respondees.

32. The main concern and issue raised by statutory respondees who disagreed with the proposal can be paraphrased into the following reason:
- Parking and traffic concerns.

This reason was cited by 2 statutory respondents. Any other issues expressed by statutory respondees against the proposal were raised by single respondents.

33. The main reason cited by a number of non-statutory respondees who replied to the consultation was a view that all schools should be non-denominational; and a small number of others raised concerns over the location and design.

COMMENTS ON THE VIEWS EXPRESSED / ISSUES RAISED

34. The reason recorded in paragraph 32 is noted below with comment.

A *Issue*: Parking and traffic concerns.

*Discussion:*

A small number of statutory respondees who disagreed with the proposal cited concerns over traffic congestion in the area. These concerns were mainly raised by parents/carers with children at a local school and some local residents.

As noted in the original consultative document (paragraphs 86 and 87) consideration would be given to the general road layout and school entrance to mitigate and minimise any increased traffic congestion around the site at the start and end of the school day. Measures such as school crossing patrols, safe cycle and walking routes and school travel plans would be reviewed to ensure pupil safety and effective traffic management. Discussion would continue with colleagues in the Environment Department (Roads and Transportation) to ensure safe routes for pupils and to agree mitigation measures / traffic management following completion of a comprehensive Transport Impact Assessment and surrounding road network appraisal.

ALLEGED OMISSIONS AND INACCURACIES

35. Section (10) (3) of the 2010 Act places a requirement on the Council to provide details of any inaccuracy or omission within the consultative document, which has been either identified by the Council or raised by stakeholders. 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). During the consultation period no area was identified as being inaccurate in the consultative document.
36. Officers believe, having considered the above, that they have complied with the 2010 Act and its 2014 amendments.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED BY EDUCATION SCOTLAND (HMIE) AND RESPONSES OFFERED

37. In line with the requirements of the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the amendments contained in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, a report was provided by Education Scotland in relation to the proposal.
38. The full report submitted by Education Scotland with regard to the proposal is provided as Appendix 3. The department notes that Education Scotland have stated in their feedback *“The Council believes that an educational benefit of the proposal is that adopting a campus approach will aid developing a good relationship with the wider community, including community use of the library and leisure facilities. This benefit has been proven in other community campuses across the country.”*
39. The report’s summary also notes *“There is a clear majority in favour of the proposal. HM Inspectors consider there to be potential educational benefits for children who currently attend the establishments involved or likely to attend them within the next two years.”*
40. A summary of issues raised in sections 3 and 4 of the Education Scotland report and the department’s responses is noted below:

- A. *Issue:* Parents' involvement as the proposal develops.

*Discussion:*

East Renfrewshire Council has experience in extensive consultation with all stakeholders through the school design process, whether involvement as part of a school extension project or a complete new build facility.

A similar process will be undertaken should this proposal be approved and funding made available. The Education Department has stated that any new built environment would be designed in full consultation with parents/carers, pupils, key groups / leaders of the faith community and the local community to ensure all facilities best meet the needs of children, staff, parents and communities. The specific design brief would be agreed with key stakeholders which would take account of the points already established and consider those expressed during this consultation.

- B. *Issue:* Outdoor learning space.

*Discussion:*

East Renfrewshire Council promotes high quality learning and teaching both indoors and outdoors in all of its schools and early years' settings and as such all new East Renfrewshire schools are designed with a view to having facilities that are useable all year round. As outlined in paragraph 50, all stakeholders will have the opportunity to be involved in the design process and as such will be able to influence the design and resources required to ensure the campus outdoor space is accessible and beneficial to learning.

The Education Department has a commitment to supporting Outdoor Learning and as such offers professional learning opportunities to staff to explore the outdoors, not only within their school playground but beyond. This commitment will continue, supporting the staff of all 3 establishments to access the community of Neilston as a learning and teaching resource.

- C. *Issue:* The need to recognise the "distinct religious nature and reality of St Thomas' Primary.

*Discussion:*

The Education Department recognises that it is important to the Catholic community to maintain their own school identity and ethos whilst respecting the beliefs of others.

East Renfrewshire has experience of building learning campuses for the denominational sector.

## EQUALITIES CONSIDERATIONS

41. In making this proposal an equalities impact assessment has been carried out and is provided as Appendix 5.



42. The Council is aware of the Public Sector Equality Duty articulated in the Equality Act 2010 scheme which came into force on 6 April 2011. This provision requires that the Council in exercising its functions has regard to the need to:
- A. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
  - B. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - C. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
43. The proposal for the establishment of a joint campus for Neilston Primary School, Madras Family Centre and St Thomas' Primary School is in accordance with these provisions.

#### PROCEDURES FOR MINISTERIAL CALL-IN

44. Under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and amendments in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 this proposal is not subject to ministerial call-in. As such the final decision on the proposal will be taken by East Renfrewshire Council's Education Committee, having due regard to the view of stakeholders expressed through the consultation exercise.

#### CONCLUSION

45. It is accepted by the vast majority of respondees that the proposal will lead to benefits for the children, parents and community of Neilston.
46. Seventy one per cent of pupils agreed with the proposal and 89% of statutory respondees other than pupils agreed with the proposal. Statutory groups including the Diocese of Paisley, Neilston Parent Council and the Neilston Community Council agreed with the proposal.
47. The Education Scotland report records that the *Learning in Neilston* joint campus proposal provides a number of significant educational benefits for all children, staff and the communities they serve; and that it has the overall support of stakeholders.
48. Taking full account of the views expressed during this consultation, the following recommendation is made.

#### RECOMMENDATION

49. To take forward when sufficient financial resources become available a learning campus on a joint site in the local of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre.

Mhairi Shaw  
Director of Education  
September 2018

**APPENDICES- CONTENT**

- 1. Original Consultative Document:**  
Future Non-Denominational Education Provision for Children of Neilston Primary and Madras Family Centre; and Future Denominational (Roman Catholic) Education Provision for Children of St Thomas' Primary
- 2. Results of Consultation with Pupils:**  
Stuart Allison and Marie Kelly (External Consultants)
- 3. Education Scotland Report:**  
Consultation Proposal by East Renfrewshire Council
- 4. Notes of the Public Meeting, Parent Councils**
- 5. Equality Impact Assessment**

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**EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

**THIS IS A FORMAL CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT**

**FUTURE NON-DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF  
NEILSTON PRIMARY AND MADRAS FAMILY CENTRE; AND  
FUTURE DENOMINATIONAL (ROMAN CATHOLIC) EDUCATION PROVISION  
FOR CHILDREN OF ST THOMAS' PRIMARY, NEILSTON**

**MAY 2018**

This document has been issued by the Education Committee of East Renfrewshire Council for consultation in terms of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.

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**EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

**FUTURE NON-DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF NEILSTON PRIMARY AND MADRAS FAMILY CENTRE; AND FUTURE DENOMINATIONAL (ROMAN CATHOLIC) EDUCATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF ST THOMAS' PRIMARY, NEILSTON**

1. There are two primary schools in Neilston village, Neilston Primary School and St Thomas' Primary School. Both school buildings have been categorised as poor in terms of condition and suitability indicating that the buildings require major refurbishment and remodelling. This is recognised as a priority for investment, which the Council is intending to address.
2. In addition Madras Family Centre is a separate building providing early learning and childcare for children of Neilston and Uplawmoor villages within the Barrhead/Neilston/Uplawmoor early years community area. The centre is under the management and leadership of the head teacher of Neilston Primary School. Although the building was extended in 2016 by re-using an available temporary accommodation unit from another site, there would be benefits to modernising the whole family centre as well as adjoining it with primary provision.
3. East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust (ERCL) currently operates 3 facilities in Neilston village that are in immediate proximity to each other: Glen Halls, Neilston Leisure Centre and Neilston Library. All of these properties are also in need of investment given their condition and to bring up to a modern standard.

**PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION**

4. The purpose is:
  - (a) To consult on the proposal to establish a learning campus on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre.
  - (b) To note that the new build Neilston Primary School would be 2-stream (i.e. 2 class P1-intake); St Thomas would be 1-stream (i.e. 1 class P1-intake); and Madras Family Centre would have places for 100 three and four year olds and 15 two year olds.
  - (c) To note that at present funding is not yet available to undertake new education build in the village of Neilston, but that the new replacement schools are a priority for investment, which the Council is intent on pursuing.
  - (d) To note the possibility of the new learning campus also comprising a new library and sports centre including swimming pool be established at the site should there be sufficient resources made available recognising the synergies for education and benefit to the community. The new facility would then provide a learning and leisure campus.
  - (e) To relocate St Thomas' Primary School to the new joint site and thereafter to close the existing St Thomas Primary School building; and note the closure of the existing library and sports centre should they be part of the proposed development.

## INTRODUCTION

### *Background*

5. East Renfrewshire Education Department is committed to *Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences*, and has a well-earned reputation for providing an excellent education for children. This is borne out in the reports received on our schools following inspection by Education Scotland.
6. Our vision is supported by providing quality educational surroundings in which all children, young people and staff can excel, and ensuring facilities are also designed with and available to the community to help enrich the communities they serve and the lives of learners and families. The Council recognises that a quality built environment signals the value it places on learning and teaching and the experience of all who use the facilities.
7. The Scottish Government and local authorities' joint aspirations for the school estate are:
  - All children and young people will be educated in, and community users able to use, schools that are 'fit for purpose' in terms of condition (a safe, secure and well maintained environment), suitability (school building and grounds are fit for the purpose of delivering the curriculum) and sufficiency (schools that match demand);
  - Schools are well-designed, accessible, inclusive learning environments that inspire and drive new thinking and change and which support the delivery of high quality educational experiences through Curriculum for Excellence;
  - Schools are integral parts of the communities they serve, with pupils making use of community facilities and communities accessing school facilities;
  - Schools accommodate and provide a range of services, activities and facilities that make a difference to people's health and wellbeing, to sustaining economic growth and to the strength and vibrancy of communities;
  - A sustainable school estate whose design, construction and operation is environmentally and energy efficient; contributes directly to delivering the year-on-year reductions in greenhouse gas emissions introduced by the latest Climate Change (Scotland) Act, which is resilient to the impact of climate change and which leads by example in matters of environmental performance;
  - A school estate that is efficiently run and maximises value for money;
  - A school estate which is flexible and responsive – both to changes in demand for school places and to learners' and teachers' requirements and wishes, and where the beneficial impact of change is maximised by thorough consultation and engagement with users and stakeholders.
8. All councils must ensure effective management of their school places and have a statutory duty to provide adequate and efficient provision of school education for their area.
9. Local authorities also have a "... duty to secure best value by continuous improvement in performance of the authority's functions, while maintaining an appropriate balance between quality and cost and having regard to economy, efficiency, effectiveness, equal opportunities and the achievement of sustainable development."



10. East Renfrewshire Council's Single Outcome Agreement outlines the local outcomes that will be delivered for its residents. In particular this proposal would contribute to the realisation of the following outcomes:
  - (a) SOA1: All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure start to their lives and are supported to succeed.
  - (b) SOA2: East Renfrewshire residents are fit and active and have the skills for learning, life and work.
11. There are 5 capabilities (Prevention, Digital, Community Engagement, Data and Modernisation) that East Renfrewshire Council prioritises to develop excellence in as an organisation to further the vision: *A modern, ambitious council creating a fairer future with all.*
12. East Renfrewshire Council adheres to relevant legislation and guidance that underpins education provision, duties of best value and asset management. It recognises the importance of effective asset management with it being intrinsic to one of the council's 5 capabilities, *Modernising How We Work.*
13. Whilst increasing school and early learning and childcare places to ensure sufficient provision for the resident population has been the main priority in investing in East Renfrewshire's education estate to date, this investment also improves the condition and suitability of replacement schools.
14. In June 2015 a paper was taken to Council, 'Influencing the Future of East Renfrewshire', which noted eight key areas that the Council would like to have the powers or resources from central government to change to ensure the future prosperity of East Renfrewshire. One of the key areas was the need to refresh the school estate in the village of Neilston.
15. Scotland's Schools for the Future programme is part of the Scottish Government's and local government's shared commitment to improve the learning environment for Scotland's children by replacing or refurbishing the worst condition schools in Scotland. A key objective is to increase the proportion of schools in good (grade A) or satisfactory (grade B) condition and thereby remove children and young people from poor (grade C) condition schools. There is a programme of investment under support from the Scottish Government through the auspices of the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) to help fund this joint commitment. Barrhead and Eastwood high schools and Crookfur Primary School have benefited from investment released by the Scottish Government to improve the condition of schools. Like Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools they were all condition and suitability levels C (poor).
16. It is hoped that there will be further funding made available to continue to support this programme and renew school buildings. Details are awaited and in any event we must be ready to take advantage of such to take forward improved education provision for the village of Neilston.

## PRESENT POSITION

### *Neilston Primary School; Madras Family Centre*

17. Neilston Primary School is a non-denominational primary school that serves the village of Neilston. The school grounds are quite extensive albeit the site slopes quite steeply in a south easterly direction. The land surrounding Neilston Primary School site is predominantly residential and agricultural use.

18. A detailed condition survey of the school found the school overall to be in condition C (poor- showing major defects and/or not operating adequately). The overall suitability rating of Neilston Primary is also C (poor- showing major problems and/or not operating optimally). The backlog maintenance of the school is quantified as having a prospective cost of £1,546,673.
19. Neilston Primary School is associated with Eastwood High School where the pupils are transported to by train to Patterton Station, Crookfur. The location of Neilston Primary is shown on the map in *Appendix A*.
20. Neilston Primary School's catchment comprises a mix of housing and there are a number of new residential developments within the Local Development Plan. *Appendix B* shows the delineated catchment area of the school.
21. In primary schools, the planning capacity is used to determine the number of pupils that we can plan to take at all stages in the school based on a class size of 30 pupils in all classes. It is noted that from P4 onwards up to 33 pupils can be accepted at each stage and the maximum P1 class size is 25 in terms of pupil to teacher ratio. The planning capacity is used to help monitor provision and demand.
22. Neilston Primary School opened in 1968 and was extended in 1990 to its current 2-stream (2 class P1-intake) provision. The school's current planning capacity is 420 pupil places.
23. The Scottish Government requires that a census is carried out in all schools at a specific point each year. This is the officially recognised time period to record pupil and staff numbers. It informs funding and is used to compare annual variations. Schools' populations are dynamic and slight variations in the number of pupils during any one school session are to be expected.
24. The school roll history is shown in *Appendix D*. The roll of Neilston Primary has remained stable over the last four years at around 290 pupils following a period of decrease over 2009/10 to 2012/13.
25. In the latest official Scottish Government census (as measured at September for the academic year 2017-18), Neilston Primary School's total roll is 295, with almost all pupils being local residents. The school is presently at 70% occupancy of its planning capacity, a level it has been at over recent years as noted in the table below.

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
P1-P7	278	287	297	280	295
Occup	66%	68%	71%	67%	70%

26. The crucial stage in a primary school in seeking to manage the roll is the P1-intake; it is the capacity / availability of places in this stage that best determines the potential for additional pupils to be taken throughout the school. The planned P1-intake capacity is the maximum number that the authority considers for planning purposes for 'catchment demand'. For Neilston this is 60 pupils; however recognising that the pupil: teacher ratio is 25:1 at the P1 stage, a maximum of 60 would require an additional P1 teacher. Although, it is noted that for a 2-stream school the P1-intake could be managed based on 50 pupils should that satisfy 'catchment demand'. The demand for catchment over recent years has been met within a limit of 50 P1 pupils.

27. Based on the current information provided by East Renfrewshire Council Planning Section and the current approved Local Development Plan, the number of known planned additional residential units that are in the Neilston Primary School delineated catchment area is around 150 until 2023 with approximately a further 380 beyond 2023. Up to 2023 this represents an increase of around 35 additional pupils or 5 per stage. The timeframe for those units beyond 2023 is not known and will be phased over later years.
28. *Appendix E* provides a roll projection for Neilston Primary School to 2023-24 taking into account this house building, which shows that the school roll slightly increases resulting in an occupancy rate of 73% over this period. The 2-stream primary providing sufficient places to accommodate needs.
29. Early learning and childcare is provided across four community areas in East Renfrewshire. Madras Family Centre provides early learning and childcare for 3, 4 year olds and certain 2-year olds for the Barrhead, Neilston and Uplawmoor community area- principally serving the villages of Neilston and Uplawmoor. Madras Family Centre is on a flat site adjacent to the grounds of Neilston Primary School, with frontage to High Street. The map on *Appendix A* shows the location of the centre.
30. A detailed condition survey of Madras Family Centre found the facility overall to be in condition B (fair/satisfactory- performing adequately but showing minor deterioration). The overall suitability rating of Madras Family Centre is also B (satisfactory- performing adequately but with minor problems). The backlog maintenance of the centre is quantified as having a prospective cost of £123,135.
31. Madras Family Centre opened in 1976 and was extended in 2016 to increase the number of places. Based on current arrangements and entitled hours of early learning and childcare, the capacity at any one time is 80 3 and 4 year old children and 15 2-year old children meeting needs. Future early learning and childcare places will be provided under the Council's proposed delivery model for 1,140 hours entitlement from 2020, which maximises places by offering extended hours/full days and encourages mixed modes of delivery using partner provider provision (private/voluntary sectors) as well as child minders. This approach provides additional early years places and offers families more choice. As indicated in Para. 4(b) above, it is proposed to increase capacity to 100 places for 3 and 4 year olds to reflect the expected increased demand and the need for accessibility and flexibility in line with the principles of the national expansion programme.

#### *St Thomas' Primary School*

32. St Thomas' Primary School is a denominational (Roman Catholic) primary school that serves the villages of Neilston and Uplawmoor. The school grounds are approximately rectangular in shape, with a gentle slope from a central high point down to its northwest corner. St Thomas' Primary School is mainly surrounded by residential properties.
33. A detailed condition survey of the school found the school overall to be in condition C (poor- showing major defects and/or not operating adequately). The overall suitability rating of St Thomas' Primary is also C (poor- showing major problems and/or not operating optimally). The backlog maintenance of the school is quantified as having a prospective cost of £1,132,158.
34. St Thomas' Primary School is associated with St Luke's High School where the pupils are transported to by bus to Barrhead. The location of St Thomas' Primary is shown on the map in *Appendix A*.

35. St Thomas' Primary School's catchment comprises a mix of housing and there are a number of new residential developments within the Local Development Plan. *Appendix C* shows the delineated catchment area of the school.
36. St Thomas' Primary School opened in 1963. There was a minor extension in 2009 with the school being 1-stream provision (1 class P1-intake). The school's current planning capacity is 210 pupil places.
37. The school roll history is shown in *Appendix D*. The roll of St Thomas' Primary has decreased by 15% over the last 2 years after a period from 2010/11 to 2015/16 where the roll was stable averaging 154 pupils.
38. In the latest official Scottish Government census (as measured at September for the academic year 2017-18), St Thomas' Primary School's total roll is 130, with almost all pupils being local residents. The school is presently at 62% occupancy of its planning capacity, the lowest level over recent years; however as seen from the table below the average over the last 5 years is 70%.

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
P1-P7	154	152	153	142	130
Occup	73%	72%	73%	68%	62%

39. For St Thomas' the planned P1-intake capacity is 30 pupils; however recognising that the pupil: teacher ratio is 25:1 at the P1 stage, a maximum of 30 would require an additional P1 teacher. Although, it is noted that for a 1-stream school the P1-intake could be managed based on 25 pupils that satisfy 'catchment demand'. The demand for catchment over recent years has been met within a limit of 25 P1 pupils.
40. Based on the current information provided by East Renfrewshire Council Planning Section and the current approved Local Development Plan, the number of known planned additional residential units that are in the St Thomas' Primary School delineated catchment area is around 190 until 2023 with approximately a further 380 beyond 2023. Up to 2023 this represents an increase of around 38 additional pupils or 5/6 per stage. The timeframe for those units beyond 2023 is not known and will be phased over later years.
41. *Appendix E* provides a roll projection for St Thomas' Primary School to 2023-24 taking into account this house building, which shows that the school roll steadily increases resulting in an occupancy rate of 71% over this period. The 1-stream primary providing sufficient places to accommodate needs.

#### *Gauging Interest*

42. In seeking to take forward improvements to the education provision, in 2017 the Education Department undertook an informal consultation with the Parent Councils of Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools to gauge interest in the potential to establish a campus approach to *Learning in Neilston* should a funding opportunity arise. During discussions the prospect of the campus accommodating other local community facilities arose.
43. Following this both Parent Councils decided to gather opinions from their Parent Forums as to whether there would be an appetite for moving forward with a proposal to establish

a new educational campus comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary, Madras Family Centre and St. Thomas' Primary.

44. In their letters to their Parent Forums they rightly noted that: "... if the two primary schools and the family centre were located on a single campus they would retain their unique, individual identities and ethos and continue to have separate head teachers and parent councils. This would not be a merger. At the moment, no site has been identified for the campus. Funding for this proposal has still to be secured"; and "... the possibility of relocating the library and leisure centre on the same site."
45. In their responses the Parent Councils wished a note of any additional comments and questions to help inform their discussions with the Council and address the views expressed.
46. The survey of Neilston Primary and Madras Family Centre had a response rate of 58% of families expressing a view. The outcome showed that 90% of those families who made a response were in favour of the proposal. This represents 52% of all families who could respond agreed with the proposal.
47. The survey of St Thomas' Primary had a response rate of 80% of families expressing a view. The outcome showed that 76% of those families who made a response were in favour of the proposal. This represents 61% of all families who could respond agreed with the proposal.
48. To further explore the possibility of a campus approach, whether it included other community facilities or not, the Director of Education and Head of Education Service were invited along to the Neilston Town Charter Advisory Group. Again there was positive interest in the prospect with the group seeing benefits for the village of Neilston, whilst keen also to ensure proposals were seen as part of Neilston master planning and aspects such as traffic management would be looked at.
49. It should be noted that in the informal consultation the proposed site for the campus was not yet known.

#### *Feasibility Study - Options Appraisal*

50. As part of the 2017/18 Capital Plan, funding was allocated to undertake a feasibility study of building a new replacement for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre on either the existing site of Neilston Primary or the St Thomas' Primary site. These sites were chosen being central to the village, under council ownership and being existing education sites more easy to facilitate similar development within a set timeframe should that be necessary. The review was also to consider the potential to co-locate library and leisure provision in Neilston with aspirations to improve them should investment be forthcoming. The feasibility report is attached as *Appendix F* informing the asset management appraisal.
51. Detailed condition surveys were commissioned for the 3 education sites and the 3 ERCL trust operated facilities (Glen Halls, Neilston Leisure Centre and Neilston Library) as part of the study, which confirmed that all 6 properties would benefit from new build replacements to modernise and address maintenance issues.
52. The feasibility study summarises the options appraisal of the sites in terms of their suitability and potential to accommodate additional community facilities, the library and sports centre. It shows that there would be scope to rationalise all 6 buildings, which are

in relatively close proximity and bring facilities up to a modern standard to better serve the schools and the community.

53. The outcome of the review showed that it was possible to establish a joint site in the locale of Neilston Primary and Madras Family Centre comprising these 2 establishments and St Thomas' Primary School. In addition it illustrated there were opportunities to include the library and sports centre on site. The St Thomas' Primary School site, whilst flatter, was not of sufficient area to accommodate both schools and the family centre.
54. This consultative proposal concerns the required education statutory consultation about the schools and family centre coming together on a joint site (*Learning in Neilston*) whilst noting the potential for other local facilities to co-locate. The schools would continue to operate under separate headships and have separate Parent Councils, but would benefit from new build and shared facilities.
55. Should the *Learning in Neilston* consultative proposal receive approval, the feasibility study illustrates possible opportunities that could be progressed subject to sufficient financial resources being secured and necessary subsequent approvals e.g. planning. The ultimate design of any resulting facilities would of course take place with stakeholders and the community to establish new provision.
56. The Council is now formally consulting on *Learning in Neilston* which is an important stage in the drive to take forward investment for the schools and the local community- to be prepared to benefit from potential funding opportunities, which may also enable the Council to take forward the wider campus: *Learning and Leisure in Neilston*.

## PROPOSAL

*Learning in Neilston: (New Build Replacements for Neilston and St Thomas' Primary Schools and Madras Family Centre- Joint Site Approach in the Locale of Neilston and Madras); Note Potential of Learning and Leisure within Campus*

57. The proposal is to:
  - (a) To consult on the proposal to establish a learning campus on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre.
  - (b) To note that the new build Neilston Primary School would be 2-stream (i.e. 2 class P1-intake); St Thomas would be 1-stream (i.e. 1 class P1-intake); and Madras Family Centre would have places for 100 three and four year olds and 15 two year olds.
  - (c) To note that at present funding is not yet available to undertake new education build in the village of Neilston, but that the new replacement schools are a priority for investment, which the Council is intent on pursuing.
  - (d) To note the possibility of the new learning campus also comprising a new library and sports centre including swimming pool be established at the site should there be sufficient resources made available recognising the synergies for education and benefit to the community. The new facility would then provide a learning and leisure campus.

- (e) To relocate St Thomas' Primary School to the new joint site and thereafter to close the existing St Thomas Primary School building; and note the closure of the existing library and sports centre should they be part of the proposed development.

### EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

58. The vision of the Education Department *Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences*, is at the heart of the work that department and school staff undertake as they seek to provide the highest quality education and services to develop the whole individual.
59. Early learning and childcare and primary school experiences are fundamental to the delivery of a broad general education for all children. The aim of *Curriculum for Excellence* is to enable all children and young people to develop their capacities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to society. The Department's vision and values embody these aims, which are furthered by *Curriculum for Excellence and Getting it Right for Every Child*.
60. The establishment of new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre on a joint site in the village of Neilston would result in a number of educational benefits, in particular providing excellent environments helps realise the department's vision for young children of Neilston and Uplawmoor.
61. The relocation of the schools and family centre to a new building would offer a better educational built environment than that currently. As noted previously the condition and suitability assessments of both school buildings are graded poor, whilst Madras is rated satisfactory. Overall the internal and external facilities of a new built joint campus would be superior and provide the best condition and suitability ratings (A). The new campus building would also be more energy and carbon efficient resulting in lower operational costs.
62. The accommodation and resources associated with the proposed new provision are likely to have a positive impact on the motivation, aspirations and enjoyment of children, staff and the wider schools community. At all stages, children would benefit from improved resources including science and technologies within flexible and fit for purpose learning areas.
63. Purpose built new facilities to provide flexible indoor and outdoor learning spaces would be a key aspect of the physical environment and enabling the school to respond to the demands of *Curriculum for Excellence*. The new campus site would be developed with a focus on outdoor learning, exercise and play for children in the natural environment. Such experiences are invaluable in improving health and wellbeing and resilience. In addition to the benefits of physical and mental development, high quality opportunities for children to learn outside will develop, for example, their understanding of the natural world, science skills and creativity.
64. The existing schools were built in the 1960s over 50 years ago and have not been designed to best meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. In particular Neilston Primary School has many changes in levels and difficult circulation routes. A new built environment well considered from the outset to take account of site typographies and varying needs of building users would improve accessibility for children, staff, parents and the wider community. For children (staff and all building users) with additional support needs the new physical environment would be fully compliant in terms of the Equality Act 2010.

65. Madras Family Centre would be integrated as part of the build enabling access to wider and better facilities and resources. It would also improve the transitions from nursery to both primary schools with the aim of securing for children continuous and progressive learning experiences that build on prior learning helping them become successful learners.
66. The transitions of children from Neilston Primary School and St Thomas' Primary School to their respective associated secondary schools, Eastwood High School and St Luke's High School, would remain at a high standard, and would be unaffected by the proposal.
67. The increase in the number of staff from the two schools working within the one campus building would be advantageous and provide more effective support to the career-long professional learning of staff. This includes opportunities across the Curriculum for Excellence Early Years Level (nursery to P1 stages). In particular it would allow staff across both schools to reflect, share and develop good practice with a stage focus, to learn together and plan for improvement. This would lead to improved quality of learning, teaching and achievement for all children.
68. Having the two schools on the one site would provide further opportunities for the two schools to foster good community relations. It would make it easier to establish joint activities and events such as sports teams, charity fundraising and after school clubs. Families with children at both St Thomas' Primary and Madras FC would find it more convenient to take their children to the one locale.
69. Local authorities are charged with delivering excellence and equity. Investing in making the schools more suitable for learning and teaching in a modern and future looking society would be equitable to the children and young people of Neilston in helping them get the best start in life, fulfil their learning potential and realise their ambitions for life and work.
70. The campus building and its grounds would be designed to encourage community use. It would be expected that the facilities would be used extensively out with school hours providing benefit to the local community.
71. Whilst recognising it would require sufficient resources to be made available to take forward the culture and leisure facilities in addition to the schools and early years centre, there would be synergies for education and benefit to the community in a campus approach to improve *Learning and Leisure in Neilston*.
72. The pupils could use a modern vibrant library and renewed leisure facilities on site with improved community facilities for the village. The wider campus would also provide a holistic setting where it would be easier to meet the needs of children and their families. Families could more easily be supported with skills they need such as literacy, including digital skills so that they can better support their children's learning. Families would also benefit from improved health and wellbeing at the on-site leisure facilities for example whilst their children were at school/nursery, or after school/nursery with their children. All this would give children a strong foundation enabling them to get the most out of their future years at school and beyond. A campus facilitates community cohesion by providing a locale for all generations to be able to engage, help one another and a means of sustaining a healthy and vibrant community for young children to prosper.
73. The Education Department has given emphasis to monitoring and evaluating transitions, as children move from nursery to primary and from primary to the secondary sector to ensure that these are smooth, and that learning is continuous and progressive. This is a key requirement of *Curriculum for Excellence*. This careful planning is also required as children move from one stage to the next in any one school. The considerable



experience of department and school staff in managing transitions will ensure that the transfer of younger children and pupils would be carefully planned and they would be appropriately supported through the transition so they are not disadvantaged by any change and that continuity and progression will be maintained.

74. The department is recognised as having excellent quality management procedures and practices and the Director of Education is confident that the establishment of the campus approach to *Learning in Neilston* would be successfully implemented with no detriment to the quality of education delivered.
75. Under the proposal both Neilston Primary and Madras Family Centre would be relocated but within their same locale and it is not envisaged that in relocating St Thomas' Primary School there would be any material changes to walking/cycling distances to school and consequently improved opportunities to promote positive attitudes to health and wellbeing. Nor would there be any changes to free school transport. However in designing and building a new campus, traffic management (car, pedestrian, cycling) would be improved for both schools and the family centre benefitting education and the wider community.
76. The proposed new building would be built with modern design principles that include efficient energy usage and maintenance and thereby providing educational places in a sustainable and cost effective way.
77. Under the proposal there would be no detriment to other users of Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools and Madras Family Centre. There would be no change to any existing community use of the affected schools. Indeed with the improved facilities there would be further opportunities for community use/lets.
78. Education Scotland inspections (HMIE) last published evaluations of St Thomas' Primary in August 2010 and Neilston Primary School in June 2007 and Madras Family Centre in December 2008. These reports are not currently available on-line at <https://education.gov.scot>. They can however be requested via the schools or the Education Department.
79. The authority supports and challenges schools to continue to improve. On an annual basis establishments prepare a school improvement plan which sets out the actions they will take to improve experiences, provision, attainment and achievement. Establishments also produce an annual Standards and Quality Report which provides information about their progress with the improvement plan and the impact made in bringing about the desired improvements.
80. The authority has an important role to play in the planning for improvement; in particular working with individual establishments in their evaluation of performance and provision and assisting with the identification of areas for improvement through self-evaluation activities. Improvement Plans along with current evaluations of key quality indicators for Neilston Primary School and Madras Family Centre are available at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Neilston/madras-family-centre/how-are-we-doing/> with the equivalent information available at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StThomas/information/how-are-we-doing/> for St Thomas' Primary School. For all quality indicators the establishments are rated as good or better.
81. It is not considered that there would be any adverse impacts on children attending the affected schools by implementing the proposal. As at present, the authority will continue to monitor the provision in schools and early learning and childcare centres in

accordance with established procedures and will provide support and challenge in order to secure continuous improvement in the quality of education.

82. Should the proposed new campus approach to *Learning in Neilston* be approved the department would ensure that standards and quality would continue to improve for all learners.
83. The Education Department considers that the proposals would not have an adverse impact on any child or staff member in terms of age, gender, religion, race, and disability. Every child and staff member who attends/works in Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools and Madras Family Centre, whatever their background, nationality, or needs, would continue to be given support to participate in the school curriculum and activities including during the establishment of the new schools and family centre. The department and schools have been successfully evaluated in terms of equality and fairness and meeting learners' needs.
84. An equality impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the consultation exercise. In carrying out this assessment the department will take account of (or address) any equality issues raised as part of the consultation process. The equality impact assessment will be included in the consultation report on the results.

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

### *Admissions and Transfer Arrangements*

85. Under the proposal, there would be no change to admissions arrangements and it would not affect any change to the associated secondary schools. Madras Family Centre would also still serve the same community in the Barrhead/Neilston/Uplawmoor early years neighbourhood area.

### *Traffic Management*

86. As noted in the educational benefits section above, it is not envisaged that there would be any material changes to walking/cycling distances to school as a consequence of this proposal. It is recognised that there is some congestion at peak times around Neilston Primary School in particular.
87. In designing and building a new campus, traffic management (car, pedestrian, cycling) would be well considered to improve arrangements for both schools and the family centre and the community in general. This would include the site itself, the general road layout and entrance to mitigate and minimise any traffic congestion around the site at the start and end of the school day. In addition, as part of the planning process, a Transport Assessment would be undertaken for the new campus. The schools would also develop their School Travel Plans for the new campus. School crossing patrols would be reviewed to ensure pupil safety and effective traffic management.

### *Timescale, Transition, Management Arrangements and Support*

88. If the proposed new campus approach for *Learning in Neilston* is ultimately approved by Education Committee when they consider the outcome of this consultation, and financial resources become available to enable the campus build to proceed, then transition and support would be carefully considered to managing the transfer to and the establishment of the new provision. There would be support from the Quality Improvement team

working with senior school staff to ensure that the young children and pupils are not disadvantaged during the transition. For some children who require additional support there may be the need for an extended period of transition with staff working with parents/carers to ensure that the transfer is as smooth as possible.

89. Were the proposal to receive approval and necessary finance to proceed, a paper would be taken to Cabinet which would include the timeframe to establish the new provision and the anticipated academic year the facilities would be open. This would be communicated to stakeholders, in particular to pupils, parents/carers, staff and unions. Thereafter engagement over the design of the new campus build for *Learning in Neilston* would take place with its stakeholders and the community to help establish the new provision. In taking forward a new build as part of the transition process, children, parents and staff would have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the building including social areas, classrooms, play areas and entry/exit points.
90. There are no implications for lets as any current lets at Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools could continue, with the proposed additional school provision providing further opportunities for lets.

#### *Current & Future Provision*

91. Should the proposal be accepted East Renfrewshire Council would be able to plan school places effectively, be ready to take advantage of potential funding opportunities to consolidate and improve educational provision in the village of Neilston for the foreseeable future. In addition, subject to finance and necessary approvals, there would be the prospect of relocating other community facilities on the site aka *Learning and Leisure in Neilston*.
92. In determining this consultative proposal account has been taken of relevant current information including the presently approved Local Development Plan and the number of known planned additional residential units. It is noted that the availability of and demand for educational places throughout the authority is subject to regular monitoring and review. Examining future provision will continue to be undertaken to ensure there are sufficient educational places in all areas of the Council. This will take into account future local planning processes and resultant new housing land supplies, other demographic changes and relevant modifications to the educational estate as a consequence of local/national educational policy such as expansion of early years, changes in class sizes. Any future changes to the school/ early learning and childcare estate would be subject of future committee and council reports and any necessary consultation.

#### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

93. At present there is no identified finance to take forward the *Learning in Neilston* consultative proposal to provide the new schools and family centre. As noted earlier this consultative proposal is a necessary step in seeking to establish this new education provision. The Council must be ready to take advantage of any programme of investment with support from the Scottish Government/ Scottish Futures Trust to take forward any improved education provision should, among other things, the financial circumstances at that time prove favourable.
94. The new schools and family centre campus would be of a similar size to the Faith Schools' Joint Campus (St Clare's Primary and Calderwood Lodge Primary and Nursery Class) established recently at Newton Mearns, which opened in August 2017 at a total capital cost of £17 million. This capital cost is provided for illustration purposes only,

since the specifics of the Neilston proposal is not yet developed. Additional resources would be required, as well as obtaining the necessary approvals, to establish the wider campus approach to *Learning and Leisure in Neilston*.

95. Depending on investment needs and available funding, it might take some years for such to evolve. Should the *Learning in Neilston* consultative proposal ultimately be approved in principle to go forward, then when necessary investment is secured the new schools and family centre could be progressed on the Neilston and Madras locale in such a way to leave open the possibility of adding the learning and leisure facilities at a future date to realise the wider campus.
96. With the proposal there would be the closure of 3 separate older establishments and resulting removal of backlog maintenance totalling approximately £2.8 million. There would also be a reduction in the overall carbon footprint of the Council as a result of energy saving in heating, lighting and other electrical equipment.
97. The property costs such as rates for the 3 establishments total around £0.2 million per annum. The above would be used to contribute to the running costs of the larger albeit more energy efficient unified campus building.
98. Whilst all 3 establishments would be demolished, the existing site of St Thomas' Primary School would be surplus to education requirements and would be considered as part of the Council's corporate asset management, possibly raising a capital receipt.
99. As noted in paragraph 75, there are no additional transport costs associated with this proposal.

## CONSULTATION

100. The Council is required to formally consult on changes to a delineated catchment area, establishing new schools and changes to the admission arrangements or the relocation of any school. How this is carried out and who must be consulted is clearly set out in the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.
101. This report is issued as a formal consultative document and will be made available to all interested parties. A copy of the report is available for inspection at the affected schools including the family centre and at the Council's Head Office, Eastwood Park, Rouken Glen Road, Giffnock, East Renfrewshire, G46 6UG; and at the Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 1SY. An electronic version can be accessed at the East Renfrewshire Council website ([www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/schoolconsultation](http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/schoolconsultation)).

### *Schools Affected*

102. The schools affected by the proposals are St Thomas' Primary School, Neilston Primary School and Madras Family Centre.

### *Period of Consultation*

103. The consultation period will last from Friday 11 May 2018 to midnight on Tuesday 26 June 2018.

### *Relevant Consultees*

104. We will consult with the following:

- parents/ carers of all children/ pupils in the affected schools
- Parent Councils of the affected schools
- parents/ carers of any child(ren)/ pupil(s) expected to attend an affected school within the next 2 school years
- pupils of each affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity)
- school staff (teaching and otherwise) of each affected school
- trade unions representing staff employed in the affected schools
- the Catholic Church
- East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership
- local community councils
- local elected members
- local Members of Parliament and local Members of Scottish Parliament
- members of East Renfrewshire Council's Education Committee
- current community users of the affected schools
- Education Scotland

105. During the consultation period a public meeting will be held in Glen Halls, Main Street, Neilston at 7:00 pm on Tuesday 5 June 2018. Elected members and senior officers of East Renfrewshire Council will be present to discuss the proposal and there will be an opportunity to ask questions at the meeting.

106. Note on Corrections: If any possible inaccuracy or omission in the Consultative Document is discovered by the Education Department or is suggested by any other person, the department will determine if relevant information has been omitted or if there has been an inaccuracy. The Education Department will then take appropriate action that may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the Proposal paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period as appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised.

#### *Responding to the Consultation*

107. East Renfrewshire Council invites all interested parties to make written representation on the consultative proposal. Interested parties are encouraged to provide feedback on East Renfrewshire Council's website [www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/schoolconsultation](http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/schoolconsultation) ; or alternatively citizens can complete and return the consultation response proforma attached in *Appendix G*.

108. Written responses regarding the proposal will also be accepted by post. Such responses should be clear about who you are, where you live, why you are interested including your relationship with the affected schools (e.g. parent/ carer of pupil in an affected school, member of staff at an affected school, relative of a pupil at an affected school etc.) and whether or not you agree with the proposal, or have any alternative solutions or comments. Petitions will be treated as a single response.

109. Careful consideration will be given to the views of the Catholic Church regarding this proposal.

110. Education Scotland is entitled to copies of all responses received. We would therefore advise that your personal information will be supplied to Education Scotland if they request it. Separately other interested parties may also seek sight of the responses received and accordingly you should advise if you wish your personal details withheld in respect of these requests.
111. Please send all written representation on the proposal to East Renfrewshire Council no later than midnight on Tuesday 26 June 2018 via the Council's consultation website, or postal address for hard copies to East Renfrewshire Council, Education Department, Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 1SY.
112. Education Scotland will be sent details of the consultation responses including issues raised at the public meeting and other relevant documentation. Education Scotland will then prepare and submit a report to the Director of Education within three weeks. In preparing their report Education Scotland may visit the affected schools.
113. The Director of Education will report the results of this consultation exercise including the report submitted by Education Scotland to the Education Committee on 4 October 2018. The consultation report on the results will be available for public inspection at least 3 weeks before that date. The report will be available at all reasonable times at Council Offices at Eastwood Park, and Barrhead Main Street, in the affected schools, local library and published on the Council's website.
114. Reasonable requests for alternative forms of consultation papers or response documents will be accommodated wherever possible e.g. audio support or language translations. For this support please contact Mary Hart (0141 577 3435) or email [Mary.Hart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:Mary.Hart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk) or write to the address in paragraph 113 above.
115. The final report and the decision taken by the Education Committee will be made available on the Council's website. Printed copies of the report will be made available on request to anyone who has responded to the consultative document.

Mhairi Shaw  
Director of Education  
May 2018

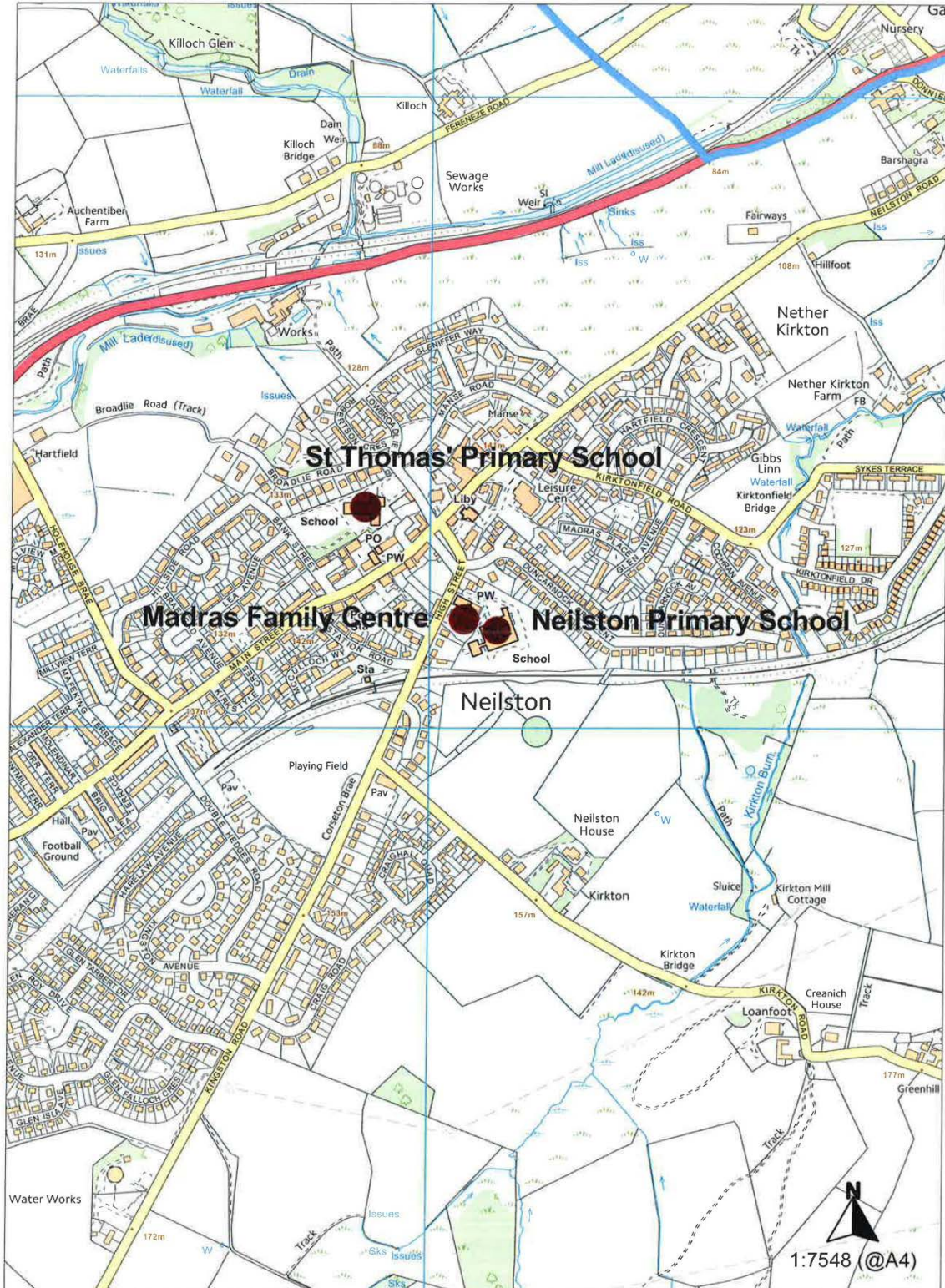
**Appendices- Content**

- A. Location of Neilston and St Thomas' Primary Schools and Madras Family Centre
- B. Delineated Catchment Area for Neilston Primary School
- C. Delineated Catchment Area for St Thomas' Primary School
- D. School Roll History: Neilston and St Thomas' Primary Schools
- E. School Roll Projections: Neilston and St Thomas' Primary Schools
- F. Consultation Response Form

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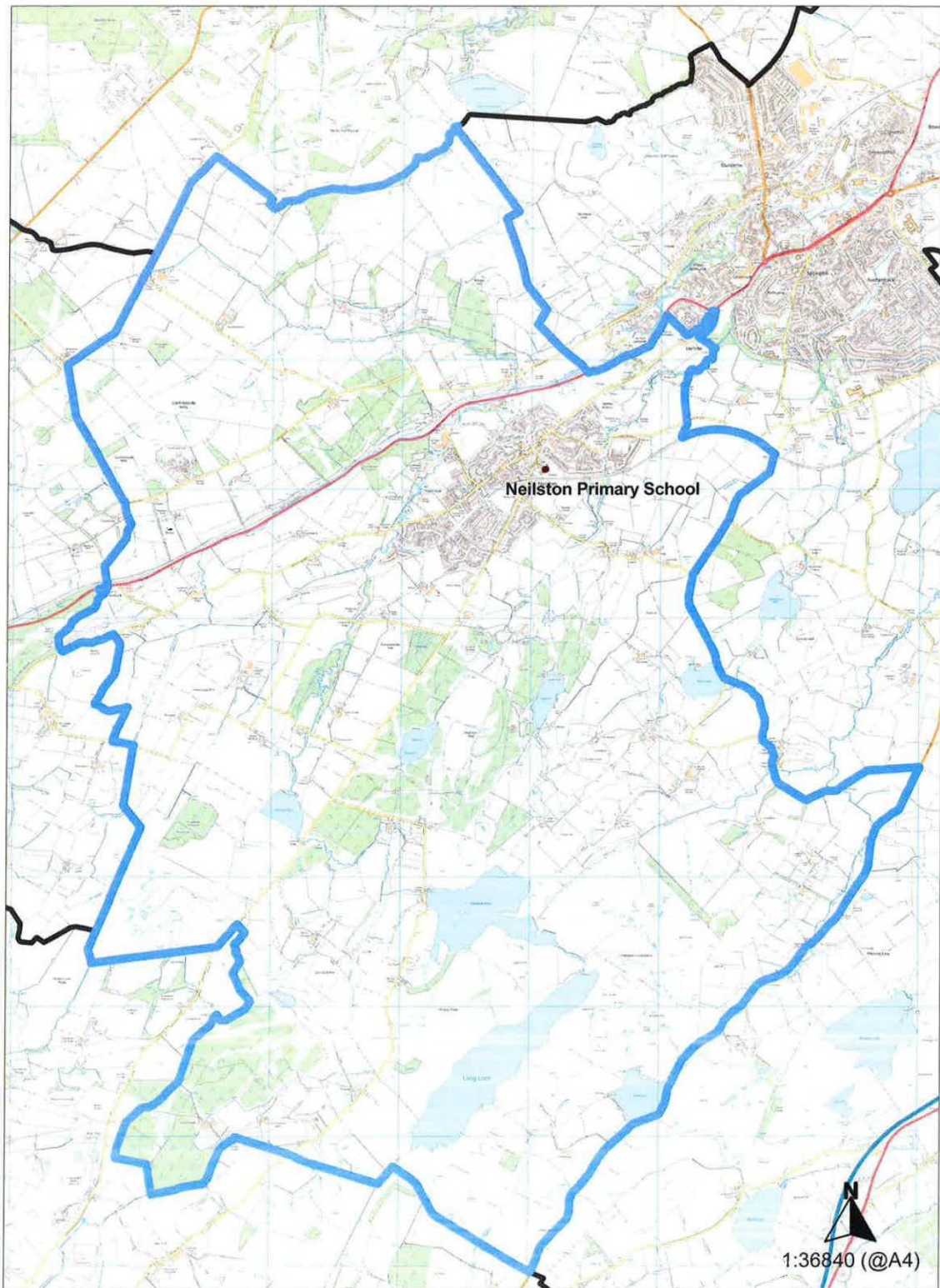


**Location of Neilston and St Thomas' Primary Schools and Madras Family Centre**



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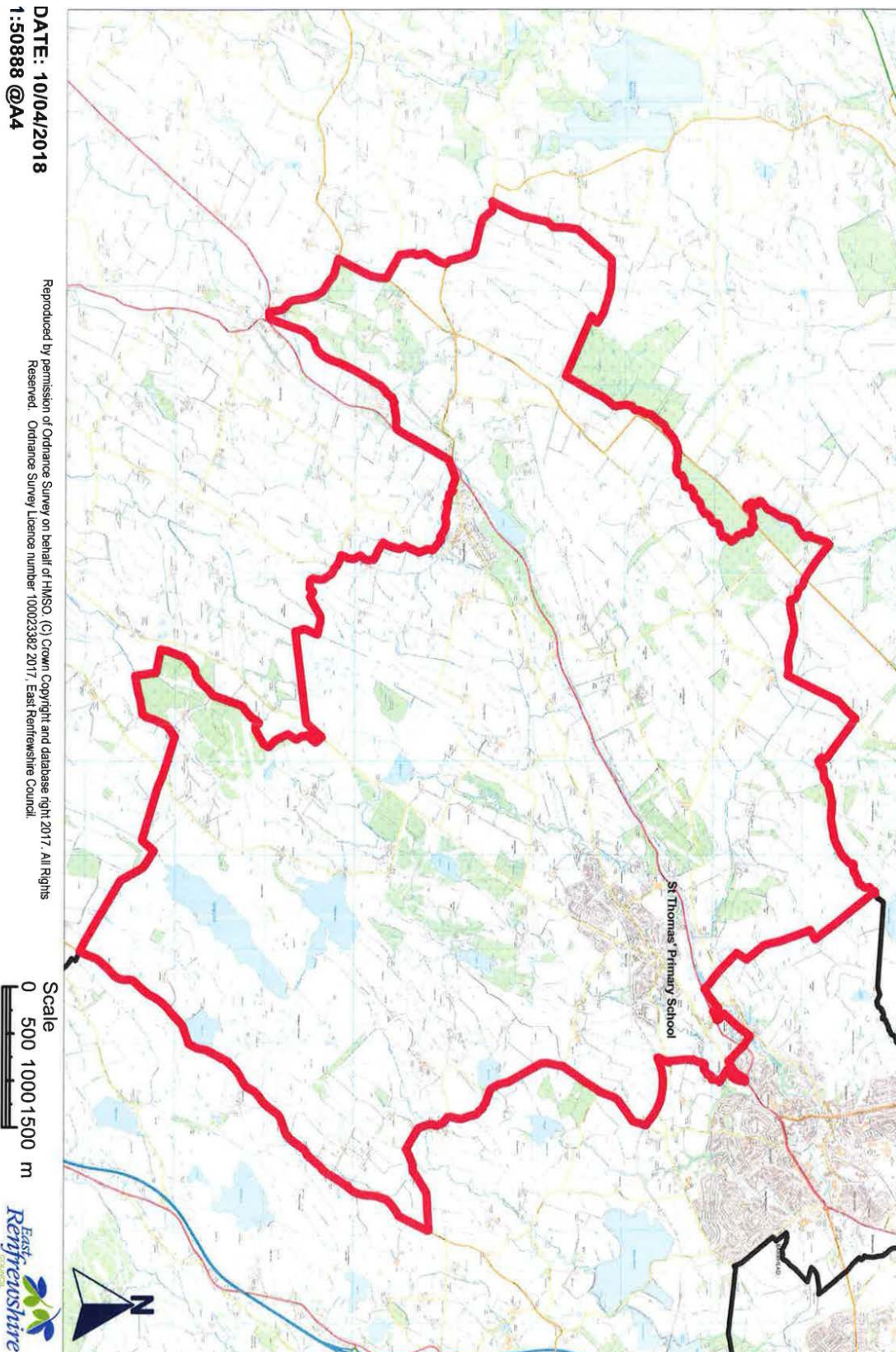
## Delineated Catchment Area for Neilston Primary School



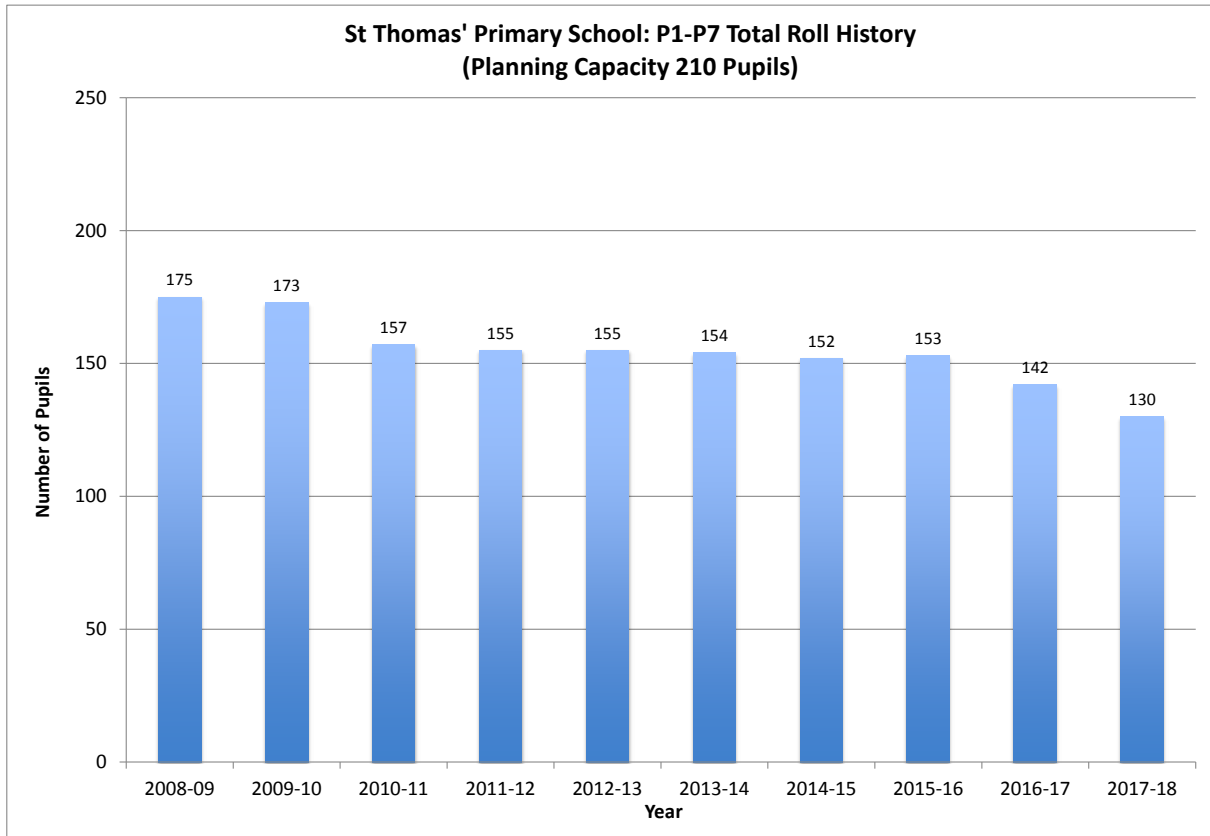
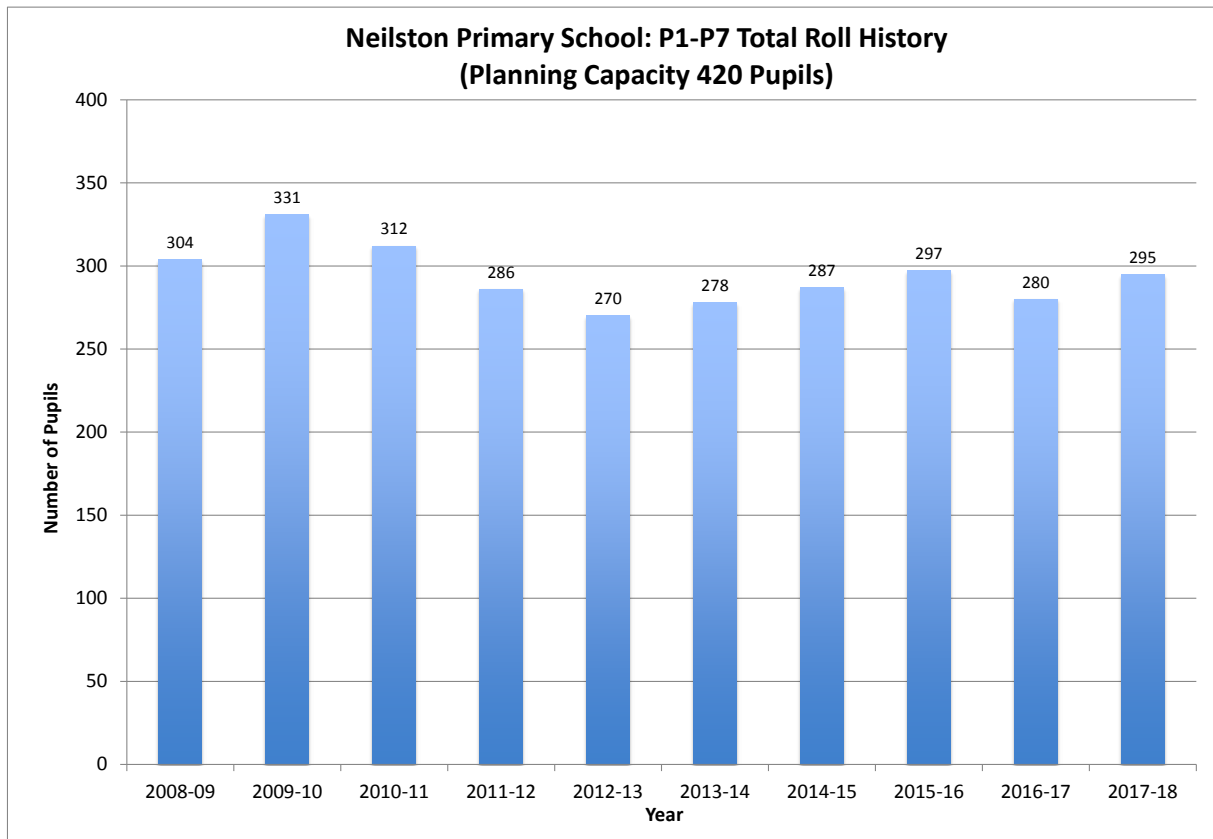
Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. (C) Crown Copyright and database right 2017. All Rights Reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100023382 2017, East Renfrewshire Council.

A very small number of properties shown in these delineated areas have an option to attend a neighbouring school, similarly some properties out with the delineated areas may have the option to attend these schools. These are mostly farms. Details are available on request.

## Delineated Catchment Area for St Thomas' Primary School



A very small number of properties in these delineated areas have an option to attend a neighbouring school, similarly some properties out with the delineated areas may have the option to attend these schools. These are mostly farms. Details are available on request.



## Neilston Primary School: Roll Projection

								Total Planning Capacity	420		
								P1-Intake Capacity	50/60		
Rolls by Stage											
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P1-P7 (Excluding Housing)	Pupils from New Housing	P1-P7 (Including Housing)	
Sep 2017	3 9	3 3	4 2	4 4	4 0	5 2	4 5	295		295	
Aug 2018	4 1	3 9	3 3	4 2	4 4	4 0	5 2	291	2	293	
Aug 2019	3 8	4 1	3 9	3 3	4 2	4 4	4 0	277	11	288	
Aug 2020	3 8	3 8	4 1	3 9	3 3	4 2	4 4	275	19	294	
Aug 2021	3 8	3 8	3 8	4 1	3 9	3 3	4 2	269	27	296	
Aug 2022	3 8	3 8	3 8	3 8	4 1	3 9	3 3	265	34	299	
Aug 2023	3 8	3 8	3 8	3 8	3 8	4 1	3 9	270	35	305	

## St Thomas' Primary School: Roll Projection

								Total Planning Capacity	210		
								P1-Intake Capacity	25/30		
Rolls by Stage											
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P1-P7 (Excluding Housing)	Pupils from New Housing	P1-P7 (Including Housing)	
Sep 2017	9	1 4	1 9	2 7	2 2	1 9	2 0	130	2	132	
Aug 2018	2 0	9	1 4	1 9	2 7	2 2	1 9	130	6	136	
Aug 2019	1 6	2 0	9	1 4	1 9	2 7	2 2	127	14	141	
Aug 2020	1 6	1 6	2 0	9	1 4	1 9	2 7	122	22	143	
Aug 2021	1 6	1 6	1 6	2 0	9	1 4	1 9	111	30	141	
Aug 2022	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6	2 0	9	1 4	108	37	146	
Aug 2023	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6	2 0	9	111	38	149	

## Notes

- The September 2017 figures are actual rolls per the official census.
- P1 intakes are based on average P1 enrolments.

- The projections take account of pupils expected from current known planned new residential development within East Renfrewshire. The anticipated additional pupils from new housing are not allocated by stage, but as a total for the school roll. The projected pupil numbers by stage will therefore be higher.
- The roll projection is undertaken to monitor demand and availability of places for local residents and does not reflect any available places that may subsequently be filled through for example future placing requests from outwith the local/Council area. Placing request allocations are managed should there be spaces available following catchment allocations.

## EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL : EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

FUTURE NON-DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF NEILSTON  
 PRIMARY AND MADRAS FAMILY CENTRE; AND FUTURE DENOMINATIONAL (ROMAN  
 CATHOLIC) EDUCATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF ST THOMAS' PRIMARY, NEILSTON:

## FORM FOR YOUR RESPONSE

## ABOUT YOU

Name:

Address:

Post

- Tick the box if we should keep your name and address confidential

**Please select all that apply and complete as appropriate:**

- I am a Parent/Carer of a child/ children attending an *affected school(s)* as noted below.  
 (Carer means the responsible adult with whom the young person lives)

Neilston Primary  
 Madras FC

St Thomas' Primary

My child/ children reside(s) in the delineated catchment area(s) of the school(s)  
 attended above

Name(s) of my child(ren):

I am a pupil at

I am a member of staff at

I am responding on behalf of a group or organisation.

Name of group/organisation

I am related to a young person attending one of the *affected schools*

I provide care to a young person attending one of the *affected schools*

I reside within East Renfrewshire

Other (*please specify*

*Please provide information to all sections. Should you not wish to specify some of the details in the ABOUT YOU section, we will still take your response into account.*

**WHAT YOU THINK** (*tick only one box*)

- I agree with the proposal.
- I do not agree with the proposal.

**PLEASE WRITE YOUR REASON(S)/ COMMENTS BELOW**

The reason(s) I have for reaching my decision is/are:

Any other additional comment:

Signed

Send your reply to East Renfrewshire Council, via the online consultation website or post to Education Department, Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 1SY, no later than midnight **Tuesday 26 June 2018.**





## **Pupil Consultation on the Proposal**

***To establish a learning campus on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St. Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre as soon as is practically possible.***

## **Report to the Director of Education**

**Prepared by:  
Stuart Allison and Marie Kelly  
External Consultants  
June 2018**

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## 1. Process for Consultation with Pupils

- 1.1 East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) Education Department undertook a consultation exercise on the proposal to establish a learning campus on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St. Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre as soon as is practically possible. The consultation was conducted over the period between 11 May 2018 and 26 June 2018.
- 1.2 As part of this process, ERC Education Department decided to consult with, and seek the views of pupils in each school that would be affected by the proposal. Consequently, Primary One to Primary Seven pupils in Neilston and St. Thomas' Primary Schools were consulted.
- 1.3 Two independent Education Consultants were tasked by the Education Department of the Council to carry out the consultation with the stages identified above 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.
- 1.4 ERC Education Department e-mailed the two Head Teachers to advise them of the appointment of independent Consultants and the process for consultation with pupils.
- 1.5 The Head Teachers informed their parent forums that P1 to P7 pupils would be consulted on the proposal and that pupil participation would be voluntary. The Head Teachers informed their parent forums that the Pupil Council within each school would manage the consultation exercise with pupils, supported by their own staff and the independent Consultants.
- 1.6 In structuring the consultation process with primary pupils, the Consultants agreed with the Education Department that engagement of all Primary One to Primary Seven pupils would be best achieved through the involvement of the Pupil Councils in the two affected schools to conduct the consultation exercise.
- 1.7 The following principles were applied in developing the primary consultation process:
  - Each school's Pupil Council, supported by the Consultants, should be given and take responsibility for managing the consultation exercise with pupils as best suited the structure for pupil voice within the school.
  - The time frame should be sufficient to allow meaningful engagement with Pupil Councils in order to involve and prepare them in planning and carrying out the consultation exercise. The Consultants would provide background information about the proposal, advice and support for the Pupil Councils including support materials and power points with notes.
  - Pupil Councils would put in place easily understood procedures to provide an opportunity for all affected pupils to become informed with an opportunity to share their views.
  - There would be an appropriate timeframe to ensure that all pupils would have a reasonable and objective opportunity to participate in the consultation.
  - Participation by pupils in the consultation exercise would be voluntary and not mandatory.
  - Pupils would also be advised that alternatively they could respond using the ERC on-line consultation process or complete a hard paper copy of the response form and send it by post to the Education Department to arrive by 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018 (close of consultation period).
  - Pupil Councils should be supported by an identified member(s) of staff to make the necessary arrangements within the school for the consultation exercise. The staff would support pupils objectively.
  - It was emphasised that school staff should not influence the views of Pupil Council members or pupils within the school.
  - In addition, the Consultants would meet the Pupil Councils to allow them to give verbal feedback on the consultation process and listen to and record the oral views of any other pupils who wished to make their views known.

- As part of the reporting process, each Pupil Council would receive feedback on the findings of the pupils of the school with an individual school report provided by the Consultants.
- The Pupil Council would have responsibility to share the individual school reports with all pupils within the school.

**1.8** In line with the four capacities that underpin *Curriculum for Excellence*, it was envisaged that Pupil Councils would have a central role in the process and that they would ensure that pupils would perceive the consultation to be fair and without a pre-determined conclusion.

**1.9** In order to support the primary Pupil Council members to deliver consistent and accurate information across all of the affected schools, the Consultants prepared a standard PowerPoint presentation to inform the two Pupil Councils about the key aspects of the proposal and to support them deliver the key information to their peers (Appendix 1). The presentation also included advice for the Pupil Councils about how to carry out the consultation with their peers. Information was also provided on how the Pupil Councils' responses would be reported.

Each primary Pupil Council was then provided with a similar presentation to use at pupil assemblies. The Pupil Councils were then well prepared to take on responsibility to deliver this PowerPoint presentation to pupils within their school explaining the proposal and how pupils could respond to the consultation if they so wished (Appendix 2).

**1.10** The Consultants devised pupil response forms for P1-P3 and P4-P7 pupils in both primary schools (Appendix 3).

**1.11** The Consultants visited each primary school to:

- meet with the Head Teachers to explain the process and make dates for further visits in relation to the pupil consultation;
- meet with the Pupil Council and the member(s) of staff with responsibility for the Pupil Council, deliver a presentation and explain the tasks and activities they were being asked to undertake;
- provide each Pupil Council with PowerPoint presentations;
- issue pupil response forms and a ballot box for completed response forms; and
- answer any questions that members of the Pupil Council might have.

**1.12** The Consultants returned to both primary schools to meet with the Pupil Councils to receive feedback on the consultation process and to hear oral views of any other pupils who wished to express them.

**1.13** The Consultants collected the ballot boxes from the two schools.

**1.14** Following the conclusion of the consultation, the pupils' responses to the consultation were collated and analysed by the Consultants and a written report prepared for the Director of Education.

An individual report was prepared for the two schools to report the findings of the pupils. The schools would have responsibility for sharing the report with all pupils within the school to provide feedback on the views expressed. This report included information on the:

- follow-up visit to the primary schools by the Consultants including the consultation methodology, questions made to the Pupil Council representatives during the presentation and the questions expressed by pupils to the Consultants;
- the results of the ballot by stage;
- the overall results; and
- the written responses on the ballot forms by stage.

## 2. Outcome of the Schools' Consultation Exercise

### *Briefing and Follow-up Meetings with Primary Pupil Councils*

- 2.1 The briefing presentations to the primary Pupil Council representatives were very successful. Pupils were enthusiastic and looked forward to the prospect of their leadership of the consultation exercise. Both pupils and staff were aware of the need for meaningful engagement with pupils in this consultation exercise.

The follow-up meetings to the primary schools provided the Pupil Council representatives with a very good opportunity to inform the Consultants in detail about their consultation process and also to share questions made by pupils during their presentations.

### *Consultation Methodology*

- 2.2 Primary Pupil Councils carried out the consultation exercise by using appropriate organisational structures within their schools.

#### *Neilston Primary*

In Neilston Primary School, Pupil Council members gave a PowerPoint presentation to pupils as follows:

- P4 to P6 Pupil Council Representatives delivered to the P1 to P6 Assembly;
- P4 to P6 Pupil Council Representatives delivered to the P7 Assembly.

Pupil Council members responded well to questions during the presentations. The main questions asked by pupils were:

- Do you have to complete a form?
- Will we be at the school when this happens?
- Where will the school actually be built?
- Will we be in the same playground as the pupils of St. Thomas' Primary School?

Vocabulary that pupils found difficult to understand was explained by the class teacher. Response forms were completed back in class when pupils had time to think about their response and placed in the ballot box.

#### *St. Thomas' Primary*

In St. Thomas' Primary School, Pupil Council members including House Captains and Vice Captains gave a PowerPoint presentation to pupils as follows:

- P4 – P7 Pupil Representatives supported by P1 – P3 Pupil Representatives delivered to the P1 to P3 Assembly;
- P3 – P7 Pupil Representatives shared the delivery to the P4 to P7 Assembly.

In preparation for delivery, the Pupil Representatives used the notes page in the presentation to simplify the language that they used in their oral delivery. The actual PowerPoint slides were not changed.

Pupil Representatives responded well to questions during the presentations. The questions asked by pupils were:

- What happens to St. Thomas' land if we move?
- What happens if we don't want to go?
- Will uniform be the same?
- If we are not at school, do we have to go through the school to get to the leisure centre?

The pupil delivery teams went back to classes and explained how the response form could be completed on a voluntary basis. Pupils had time to think about their response and the forms were placed in the ballot box.

The Pupil Representatives of both primary schools reported that they were well supported and were confident in their delivery. They had also enjoyed the opportunity to lead the process in their schools.

The primary schools made very good use of the materials prepared by the Consultants.

The approaches used by the schools were robust in obtaining pupils' views.

#### *Written Responses*

- 2.3** The written responses of pupils to the Consultation Exercise are collated in Appendix 3. This appendix details the reasons / comments provided by the pupils on the ballot forms for the schools concerned.

#### *Primary Pupils' Verbal Views*

- 2.4** Appendix 5 details 2 verbal questions expressed by one primary pupil to the Consultants on their return to the school.

#### *Overall Conclusions*

- 2.5** Appendix 6 provides a detailed stage by stage breakdown of pupil responses from each of the two schools – agree, disagree and no response.

The 'no response' figure consists of the number of pupils who chose not to express a view on the proposal and the number of pupils who were absent. Across the two schools there were 13 pupils who chose not to express a view on the proposal and a further 17 pupils who were absent which represented in total 7% of all the primary pupils consulted.

A summary table of pupil responses for each school is provided below.

<b>Pupils</b>	<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>% Agree</b>	<b>Total Disagree</b>	<b>% Disagree</b>	<b>Total No Response</b>	<b>% No Response</b>
Neilston PS	201	69%	67	23%	23	8%
St. Thomas' PS	100	74%	28	21%	7	5%
<b>All Pupils</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>7%</b>

The percentage of Neilston Primary pupils in Primary 1 to Primary 7 in favour of the proposal was 69%. The majority of Neilston Primary pupils agreed with the proposal.

The percentage of St. Thomas' Primary pupils in Primary 1 to Primary 7 in favour of the proposal was 74%. The majority of St. Thomas' Primary pupils agreed with the proposal.

The overall percentage of all pupils agreeing with the proposal was 71%. Overall, the majority of the pupils agreed with the proposal.

## Appendix 1 – Primary Pupil Councils' PowerPoint Presentation

### Pupil Consultation Exercise



Primary Pupil Council Meetings  
May 2018

### What is this exercise about?

- It is a consultation exercise to find out the views of pupils about East Renfrewshire Council's proposal:

*To establish a learning campus on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre as soon as is practically possible.*

### Schools Affected

- The schools affected by the proposal are:

- Neilston Primary and Madras Family Centre;



- St. Thomas' Primary.



### Proposal for Consultation

- Establish learning campus:
  - comprising one new building, but two schools;
  - each school having their own Head Teacher and Parent Councils;
  - Madras Family Centre would remain under the leadership and management of the Head Teacher of Neilston Primary School and be part of the same new building.
- Build the learning campus on the current site of Neilston Primary and Madras Family Centre.
- The learning campus will have new indoor and outside facilities.

### Proposal for Consultation

- The new build:
  - Neilston Primary would be 2- stream;
  - Madras Family Centre would have places for 100 3- and 4-year old children and 15 2-year old children;
  - St. Thomas' Primary would be 1-stream.
- Funding is not yet available to build the new learning campus.
- There is a possibility that the new learning campus could also include a new library and sports centre.

### Proposal for Consultation

- In establishing the new learning campus, St. Thomas' Primary would be relocated to the current site of Neilston and Madras.
- Once the new campus is operational, the existing family centre and the 2 school buildings would be closed.
- The existing library and sports centre would be closed should they be part of the new campus.

### Proposal for Consultation

- Under the proposal:
  - there would be no change to admissions arrangements;
  - it would not affect any change to the associated secondary schools;
  - Madras Family Centre would still serve the Barrhead / Neilston / Uplawmoor area.

### Why we need to know what pupils think?

#### Neilston Primary



- Neilston Primary opened in 1968 and was extended in 1990.
- Neilston school building has been categorised as poor in terms of condition and suitability which means the building would require major refurbishment.
- The school roll projection shows that the number of pupils will slightly increase over the period to 2023-24.
- Provision in the new building would be 2-stream as at present which would accommodate any increase.

## Madras Family Centre



- Madras Family Centre opened in 1976 and was extended in 2016 to increase the number of places for 2-year old children.
- Madras Family Centre building has been categorised as fair / satisfactory in terms of condition and suitability.
- The Family Centre currently has places for 80 3- and 4-year olds and 15 2-year olds. Under the proposal, there would be an increase to 100 places for 3 and 4-year old children.

## St. Thomas' Primary



- St. Thomas' Primary opened in 1963. There was a minor extension in 2009.
- St. Thomas' school building has been categorised as poor in terms of condition and suitability which means the building would require major refurbishment.
- The school roll projection indicates that the number of pupils will increase steadily over the period to 2023-24.
- Provision in the new building would be 1-stream as at present.

## Why are we here today?

- East Renfrewshire Council has issued a Consultation Document with the proposal we have outlined.
- This consultation exercise is about letting pupils:
  - know about the proposal;
  - think about the proposal; and
  - have a say as to whether they agree or do not agree with the proposal.
- Participation is voluntary – no one has to take part if they do not want to.

## How are we going to do the pupil consultation?

- We need the Pupil Council to work with us to seek the views of P1 to P7 pupils across the school.
- Following on from today's meeting we would like Pupil Council representatives to take the main points of this consultation to pupils and give them an opportunity to discuss them.



## How are we going to do the pupil consultation?

- Pupils will then have time to think about their response. Then, if they wish they can:
  - make their views known to the Pupil Council;
  - or
  - complete a pupil response form and post it in a locked ballot box;
  - or
  - go on-line and complete an electronic response form;
  - or
  - post the response form to the Education Department (teachers will help with this).



## How are we going to do the pupil consultation?

- The consultants will return to Neilston PS on 4<sup>th</sup> June and to St. Thomas' PS on 7<sup>th</sup> June to:
  - meet with the Pupil Council to receive views about the consultation process; and
  - meet with, listen to and record the views of pupils;
  - collect the ballot box so we can analyse the contents.



## How are you going to do the pupil consultation?

- When you speak to the pupils you will need to communicate:
  - what the consultation is about;
  - make clear a response is voluntary and anyone can choose not to participate or opt out at any point;
  - give the main points surrounding the proposal (the presentation today).



## How are you going to do the pupil consultation?

- When you speak to the pupils you will need to communicate that the views expressed will:
  - be treated as anonymous;
  - nobody will know the names of anyone who has responded.
- Spoken views will be noted and reported back to the consultants by the Pupil Council.





## How are you going to do the pupil consultation?

- When you speak to the pupils you will need to:
  - give out pupil response forms to anyone who wants one;
  - let the pupils know that they complete their response form and place it in the locked ballot box; **or**
  - go on-line and complete an electronic response form; **or**
  - post the response form to the Education Education Department (teachers will help with this).



## How are you going to do the pupil consultation?

- When you speak to the pupils you will also need to let them know the consultants will return to the school (Neilston PS – 4<sup>th</sup> June); St Thomas' PS – 7<sup>th</sup> June) to:
  - meet with the Pupil Council;
  - meet with, listen to and record the views of pupils;
  - collect the ballot box.



## P1-P3 Response Form

- Let's look at the response form for P1-P3 pupils.
- Completion of the response form is voluntary.

## P4-P7 Response Form

- Let's look at the response form for P4-P7 pupils.
- Completion of the response form is voluntary.

## How will pupils' views be used?

- Pupils' responses to the consultation exercise will be gathered and analysed (put together) by the consultants.
- A report on the responses will be written and passed to East Renfrewshire Council.
- The Director of Education will report on the results of the consultation, including pupils' views, to the Education Committee on 4th October 2018.
- A report on the responses will be written by the consultants and issued for each school.



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## Appendix 2 – Primary Pupil Councils’ PowerPoint Presentation to Assemblies

### Pupil Consultation Exercise



Pupil Assembly  
June 2018

### Pupil Consultation

- The Pupil Council has been asked to assist in seeking the views of P1 to P7 pupils across the school about a proposal from East Renfrewshire Council.



### What pupils are being consulted about?

- It is a consultation exercise to find out the views of pupils about East Renfrewshire Council's proposal:

*To establish a learning campus on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St. Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre as soon as is practically possible.*

### Schools Affected

- The schools affected by the proposal are:

– Neilston Primary and Madras Family Centre;



– St. Thomas' Primary.



### Proposal for Consultation

- Establish learning campus:
  - comprising one new building, but two schools;
  - each school having their own Head Teacher and Parent Councils;
  - Madras Family Centre would remain under the leadership and management of the Head Teacher of Neilston Primary School and be part of the same new building.
- Build the learning campus on the current site of Neilston Primary and Madras Family Centre.
- The learning campus will have new indoor and outside facilities.

### Proposal for Consultation

- The new build:
  - Neilston Primary would be 2- stream;
  - Madras Family Centre would have places for 100 3- and 4-year old children and 15 2-year old children;
  - St. Thomas' Primary would be 1-stream.
- Funding is not yet available to build the new learning campus.
- There is a possibility that the new learning campus could also include a new library and sports centre.

### Proposal for Consultation

- In establishing the new learning campus, St. Thomas' Primary would be relocated to the current site of Neilston and Madras.
- Once the new campus is operational, the existing family centre and the 2 school buildings would be closed.
- The existing library and sports centre would be closed should they be part of the new campus.

### Proposal for Consultation

- Under the proposal:
  - there would be no change to admissions arrangements;
  - it would not affect any change to the associated secondary schools;
  - Madras Family Centre would still serve the Barrhead / Neilston / Uplawmoor area.

## Why we need to know what pupils think?

### Neilston Primary



- Neilston Primary opened in 1968 and was extended in 1990.
- Neilston school building has been categorised as poor in terms of condition and suitability which means the building would require major refurbishment.
- The school roll projection shows that the number of pupils will slightly increase over the period to 2023-24.
- Provision in the new building would be 2-stream as at present which would accommodate any increase.

## Madras Family Centre



- Madras Family Centre opened in 1976 and was extended in 2016 to increase the number of places for 2-year old children.
- Madras Family Centre building has been categorised as fair / satisfactory in terms of condition and suitability.
- The Family Centre currently has places for 80 3- and 4-year olds and 15 2-year olds. Under the proposal, there would be an increase to 100 places for 3 and 4-year old children.

## St. Thomas' Primary



- St. Thomas' Primary opened in 1963. There was a minor extension in 2009.
- St. Thomas' school building has been categorised as poor in terms of condition and suitability which means the building would require major refurbishment.
- The school roll projection indicates that the number of pupils will increase steadily over the period to 2023-24.
- Provision in the new building would be 1-stream as at present.

## Purpose of this Assembly

- East Renfrewshire Council has issued a Consultation Document with the proposal we have outlined.
- This consultation exercise is about letting pupils:
  - know about the proposal;
  - think about the proposal; and
  - have a say as to whether they agree or do not agree with the proposal.
- Participation is voluntary – no one has to take part if they do not want to.

## Purpose of this Assembly

- Pupils will then have time to think about their response. Then, if they wish they can:
  - make their views known to the Pupil Council;
  - or
  - complete a pupil response form and post it in a locked ballot box;
  - or
  - go on-line and complete an electronic response form;
  - or
  - post the response form to the Education Department (teachers will help with this).



## What pupils need to know

- Making a response is voluntary. If you don't want to respond you do not have to.
- Spoken views will be noted and reported back by the Pupil Council to the consultants working out the results of the ballot for the Education Department.
- Nobody will know the names of anyone who has responded.



## P1-P3 Response Form

East Renfrewshire Council, Education Department  
PRIMARY 1-3 RESPONSE FORM

About you  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick whether you would like to see a new school building built in the area of Madras Family Centre and Madras Family Centre or whether you would like to see a new school building built in the area of Madras Family Centre and Madras Family Centre or whether you would like to see a new school building built in the area of Madras Family Centre and Madras Family Centre.

What to do  
Add a smile on the picture if you are happy.  
Add a sad face on the picture if you are sad.

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM TO YOUR CLASSROOM PUPIL COUNCIL OR YOUR PUPIL RESPONDER IN THE BIRTHDAY PROVISION. ADMINISTRATION WILL HELP YOU WITH ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

- Let's look at the response form for P1-P3 pupils.
- Completion of the response form is voluntary.

## P4-P7 Response Form

East Renfrewshire Council, Education Department  
PUPIL RESPONSE FORM

About you  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick whether you would like to see a new school building built in the area of Madras Family Centre and Madras Family Centre or whether you would like to see a new school building built in the area of Madras Family Centre and Madras Family Centre or whether you would like to see a new school building built in the area of Madras Family Centre and Madras Family Centre.

What to do  
Add a smile on the picture if you are happy.  
Add a sad face on the picture if you are sad.

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM TO YOUR CLASSROOM PUPIL COUNCIL OR YOUR PUPIL RESPONDER IN THE BIRTHDAY PROVISION. ADMINISTRATION WILL HELP YOU WITH ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

- Let's look at the response form for P4-P7 pupils.
- Completion of the response form is voluntary.

## After the Ballot

- The consultants will return to Neilston PS on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June and St. Thomas PS on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June to:
  - meet with the Pupil Council;
  - meet with, listen to and record the views of pupils;
  - collect the ballot box.



## How will pupils' views be used?

- Pupils' responses to the consultation exercise will be gathered and analysed (put together) by the consultants.
- A report on the responses will be written and passed to East Renfrewshire Council.
- The Director of Education will report on the results of the consultation, including the views of pupils, to the Education Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
- A report on the responses will be written by the consultants for each school.



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## Appendix 3 – P1-3 and P4-7 Response Forms for Both Primary Schools

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### PRIMARY 1-3 RESPONSE FORM

#### About You

Name:

Class:

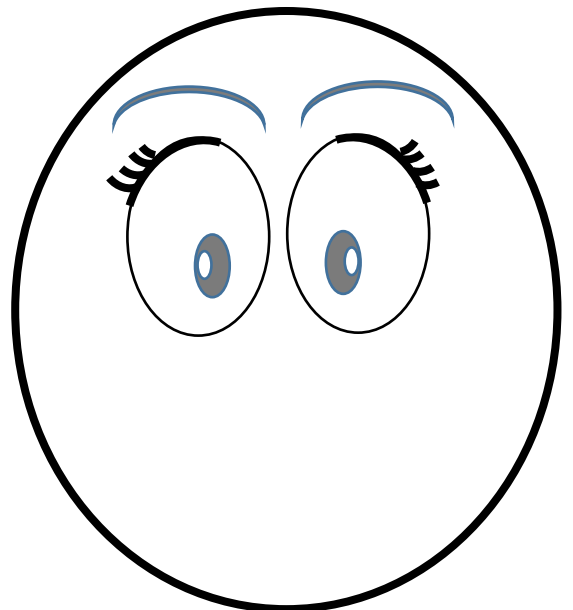
**Proposal:** To establish a learning campus on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St. Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre as soon as is practically possible.

#### What to do

Add a smile on the picture if this is a good idea.



Add a sad face on the picture if this is a bad idea.



Please give this form to your school's Pupil Council or post your reply in the ballot box provided. Alternatively, your teacher will help you on how your response can be posted.

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## EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## PRIMARY 4-7 RESPONSE FORM

**About you**

Name:

Class:

**Proposal : To establish a learning campus on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St. Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre as soon as is practically possible.**

**What do you think?** (*Tick only one box*)

I agree with the proposal.

I do not agree with the proposal.

**Write your reason(s) / comments below.**

**Tell us why.** If you need more space, you can write more on the back of this sheet or use more paper.

Signed:

Please give this form to your school's Pupil Council or post your reply in the ballot box provided. Alternatively you can post this to East Renfrewshire Council, Education Department, Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 1SY, no later than **Tuesday 26 June 2018.**

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## Appendix 4 – Pupils’ Written Responses on Ballot Forms

### Neilston Primary School – Written Responses on the Ballot Forms by Stage

There were no written responses on the ballot forms for all of the P1, P2 and P3 classes. It should be noted that some pupils expressed more than one reason for their viewpoint and these reasons are recorded in the written responses below.

Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times
P.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can be friends with kids in St. Thomas’ PS and can use different resources.</li> <li>• Because we might make new friends.</li> <li>• It means if we are sharing a playground we can make new friends.</li> <li>• It would be a good way to make new friends.</li> <li>• Because you can try to make new friends.</li> <li>• I think it will be better because you might meet other people.</li> <li>• I would like to share because I love meeting new people.</li> <li>• I can make new friends and one of my friends is at St. Thomas’. This will be exciting, fun, cool, awesome, amazing.</li> </ul>	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don’t want this school to get knocked down because I will miss the school building.</li> <li>• I don’t want the school to be knocked down and I don’t want any more building work on our school.</li> <li>• I only want to stay in this old building until I am in P7. I really like this one school by itself.</li> <li>• I like living in this school and I would rather have the building somewhere else. I just want to stay in this building.</li> <li>• I have been here since P1 and want to stay until P7 and like this school and I am not going to let someone knock it down. Don’t – I have good memories here.</li> </ul>	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because we might be able to speak to your friends in St. Thomas’ PS.</li> <li>• Because I love the school to share because my friends are there.</li> <li>• I want to share with the other school because if you have friends at the other school you would get to play with them at playtime and lunchtime.</li> <li>• I would like this to happen so that I can play with my friend in the playground.</li> <li>• I know some people there.</li> </ul>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not with St. Thomas’ because if we shared the playground it would be mobbed. If it were only the nurse in – they can see what it is like in school.</li> <li>• If we are in the same playground some people probably won’t get on well.</li> <li>• Don’t because it will be too busy.</li> </ul>	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A great idea! Even though they are different schools I would go along with this.</li> <li>• I think we should put Neilston and St. Thomas’ together.</li> <li>• I like new schools.</li> </ul>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think this school is good the way it is.</li> <li>• I can’t imagine this school differently.</li> </ul>	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don’t like moving and I really like the school right now. It’s only that this is my favourite school right now.</li> <li>• Because I have never got used to really sharing with people I don’t know.</li> </ul>			2

Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times
P.4 Contd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is bigger and it will be the best choice.</li> <li>I like sharing and it will be a bigger school and meet more friends.</li> </ul>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I do not want to share. I do not think that will work. I have spent my whole life in Neilston Primary.</li> <li>I don't want the same building because I don't think that it would be a good idea.</li> </ul>	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More sports equipment. Are we in the same playground?</li> <li>Do we get separate playgrounds?</li> </ul>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How long will it take to build it?</li> </ul>	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I agree because it is a little bit of health and safety issues in this old school and would be less bugs probably in the new playground.</li> </ul>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I do not want a new school because if we do the Janitor's house will have to get knocked down and he will have to move to a different house / school.</li> </ul>	1
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There would be noise everywhere. I want a new school and if you are in the same school how are the dinner ladies to cope. How are you supposed to share ICT, gym hall and office? There will be hundreds of people in one building.</li> </ul>	1

Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times
P.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To get to meet new people.</li> <li>I like changes and you get to meet other people.</li> <li>I think yes because some people might have friends in St. Thomas'.</li> <li>I think it is a good idea because we can meet more people.</li> <li>It will be good to meet new people.</li> <li>We are sharing some facilities I might be able to see my friends from St. Thomas' PS.</li> </ul>	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because there will be fighting.</li> <li>After school (if we get a new school) there might be fights between St. Thomas' and Neilston Primary.</li> </ul>	2
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because I got bullied by someone.</li> <li>Cause my bullies are in the other school.</li> </ul>	2
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I don't want to join St. Thomas'.</li> <li>I don't want a school here.</li> </ul>	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a good idea.</li> <li>Because it sounds great.</li> <li>I would like the campus to join.</li> <li>I think it will be interesting.</li> <li>I think it is a great idea to build a new school.</li> </ul>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voted disagree – I do want a new school but I don't at the same time.</li> </ul>	1
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because St. Thomas' PS is different from our school.</li> </ul>	1

Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times
P.5 Contd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think we should build a new school because parts of the school are falling down a bit.</li> <li>• Because both schools are very old and they need repair and it would be better if we get a new school.</li> <li>• Because all buildings need re-done and fixed and there will be more spaces for children.</li> <li>• Because I think the schools need a refurbishment.</li> <li>• The school is so old so a new school would be nice.</li> </ul>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because if parents have a child going to NPS and one going to STPS it would mean if they were both late they can't walk into the same school and it will mean that people going to the library and the swimming pool won't because it's closed.</li> </ul>	1
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't think we should because there is nothing wrong with this school and there has just been something done on the roof of the school which would then be pointless.</li> </ul>	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because it would be good to have everything in one building.</li> <li>• More room, space and more pupils. More books not just in one class.</li> <li>• I think it will be good for the other people who are coming to school because it would be a bit bigger.</li> </ul>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is hardly any space – what about the playground – sharing there might be fights – what about assemblies – what about if we have PE at the same time and what about lunch time and St. Thomas' PS leave early. So if we had a big school it would be unfair.</li> </ul>	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will benefit the next generation and save on repairs and could help kids learn about the other school.</li> <li>• It is a good chance for the schools to connect and have the opportunity to build more relations and build our community.</li> <li>• Because we can make new friends and the building won't need as much repairs. The building will help us to get on with new things.</li> </ul>	3		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because I think they could do way more with this school and St. Thomas' and Madras Family Centre because I wanted a tennis and basketball court. Also swimming pool included.</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will we have the same playground? Will we share equipment?</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think Neilston should have more stuff in the village.</li> </ul>	1		

Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times
P.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think it is a good idea because it will mean more space and hopefully we can make new friends and it will be more useful having one building.</li> <li>• Because there will be more facilities.</li> <li>• Because it is going to have more space and teachers to help and it is not going to have cracks in the ceiling.</li> <li>• I think it will be good to put the schools in the same building because it would be a much bigger building to put more school fun things in it.</li> <li>• I think it will be better because there will be more space.</li> <li>• Because I think we need a new school but we will have more space and maybe have better things in it.</li> <li>• I think it is good because then we are not all separate because we are just using space but if we are one big building we have more room for stuff.</li> <li>• Because it would be nice to have other schools and more space.</li> <li>• I think this is better than building two new schools.</li> <li>• I would like it because we can get a bigger school and I would like to see some of my friends from St. Thomas' PS.</li> </ul>	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because a lot of people from our school and their school don't like each other and they want to fight and it will affect a lot of people from each school and it would get us in trouble.</li> <li>• I don't think this should happen because there will be a lot of fights.</li> <li>• Because I think it would cause arguments and fights. Another reason is that they are Catholic and will not be in the high school as us because they are not in the Eastwood Cluster.</li> </ul>	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think it will make new friendships if we are in the same playground.</li> <li>• Because the children can have a bigger friendship with the two schools.</li> <li>• It's a good opportunity for people to get to know each other.</li> <li>• I think it will be good because Neilston Primary and St. Thomas' Primary can make friends with each other.</li> <li>• Because it's a larger school and we can create more friends.</li> <li>• I agree because it will be good for us to get together and get to know each other.</li> </ul>	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I do not think St. Thomas', Madras and Neilston should all come together because I don't think the school should get knocked down and I don't think it will be good to bring everyone in one school because we might not get on with people and I especially don't get on with some of those people.</li> <li>• There are already big playgrounds for both schools and because I think it will be easier for younger children.</li> <li>• Because we need more space because we are a bigger school.</li> <li>• I like the two schools better than one school.</li> </ul>	1 1 1 1

Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times
P.6 Contd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school leaks a lot and is really old. Same as St. Thomas' PS.</li> <li>• These schools are old and I think we need a new school. Having just the one building would take up less space. Maybe the playground would have to be much bigger because of twice the number of children but it is for a good cause.</li> <li>• I think this would be a good idea because both schools are old and a new school means that we won't have to pay lots of money for repairs.</li> <li>• It will be better for future children in this school and because the building has been categorised as poor we will need a better building.</li> <li>• I think it is a good thing to do because if we kept the building by its self with no one else we would need major reconstruction. .Also, we would get to know new people and the school is quite small because we have needed composite classes like P2/P3s and P4/P5s.</li> </ul>	5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning and knowledge will increase by a reasonable amount and we will be united together. More people. More fun. I would've said no because of population overgrowth but make sure it's not too much cramped.</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I agree because I think that having two schools under one roof and the only thing I don't like is if a library was made there you wouldn't be able to go to the library at the weekend but except from that I love the idea of having the two schools together.</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I just do like the decision been made for the campus and also for me as a pupil inside of Neilston Primary School and even sharing the education with others like St. Thomas' PS.</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I agree with the proposal as I think the two schools will fight less and I think it will give us more resources and funding.</li> </ul>	1		

Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times
P.6 Contd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I think it's a good idea because the area that St. Thomas' Primary is built on can be used for a lot of different things to be built.</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It will make us a better community.</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a good proposal and if it happens there could hopefully be no more fights.</li> </ul>	1		

Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times
P.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because the school is falling in and the new school would cause less problems.</li> <li>I think we need a new school because the school isn't in a good condition and it would open more space for the nursery.</li> <li>I agree because we need more space and the school is old.</li> <li>We need a new school – the one we have is falling apart.</li> <li>We need more space, a new school because the school is a health and safety hazard.</li> <li>The school is old and falling down so I think we need to have a new school.</li> <li>I think it will be better because the school is falling apart and it will be a better benefit for the teachers.</li> <li>The school is really old and it would be good to have a new school.</li> <li>Both schools need major work done so it would make more sense if they build one building so that they can save money. It would be a good opportunity for both schools to make new friends.</li> <li>I agree because both schools need a lot of refurbishing. Both schools need major repairs and were rated poor.</li> <li>I think this proposal is a good idea because all the buildings are really old.</li> </ul>	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I would really like a new school but I don't want to join the two schools together and the family centre.</li> </ul>	1
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school was here for ages and I'm wanting everybody to stay here.</li> </ul>	1
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school would be crowded.</li> </ul>	1
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I disagree with this because I think it will be too crowded and crazy. I would like a new school though because the old one we have right now is too old and we can't just keep fixing it up all the time and another reason is it will be very complicated to figure out things.</li> </ul>	1



Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times
P.7 Contd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think we should because the state the school is in is horrid and it would be an opportunity to meet new people.</li> <li>• I think it's good to make a new school because there has been a lot of leaks, mould and cracks in the roof for both schools. They would also make new friends. Though it would need a lot of funding.</li> <li>• I think this is a great idea because all three buildings are very old. If we did not do this we would have to close the school to fix the roof and there is the chance that it would have leaks again.</li> <li>• The school is extremely old and also really mouldy and wrecked. The reason is that this school is supposed to educate the future of Neilston but I don't think it will. This might affect people's education if we don't get a new school. People will also get the chance to get more friends.</li> <li>• I think this is a good idea because our school is very old and is damaged and it would be good for it to be new and won't keep needing to be repaired.</li> <li>• The school is old and with the amount of land it could open up opportunities for things we might not be able to do now and it will open up space for lunch and break.</li> <li>• I think we should build a new school because everything is falling apart, the pupils will get more from it.</li> <li>• I agree with it because this school leaks and is breaking.</li> <li>• The school is old and falling down so think the younger pupils benefit from a new school.</li> <li>• I agree with the proposal because this school is falling apart and it is a bit small.</li> <li>• I think we need a new school because it is not in very good condition.</li> </ul>	See above figure		

<b>P.7 Contd.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think the children can make new friends at the new school.</li> <li>• I think at break and lunch we will be more able to make friends with others from St. Thomas' Primary. It will save money compared to building two schools. We can share facilities that the other school and nursery wouldn't otherwise have.</li> </ul>	2		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If I have kids I will bring them here and it will be all new and done up and they will be in a new school.</li> <li>• If I have kids that grow up in Neilston I would want them to go to a good school.</li> </ul>	2		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I feel it is good to share with another school and stuff but it will be a busy school!!</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What will happen to the hall in the school?</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think it would be a good idea.</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think it will be better because there will be more classrooms.</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I believe it would be good because where St. Thomas' is there could be new housing.</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My brother and sister don't get along with people from St. Thomas' PS.</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think it will be good because we will get more resources and a better education. Also why don't you add a support base like the one at Eastwood for people that need extra help with work, homework etc.</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would only agree with the proposal if it doesn't interfere with the children's learning in any way (e.g. school is closed, loud noises) then I do not agree.</li> </ul>	1		

### St. Thomas' Primary School – Written Responses on the Ballot Forms by Stage

There were no written responses on the ballot forms for all of the P1, P2 and P3 classes. It should be noted that some pupils expressed more than one reason for their viewpoint and these reasons are recorded in the written responses below.

Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times
P.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I agree with the proposal because everything will be in a better condition and there will be better equipment.</li> <li>• I would like them to get joined up because I think that it would be bigger and better. It will be pretty.</li> <li>• I agree with the proposal because it sounds quite exciting and it will be in better condition.</li> <li>• I agree with the proposal because it will be bigger and got more stuff.</li> <li>• Because it would be a better environment.</li> <li>• I think it will be fun and stuff will be new and a bigger playground.</li> <li>• I agree with the proposal because it will be bigger and more space and more stuff.</li> <li>• Because it's going to be a big nice building and you will meet new friends.</li> <li>• I think it is a good idea because the school should be better.</li> <li>• I agree because I think the school will have more education and they will have more space.</li> <li>• I agree because the schools will have better quality and more security.</li> </ul>	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't think a catholic school should be put together with a non-Catholic school.</li> <li>• I don't agree because this school is Catholic and Neilston Primary is not Catholic and I like the way this school is nice.</li> </ul>	2
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't agree with the proposal because we cannot afford it and it is going to take a lot of time to build two joint schools.</li> <li>• I do not agree with the proposal because we can't afford it and it takes a lot of time to build two joint schools.</li> </ul>	2
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't agree with the proposal because it would not be normal to have to share a whole school with two others.</li> </ul>	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I agree because we get to meet new people. x2</li> <li>• I think it is really good idea because it helps make new friends and would enjoy some new stuff.</li> <li>• I agree because I think we can become more close to Neilston Primary.</li> </ul>	4		

Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times
P.4 Contd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would like the new school because it will be nice for new pupils.</li> <li>• I agree with the proposal because it would help more population.</li> <li>• I agree with the proposal because I want to help.</li> <li>• I agree because I love the idea.</li> </ul>	4		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would like the schools to be built because ours needs more work on it.</li> <li>• I agree with the proposal because both schools need new things like a roof, desks, lights and other things. Also I think it would be easier for the schools too.</li> </ul>	2		

Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times
P.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because you have much more PE space and have more of a selection of PE choices.</li> <li>• We would have more space and better equipment.</li> <li>• I agree because there would be new classrooms, new equipment, new playgrounds and new everything.</li> <li>• Because we will have bigger space and more stuff.</li> <li>• I agree because new classrooms, new PE equipment and new playgrounds.</li> <li>• New things and better things.</li> <li>• I agree because we can get new stuff.</li> <li>• Because I want more equipment and it will help the school.</li> <li>• Because there is more space.</li> <li>• I agree because you have new things and you have a bigger playground.</li> </ul>	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because it is Neilston Primary.</li> <li>• I disagree because all my family grew up in this school and I think that St. Thomas' is a nice school itself.</li> <li>• Because I am claustrophobic and I am not good with a lot of people.</li> </ul>	3
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because I feel like there would be a lot of fights because a lot of people in our school don't like Neilston Primary.</li> <li>• I do not want this because we might have to share a playground and there would be more fights.</li> </ul>	2

Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times
P.5 Contd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I agree because I will be in high school and we can go on the astro pitches.</li> <li>• Yes, because there is going to be a good astro pitch and it would not leak.</li> <li>• Astroturf pitch and because it would not cost as much money to make a new school as it would to make separate schools.</li> <li>• There would be new equipment and a pitch.</li> </ul>	4		

Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times	
P.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think because we would have more resources.</li> <li>• Because the school will have more things.</li> <li>• The building will be way larger. You could learn lots more about sports. You could have lots of more clubs.</li> <li>• I agree with it because there would be more clubs.</li> <li>• I agree with the proposal because we might be getting an astro pitch.</li> </ul>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't agree because we are a Catholic school and they are a Protestant school and you would have to get used to a building.</li> <li>• I don't agree because we are a Catholic school and they are a Protestant school.</li> </ul>	2	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because there could be loads of fights in the playground and stuff could be unfair.</li> </ul>	1	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be more pupils which are my friends from Neilston Primary.</li> <li>• I agree with this proposal because you could make new friends.</li> <li>• The kids can make new friends.</li> <li>• Because I could play with my friends at Neilston Primary in the school.</li> <li>• Because it can bring both of the schools together and could all get new resources for the schools and the nursery.</li> </ul>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because my Great Grandfather built this school and everyone in my family have come to this school. I know it needs work done but I am a little angry that this might be happening with the nursery. My dad saw the concrete getting put down and saw it getting built. Same again, my family have all went to the nursery.</li> </ul>	1
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The schools are perfect the way they are.</li> </ul>	1
P.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because both of the schools are old and if they are put together the buildings would be new.</li> <li>• It would be good for the children to have a new school.</li> <li>• I agree because children will enjoy the plans and I would to.</li> </ul>	3			

Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times
P.6 Contd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I agree because both schools do need to get refurbished and doing up each school could cost way more than building a new school and nothing would change. We would get new facilities that may improve our PE Skills.</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It will cost them more money just to fix one school. There will be more activities like: swimming, library, astro pitch, new resources and safer with CCTV. I think this will be a solution instead of spending money on fixing the schools.</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both schools can share one community. The building should have one foyer and then two different schools but connected and sometimes both schools can do lessons together.</li> </ul>	1		

Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times
P.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I think it would be good because we would have more resources and separate rooms for art, music etc.</li> <li>I think it will be better to get new resources.</li> <li>I agree because we will have more rooms and more stuff and more people to play and more space.</li> <li>Better facilities and so we don't have to pay too much.</li> <li>Get new facilities because some parts of our school is falling down and is leaking. Bigger rooms and fresher tables and chairs.</li> </ul>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The equipment in St. Thomas' is nice. It's peaceful at St. Thomas'.</li> <li>It is a peaceful school and if it was bigger it would be louder and people use the centres.</li> <li>It is peaceful place at St. Thomas' and we have a great view at the hill and they make fun of people with problems.</li> <li>I prefer our grounds than Neilston's ground.</li> <li>I do not agree because in St. Thomas' there is a lot of scenery when you look out of the window but over at Neilston Primary grounds all you can hear is the trains go by and it is really busy so I think St. Thomas' should stay where they are.</li> <li>I disagree because of the place St. Thomas' is situated at, it is calm and peaceful.</li> </ul>	6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It will give people a better chance of making new friends.</li> <li>Also you could socialise with more people from other schools.</li> </ul>	2		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convenient, easy, big.</li> </ul>	1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because it would be good to get a new school.</li> </ul>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I don't agree because some people might break things on purpose and I think both schools should have their own things.</li> </ul>	1

Class	Agree	No. of Times	Disagree	No. of Times
P.7 Contd.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The small class sizes in St. Thomas' are good for children that have additional support needs. Some autistic children like quieter classes / school areas.</li> </ul>	1
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because there will be too many people in the one building.</li> </ul>	1

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## **Appendix 5 – Primary Pupils’ Verbal Views**

### **Neilston Primary School – Verbal Views Expressed to the Consultants**

One pupil visited the Consultants during the follow-up visit to the school. This pupil posed two questions which the Consultants responded to.

### **St. Thomas’ Primary School – Verbal Views Expressed to the Consultants**

No pupil visited the Consultants during the follow-up visit to the school.

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## Appendix 6 – Results of Pupils' Views

## Results of Primary Pupils' Views

School	Roll	P1			P2			P3			P4			P5			P6			P7			Overall		
		A	DA	NR	A	DA	NR	A	DA	NR	A	DA	NR	A	DA	NR	A	DA	NR	A	DA	NR	A	DA	NR
Neilston PS	291	29	7	3	28	2	3	26	10	4	24	18	1	27	12	2	33	10	8	34	8	2	201	67	23
St. Thomas' PS	135	9	1	0	12	1	1	20	1	0	21	5	2	16	6	0	14	5	1	8	9	3	100	28	7

The 'No Response' figure consists of the number of pupils who chose not to express a view on the proposal and the number of pupils who were absent.

**Key: A = Agree**

**DA = Disagree**

**NR = Pupils who chose not to express a view and absentees**

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**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by East Renfrewshire Council to establish a new campus to serve the Neilston area incorporating Neilston Primary School, Madras Family Centre and St Thomas's Primary School.**

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of East Renfrewshire Council's proposal to establish a new campus to serve the Neilston area incorporating Neilston Primary School, Madras Family Centre and St Thomas's 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 statutory 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 of the schools and centre; 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 5 June 2018 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 Neilston Primary School, Madras Family Centre and St Thomas's Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

## 2. Consultation Process

- 2.1 East Renfrewshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 2.2 The consultation process ran from 11 May 2018 to 26 June 2018. During this period the council held a meeting with St Thomas's Primary School Parent Council representatives on 22 May 2018, a meeting with Neilston Primary School Parent Council representatives on 23 May 2018 and a public meeting at Glen Halls in Neilston on 5 June 2018. Statutory consultees, including Parent Councils of the schools directly involved and pupils of the affected schools, were informed of the consultation in writing. Consultation documentation was published on the East Renfrewshire Council website and copies were available for public consultation at several venues during the consultation period, including the schools concerned. A proforma questionnaire was made available for responses. The council received 86 responses, most of which expressed support for the council's proposal. The council also engaged external consultants to seek the views of pupils in each school affected by the proposal. Four hundred and twenty-six pupils from P1 to P7 in both Neilston and St Thomas's Primary Schools were consulted and in each school, the majority of pupils agreed with the proposal. The proposal notes that funding is not yet available but that the new replacement schools are a priority for the council. The schools would continue to operate under separate headships and have separate Parent Councils, but would benefit from the new build and some shared facilities.

## 3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

- 3.1 The council believes that an educational benefit of the proposal will be an increased number of early learning and childcare places and improved transition from early years to primary. The council is planning appropriately to meet the expected increased demand in line with the national expansion programme by increasing the number of places available. Having the Madras Family Centre integrated into the proposed campus will make transitions to either Neilston Primary School or St Thomas's Primary School much more straightforward. There is a clear potential educational benefit from this aspect of the proposal.
- 3.2 The council states that a further educational benefit of the proposal will be ensuring ongoing provision for education within the community in an improved learning environment which is more accessible, efficient and sustainable. Whilst the proposal does not provide precise detail about the facilities of the new campus, the council has acknowledged that the current condition of all three facilities means that regular ongoing remediation work is required to keep them functioning appropriately. A new campus as proposed should provide an improved learning environment for children which will be easier to maintain and more efficient. There is a clear potential educational benefit from this aspect of the proposal.
- 3.3 The council believes that an educational benefit of the proposal is that adopting a campus approach will facilitate staff working together to improve learning, teaching and achievement. Staff from the Madras Family Centre, Neilston Primary School and St Thomas's Primary School are aware of the advantages in being able to work more closely together which will be facilitated by the proposed new campus. This should lead

to improved outcomes for all children. There is a clear potential educational benefit from this aspect of the proposal.

- 3.4 The council also believes that an educational benefit of the proposal is that adopting a campus approach will aid developing a good relationship with the wider community, including community use of the library and leisure facilities. This benefit has been proven in other community campuses across the country but the first priority in the current proposal is to establish a joint learning campus, with the inclusion of library and leisure facilities dependent upon funding. There is a clear potential educational benefit from this aspect of the proposal, should sufficient resources be made available.
- 3.5 Children who attend either Neilston Primary School or St Thomas's Primary School who spoke to HM Inspectors are enthusiastic about the possibility of new, improved facilities, both within and outside the campus buildings. They also think that it is a positive move to have both primary schools on the same site along with the family centre. They are keen to find out more about the practical aspects of preparing for moving to a new building and would like to be involved in discussions about this.
- 3.6 Parents of children attending Madras Family Centre, Neilston Primary School and St Thomas's Primary School who spoke to HM Inspectors are generally enthusiastic about the proposal. They are in no doubt that new buildings are required and are keen for their children to have access to high quality learning environments. They have some queries about the safety aspects of preparing for moving to a new building and wish to continue to be involved in discussions as the proposal develops.
- 3.7 Staff and senior managers from Madras Family Centre, Neilston Primary School and St Thomas's Primary School who spoke to HM Inspectors are generally enthusiastic about the proposal and are well aware of the condition and suitability issues with their current learning provision. Staff from Madras Family Centre and Neilston Primary School are keen that as much as possible of their current well-used outdoor learning area is retained if the joint campus is developed on their present site. Staff would like reassurance about the size of learning areas to be provided. They wish to continue to be involved in discussions as the proposal develops.
- 3.8 The Diocese of Paisley notes the poor condition of Neilston Primary School and St Thomas's Primary School buildings and welcomes the proposed upgrading of the East Renfrewshire Council school estate. The Diocese is happy to support the proposed changes outlined in the consultative document as long as the distinct religious nature and reality of St Thomas's Primary School is not in any way diminished by being on a shared site.

#### 4. Summary

- The proposal acknowledges that St Thomas's Primary school and Neilston Primary School are poor in terms of condition and suitability, requiring major refurbishment and remodelling. It also notes that Madras Family Centre would also benefit from modernisation and being co-located with both primary schools. This view is shared by children, their parents and staff, as well as the Diocese. There is a clear majority in favour of the proposal. HM Inspectors consider there to be potential educational benefits for children who currently attend the establishments involved or are likely to attend them within the next two years. However, HM Inspectors also note that the funding is not yet available and the location and design of the joint campus is yet to be confirmed.
- The council should continue to consult and communicate effectively with staff, children, parents, the Diocese and the wider community in engaging them fully in the future planning and design stages of the proposal.

**HM Inspectors  
Education Scotland  
August 2018**



East Renfrewshire Council : Education Department

Meeting with Parent Council Members of St Thomas' PS  
Tuesday 22 May 2018 at 7pm in St Thomas' PS

Re. Future Non-Denominational Education Provision for Children of Neilston Primary and Madras Family centre; and Future Denominational (Roman Catholic) Education Provision for Children of St Thomas' Primary, Neilston

Present:

Councillor Tony Buchanan, Leader of the Council  
Councillor Paul O'Kane, Deputy Leader and Convener for Education & Equalities  
Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education  
Fiona Morrison, Head of Education Services (Provision & Resources)  
Colin McMenemy, Admissions & Development Manager  
Mary Hart & Evelyn Hunter (Note Takers)

Councillor O'Kane welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the panel members. He explained that Fiona Morrison would be delivering a presentation which would provide further information on the consultation and there would then be an opportunity for questions from parents.

#### Learning in Neilston : Consultative Proposal

Miss Morrison explained the rationale behind the proposal and said that she would be outlining the current position, the proposal itself and what happens next.

She gave an overview of the current provision, indicating that St Thomas' Primary School is older than Neilston Primary School and was extended about ten years ago. However, both buildings are not up to modern standards and the Department is seeking investment to provide schools more suited to the modern curriculum. Both schools are proud community schools and the learning and teaching going on in both is not matched by the school estate. This consultation is an important and necessary stage in that journey. The outcome of the consultation will inform the next steps which are conditional on necessary approvals and resources being available.

There is joint agreement between COSLA and the Scottish Government to provide additional money through the auspices of the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) to support new school buildings and the department wants to be ready to take advantage of any such funding. The department has previously received funding to build the new Barrhead and Eastwood High schools and refurbish Crookfur Primary School.

Parents were advised of the condition of both schools which are rated as 'C' – poor in terms of condition and suitability. Madras Family Centre, which is a separate building, is rated 'B' - satisfactory, although it is recognised that there is a need to refresh school estate in the village.

(School buildings are rated on a scale of A-D).

Miss Morrison provided information on the demand, pupil numbers and planning capacity over the last 10 years in each establishment. St Thomas's PS serves Neilston and Uplawmoor and is a 1-stream school with a capacity of 210 places. The current occupancy is 62%. Taking into account future demand, it is anticipated that the roll will steadily increase with occupancy reaching 71%. The school would, however, remain a 1-stream school.

In Neilston PS, the roll has been more stable in recent years at around 290+. The current role is 295. Neilston is a 2-stream school with a capacity of 420 pupil places. The current occupancy rate is 70%. Again, taking into account future demand, it is anticipated that the roll would increase and reach an occupancy rate of 73%. However, it will retain its 2-stream provision.

Madras Family Centre is part of the early years community of Barrhead, Neilston and Uplawmoor, principally serving Neilston and Uplawmoor. The current entitlement is 600 hours of free early learning and childcare. Madras FC was extended in 2016 to include 80 places for 3 & 4 year olds and 15 places for 2 year olds. It is proposed to increase the number of 3 & 4 year old places to 100.

### Gauging Interest.

In an effort to find out if there was an appetite for change in the local community, officers met informally with parent councils in 2017. Parent councils consulted at that time with the wider parent forum and the department also consulted with Neilston Town Centre Advisory Group. The informal consultation received positive interest.

### Scoping : Estate Management Feasibility Study.

A detailed condition survey of all 3 educational establishments and the 3 Trust operated facilities was carried out and this indicated that all properties were in need of investment. There followed a site option appraisal to ascertain if there was a suitable site for a new campus. St Thomas' PS was considered unsuitable as the site was too small to accommodate the 2 schools and the family centre. The Current site of Madras and Neilston offered an opportunity to develop a campus approach. With additional resources, it may be possible to include library and learning centres in this proposal.

Miss Morrison indicated that it is possible that the project would be undertaken in stages, i.e. it may be that Learning in Neilston could be established as Stage 1 with the leisure and library facilities taking place at a subsequent stage. It was highlighted that there is no funding available at present should there be a positive response to this consultation.

### The Proposal.

Miss Morrison referred to Paragraph 57 of the consultation document which details the five themes of the proposal.

### Educational Benefits.

Again, Miss Morrison referred to Paragraphs 58-85 of the consultation document which outlines the educational benefits of the proposal. In summary, they are:

- to increase the number of early learning and childcare places
- investment in facilities
- new provision which would be more environmentally sustainable and efficient, with better physical accessibility to comply with the Equality Act 2010
- improve learning environments and experiences. Indoor and outdoor spaces to help further excellence and equity
- supports transition : early years
- campus approach facilitates staff from both schools and the family centre working together, improving learning, teaching and achievement
- campus approach allows further opportunities to foster good community relations

- better facilities designed from the outset, including improved traffic management to encourage community use

#### Implications.

Miss Morrison emphasised that they would continue to operate as 2 separate schools, with their own head teachers and designated parent councils. They would all benefit from the new build and shared facilities.

School admission arrangements would be unaffected with St Thomas' continuing to feed into St Luke's and Neilston to Eastwood. Madras FM would continue to serve the same early years community area. There would be no change to walking/cycling distances to school for pupils.

The need to improve traffic management is recognised, for cars, pedestrians and cyclists. This would be well considered to improve this for the schools and the community in general.

Miss Morrison explained that, if approved, the results of the consultation would be submitted for elected members' consideration of the report. This would then put the Council in a position to accept any funding opportunity that comes along.

When the report is considered by Education Committee on 4 October and, if approved, it will be pending monies being available to progress the proposal. The department would write a report back to Cabinet and they would consider the implications for the Council and any funding they would have to contribute.

A consultation on the ultimate design on any new facility would take place with stakeholders and the community to establish new provision.

#### What Next?

Miss Morrison outlined the timescales. The Education Committee considered and approved the proposal to go out for consultation at its meeting on 10 May. The consultation started on 11 May and will last until midnight on 26 June 2018. She explained that it is necessary to consult with key stakeholders. These include parents/carers, pupils, staff, the Catholic Church, community councils, elected members, MPs, MSPs. She advised that there will also be consultation with pupils through the engagement of independent consultants who are experienced in consulting with young people to seek their views. Pupils contribute valuable input to such consultations. In addition, Education Scotland have a statutory role in the process.

A public meeting will be held on 5 June 2018 in Glen Halls, Neilston.

It was explained that Education Scotland (formerly HMIE) had a statutory role in the consultation and a representative would attend the public meeting as an observer and would be given copies of all the responses. A representative would visit both schools early in the new session and meet with key groups, staff, parents and pupils to gauge their views. Education Scotland will then write a report in which there may be recommendations to consider or points to reflect on.

Following the consultation period, a report will be submitted to Education Committee at its meeting on 4 October 2018. Should approval ultimately be given, the next stage of the journey is securing investment to realise the Learning in Neilston project or, possibly, the larger project, Learning and Leisure in Neilston.

Miss Morrison reminded parents of the ways in which they can respond to the consultation – in writing/by email to the Council Offices, via the Council website or by completing the response form attached to the consultation document.

Councillor O’Kane then invited questions from the audience.

A parent said that, although she would not be affected by the proposals as her son is moving on to high school, she is in favour of the plans, should funding be available. She feels that it can and will work and will be very beneficial for the village. She asked what would happen if funding is received - what would happen to the land – would it be used for housing?

Miss Morrison explained that, as it would be surplus to requirements, it would be for the Environment Department to consider what would happen to the land according to the local development plan.

Mrs Shaw added that, in terms of the master plan for Neilston, we are in the process just now of the preparing the Local Development Plan and there is an opportunity for people to have their views heard as part of that process in making sure they help to shape Neilston for the future. Councillor Buchanan said that it’s about getting the balance. There is significant need for more council housing in Neilston and indeed across East Renfrewshire but the council owns very little land. We need affordable housing to allow families to remain in the area which would in turn sustain the school rolls. We also need to ensure green space and play areas

Councillor O’Kane said there is supplementary planning guidance.

Another parent asked if Madras would continue to be managed by the head teacher of Neilston Primary School on the new campus.

Mrs Shaw responded that there are no plans to change its name at the moment.

Another PC member said that the parent council has done a lot of promotion this year in relation to highlighting that St Thomas’ PS is an option for pupils moving on from Madras. . They have been proactive and made themselves known. One of the parents has become an ambassador and has got parents on board. Some parents think that if a child goes to Madras they automatically go to Neilston PS and maybe it should be highlighted that Madras serves both schools. She added that there were discussions last year about the 2 schools having their own identity but would share dining areas and Science labs. They would benefit from a bigger playground and better art and science space.

Someone else raised the issue of security when the schools would be sharing a campus with libraries and leisure.

Miss Morrison explained that design in the beginning can help and can overcome issues such as these. They will look carefully at access to the building for the sports centre part. There would be a different access to the leisure facilities from the school. Security of the building is important too. There would be certain parts they wouldn’t want pupils to access and others which would be separate so that classes are not disturbed when having Mass, for example.

There was concern expressed around the issue of vandalism. The village experiences a number of youths hanging around and there is a lack of police presence. She feels it would be aa case of spending money just for them to come in and destroy the building. There are no security cameras working.

Miss Morrison replied that they want people to use the facility and respect it. Her experience is that youngsters appreciate the new buildings and stand up for the school and there is a sense of community and ownership. With regard to the CCTV, Miss Morrison said that this will be reported back to ensure that the school is protected as much as it can be.

Mrs Shaw added that if leisure and learning are on the same site, buildings will be open later. This offers its own security.

There was a question raised regarding what would happen about janitors.

Miss Morrison advised that she doesn't foresee narrowing down to one janitor.

Someone else added that a lot of children look up to their janitor and they are a key part of the school.

Councillor O'Kane stated that the teachers at Calderwood and St Clare's collaborate about supervision.

A parent asked if it would be possible for parent council members to visit the joint campus.

Miss Morrison said that arrangements will be made for a visit to take place.

Mrs Shaw added that a visit to Calderwood and St Clare's might help to answer some of the questions parents have. They will be able to see what happens around religious opportunities and how it operates. However, she doesn't envisage the proposed campus having separate dining areas as they have in the joint campus but this would be considered in the design process.

A question was raised in relation to Pig Square and if this is earmarked for a particular use.

Mrs Shaw replied that, if the project goes ahead Pig Square would be needed for traffic management while the facility is being built and there would be a need for additional car parking.

A parent asked if there was space on the Neilston PS site for everything that is planned and someone else asked if there were plans to close Glen Halls.

Miss Morrison said yes – there is space to build, as per the options in the consultation document.

Someone commented that neighbours at the top of the road have concerns about potential noise levels as the number of children will be doubling. In addition, there may be litter problems and issues with parking at the end of the day.

Mrs Shaw commented that we always end up with much better parking facilities. It's a key consideration.

A parent asked if the consultation is just available at the moment to the two schools.

Mrs Shaw said that it is now in the public domain. However, this is an education statutory consultation. There would be another process in terms of statutory planning requirements.

Councillor Buchanan added that around any new builds traffic management is a consideration and that control of that is much improved.

Miss Morrison said that the new build facility would be a 2 storey building as there is more value by building upwards and it makes it easier to travel around the school.

It was confirmed that there would be no disruption to St Thomas' during the build.

There was a question asked in relation to the benefit of an all-weather pitch when Kingston Park is just up the road.

Miss Morrison replied that the Council could let the pitch. It would also provide an opportunity to have more after school activities on campus.

Councillor O'Kane said that there is a long journey around design and planning.

Mrs Shaw explained that local residents who are not parents are not statutory consultees. Parents, staff and pupils etc. views carry more weight. However, residents would be statutory consultees in relation to a planning application.

A parent council member asked how long the two schools could survive in their current states should funding not become available.

Miss Morrison replied that it would be just a case of keeping the buildings wind and watertight and that anything more would essentially be throwing good money after bad.

In response to a question about the likelihood of money being available and when this is likely to be, Councillor O'Kane said that the Council has benefited from funding in most years and they are hopeful. However, it is important to have their case ready.

Councillor Buchanan commented that if investment is made and money becomes available it is essential to have a good sound business case. That's why we want to be ready to go. We are looking at having a shared campus idea here, which would be creating a community facility. That is being innovative and that is what is looked for. The more innovative we are, the more likely we are to get the funding.

Someone asked about the process used to choose which option to progress.

Miss Morrison replied that they would do a topographical survey analysis about what can be put on what grounds. However, the design would be in consultation with stakeholders - staff, parents, pupils, would all be involved and would work with the architects.

There was a question about the Church hall (Church of Scotland) and what would happen if they did not want to sell it.

Miss Morrison replied that, following the outcome of consultation, those kind of discussions could take place.

Councillor O'Kane thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, reminded them of the ways in which they can respond and encouraged as many people as possible to respond. He advised that the public meeting will take place on 5 June 2018 and everyone is welcome to attend that.

East Renfrewshire Council : Education Department

Meeting with Parent Council Members of Neilston PS  
Wednesday 23 May 2018 at 7pm in Neilston PS

Re Future Non-Denominational Education Provision for Children of Neilston Primary and Madras Family centre; and Future Denominational (Roman Catholic) Education Provision for Children of St Thomas' Primary, Neilston

Present: Councillor Tony Buchanan, Leader of the Council  
Councillor Paul O'Kane, Deputy Leader and Convener for Education & Equalities  
Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education  
Fiona Morrison, Head of Education Services (Provision & Resources)  
Colin McMenemy, Admissions & Development Manager  
Mary Hart & Evelyn Hunter (Note Takers)

Councillor O'Kane welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the panel members. He explained that Fiona Morrison would be delivering a presentation which would provide further information on the consultation and there would then be an opportunity for questions from parents. He advised that the meeting will be minuted. He advised that there will also be a public meeting which everyone is welcome to attend. The same presentation will be given at that meeting.

#### Learning in Neilston : Consultative Proposal

Miss Morrison explained the rationale behind the proposal and said that she would be outlining the current position, the proposal itself and what happens next.

She gave an overview of the current provision, indicating that St Thomas' Primary School is older than Neilston Primary School and was extended about ten years ago. However, both buildings are not up to modern standards and the Department is seeking investment to provide schools more suited to the modern curriculum. Both schools are proud community schools and the excellent learning and teaching going on in both is not matched by the school estate.

This consultation is an important and necessary stage in that journey. The outcome of the consultation will inform the next steps which are conditional on necessary approvals and resources being available.

A paper was submitted to Council in June 2015 "Influencing the Future of ER" and, at that time, refreshing the estate in Neilston was a priority area. Miss Morrison advised that funding may not just come from the Scottish Futures Trust but that there may be other ways of engineering money into the school estate. She added that it is necessary to consult if a school is being replaced, relocated, building a brand new provision, or if changing the delineated catchment areas. Such a consultation would take a period of 6 months.

Elected members will make the decision in October. However, if everyone said no, then the Council would need to decide the way forward. Miss Morrison explained that school buildings are graded in terms of their condition, their state of repair, their suitability and if they are fit for purpose in addressing modern curricular needs. This school was built in the 1960s. The recognised assessment criteria ratings are A-D, i.e. good to unsatisfactory. There are no East Renfrewshire educational establishments in category D, due to the investment that has been made, although there are some in category 'C'. Both Neilston and St Thomas' are rated 'C' (poor) in terms of condition and suitability. With regard to Madras Family Centre, it serves the wider area. It had a satisfactory rating of 'B'. The building was extended in 2016 and has newer provision. However, it

too would benefit from being within the campus. This would improve transitions. Miss Morrison added that we need to consider best value and to ensure that schools match demand.

Miss Morrison provided information on the demand, pupil numbers and planning capacity over the last 10 years in each establishment. St Thomas's PS serves Neilston and Uplawmoor and is a 1-stream school with a capacity of 210 places. The current occupancy is 62%. Taking into account future demand, it is anticipated that the roll will steadily increase with occupancy reaching 71%. The school would, therefore, remain a 1-stream school.

In Neilston PS, the roll has been more stable in recent years at around 290+. The current roll is 295. Neilston is a 2-stream school with a capacity of 420 pupil places. The current occupancy rate is 70%. Again, taking into account future demand, it is anticipated that the roll would increase and reach an occupancy rate of 73%. However, it will retain its 2-stream provision.

Madras Family Centre is part of the early years community of Barrhead, Neilston and Uplawmoor, principally serving Neilston and Uplawmoor. The current entitlement is 600 hours of free early learning and childcare. Madras FC was extended in 2016 to include 80 places for 3 & 4 year olds and 15 places for 2 year olds. It is proposed to increase the number of 3 & 4 year old places to 100.

### Gauging Interest

In an effort to find out if there was an appetite for change in the local community, officers met informally with parent councils in 2017. Parent councils consulted at that time with the wider parent forum and the department also consulted with Neilston Town Centre Advisory Group. The informal consultation received positive interest, although concern was expressed about traffic management.

### Scoping : Estate Management Feasibility Study.

A detailed condition survey of all 3 educational establishments and the 3 Trust operated facilities was carried out and this indicated that all properties were in need of investment. There followed a site option appraisal to ascertain if there was a suitable site for a new campus. St Thomas' PS was considered unsuitable as the site was too small to accommodate the 2 schools and the family centre. The current site of Madras and Neilston offered an opportunity to develop a campus approach. With additional resources, it may be possible to include library and learning centres in this proposal.

Miss Morrison explained that sometimes money comes with certain conditions. For example, for the worst condition schools, and/or has to be spent with a certain timescale. She said that that is why the Council is trying to be 'shovel ready'.

Miss Morrison indicated that it is possible that the project would be undertaken in stages, i.e. it may be that Learning in Neilston could be established as Stage 1 with the leisure and library facilities taking place at a subsequent stage. It was highlighted that there is no funding available at present should there be a positive response to this consultation.

She reiterated that the site investigation process found that St Thomas' site was not big enough to accommodate the needs of the two schools. However, the Neilston / Madras site offered the opportunity to relocate both on a campus approach. In addition, the use of Pig Square has been considered, perhaps for parking.

### The Proposal.

Miss Morrison referred to Paragraph 57 of the consultation document which details the five themes of the proposal

Miss Morrison emphasised that the principle proposal is 'Learning in Neilston' and the wider proposal would be the addition of leisure and library facilities.



### Educational Benefits.

Again, Miss Morrison referred to Paragraphs 58-85 of the consultation document which outlines the educational benefits of the proposal. In summary, they are:

- to increase the number of early learning and childcare places
- investment in facilities
- new provision which would be more environmentally sustainable and efficient, with better physical accessibility to comply with the Equality Act 2010
- improve learning environments and experiences. Indoor and outdoor spaces to help further excellence and equity
- supports transition : early years
- campus approach facilitates staff from both schools and the family centre working together, improving learning, teaching and achievement
- campus approach allows further opportunities to foster good community relations
- better facilities designed from the outset, including improved traffic management to encourage community use
- there would be separate schools, with some separate areas and some shared areas. For example, science room, drama and music facilities.
- Teachers could work together and plan for improvement with better facilities, for example traffic management

It would be designed in cooperation with stakeholders – pupils, teaching staff and other staff. Synergies.

### Implications.

Miss Morrison emphasised that they would continue to operate as 2 separate schools, with their own head teachers and designated parent councils. They would all benefit from the new build and shared facilities. There would be no change to admission or transfer arrangements, with St Thomas' feeding into St Luke's and Neilston into Eastwood. There would be no change to walking distances to school for pupils.

Miss Morrison explained that, if approved, the results of the consultation would be submitted for elected members' consideration of the report. If approved, this would then put the Council in a position to accept any funding opportunity that comes along.

When the report is considered by Education Committee on 4 October and, if approved, it will be pending monies being available to progress the proposal. The department would write a report back to Cabinet and they would consider the implications for the Council and any funding they would have to contribute.

A consultation on the ultimate design on any new facility would take place with stakeholders and the community to establish new provision.

### What Next?

Miss Morrison outlined the timescales. The Education Committee considered and approved the proposal to go out for consultation at its meeting on 10 May. The consultation started on 11 May and will last until midnight on 26 June 2018. She explained that it is necessary to consult with key stakeholders. These include parents/carers, pupils, staff, the Catholic Church, community councils, elected members, MPs, MSPs. She advised that there will also be consultation with pupils through the engagement of independent consultants who are experienced in consulting with young people to seek their views. Pupils contribute valuable input to such consultations. In addition, Education Scotland have a statutory role in the process.

A public meeting will be held on 5 June 2018 in Glen Halls, Neilston.

It was explained that Education Scotland (formerly HMIE) had a statutory role in the consultation and a representative would attend the public meeting as an observer and would be given copies of all the responses. A representative would visit both schools early in the new session and meet with key groups, staff, parents and pupils to gauge their views. Education Scotland will then write a report in which there may be recommendations to consider or points to reflect on.

Following the consultation period, a report will be submitted to Education Committee at its meeting on 4 October 2018. Should approval ultimately be given, the next stage of the journey is securing investment to realise the Learning in Neilston project or, possibly, the larger project, Learning and Leisure in Neilston.

Miss Morrison reminded parents of the ways in which they can respond to the consultation – in writing/by email to the Council Offices, via the Council website or by completing the response form attached to the consultation document. She added that people can respond whether or not they are statutory consultees but responses from statutory consultee hold more weight. It was noted that petitions are one considered as one response. Parent councils can send a response as a group but can also respond individually.

Councillor O’Kane thanked Miss Morrison for her details presentation and invited questions from the audience.

One of the parent council members advised that they had a meeting last week when everyone had indicated that they were in favour of the proposals. However, they are slightly worried about the outdoor aspects of the proposals as it would be a shame to lose the areas they currently enjoy.

Miss Morrison replied that this would be taken on board. There would be improved outdoor space with an all-weather pitch etc. to ensure that the facilities are useable all year round, both for the school and for the community. The outdoor facilities would conform to all guidelines in terms of SportsScotland and will be given particular attention. She advised that, at last night’s meeting of St Thomas’ parent council, there was a suggestion that parent council members be invited to visit the joint campus of Calderwood Lodge and St Clare’s. She confirmed that arrangements will be put in place for this to take place for the parent council members of both Neilston and St Thomas’. The joint campus has great outdoor equipment. Parents should not be concerned that they will be losing the space they currently enjoy.

A parent expressed concern that the site at Calderwood and St Clare’s has 50% bigger space than here on the Neilston site and therefore would have a bigger footprint.

Miss Morrison explained that the drawings/plans in the consultation document are merely possible designs and structures. External consultants are used to build these facilities. It does work and will work. There are creative things than can be done. The site here is quite steep but can create a design that appears to be 2-storeys but can actually be 3. These are just indicative plans. For example, spaces for buses are not required here as they are the joint campus and that takes up space. The needs of the local community will be considered.

In relation to the plans, a parent said that there is a difference between being in line with guidance and the opportunity we have here. What is unique about this campus is the amount of forest space and the amount of grass. Of course, the council will follow guidance but will an opportunity be missed? It’s too much of a squeeze to fit everything on this site and too much green space will be lost, not just active green space but space for children to explore. There are a lot of mental health issues in this country. Nature has a massive influence on that.

Mrs Shaw replied that outdoors does not just mean on the school site. The expectation is that all pupils will get out and about in the wider community and beyond.

The head teacher, Gerard Curley, commented that the site is quite extensive. They are fortunate that they have a mini forest for outdoor adventures. Children spend a lot of time in the family centre and the school. They take classes to Kingston Park and do some outdoor learning there. Staff were trained on forest schools and making the best use of spaces they have.

A parent commented that his family moved to Neilston because of its location as it allows them to go for walks in the country. There are opportunities for the children. We're talking here about a lot of green space, but on site, on accommodation.

Mrs Shaw responded that there needs to be a balance taking into account what it is the greatest benefit to learning. There are 3 other sites that have been considered but some of that will be dedicated to housing.

There's also green area around St Thomas'. All of these areas in the wider sense of Neilston are not going to disappear into concrete. The parent said that his concern relates to it being on campus.

The chair of the parent council asked if consideration had been given to Kingston Park as an option.

Miss Morrison responded that the Council wants to deliver this project as soon as possible. The Council has limited land, limited council ownership. The Council wants to be in a state of readiness. Timing would be a problem if Kingston Park was to be considered. Councillor O'Kane said that in the first plan there was talk about Kingston Park but people felt they wanted to keep the status of the park.

Why, given that St Thomas' would be demolished, could the leisure centre and library not be built there?

Miss Morrison advised that money comes into everything. There would be people of all ages outside hours as well as during school hours using the facility. It would be more protected because the leisure centre would be open at night.

Councillor Buchanan said that it would be difficult if was not all on site. It would mean that it would not be an innovative a proposal and therefore less likely to get money. By ticking more boxes and having the library and leisure facilities on site it would be seen as being more innovative projects.

Mrs Shaw commented that there is research that shows that a community's use of the library increases literacy and a community's value. Having them on the same site makes it more of a viable service to the whole community and could boost literacy levels.

The parent said that she is just worried about the size of the site and the amount of space these things take up. It just doesn't seem to marry up.

Mrs Shaw responded that maybe things don't need to be the same size as things are just now. Most libraries can be accommodated within other building. The architects can make the best use of the space available, taking on board the wishes being expressed about outdoor spaces. It would be a busy site but a more used site.

Miss Morrison added that modern schools are much tighter and the design footprint is much smaller.

Mrs Shaw explained that there are two different processes. The Council wants to seek parents' views as to whether they agree that the Neilston village would benefit from having learning on one site. Parents will be heavily involved in the next stage which is the design stage. Those involved in establishing the Calderwood and St Clare's campus have much more of a sense of ownership of their building.

A gentleman said that everyone is in favour of that and Miss Morrison urged the parent council to explain all of this to the wider parent body.

The Chair of the parent council asked where the data came from in relation to the number of children coming from new house building. Miss Morrison pointed out that St Thomas' PS covers Uplawmoor too.

She added that the safety of children is the main concern during construction. She explained that the council and the department are very experienced in such things. Crookfur PS, which is a full 2 stream school with a 90 capacity nursery, was build round about the existing site. It was also rated 'C'. It had to be built within a tight timeframe. The pupils were in the school during construction, albeit some temporary accommodation was erected.

Mrs Shaw said that the above was managed very well. They had good partners and the children were included. It worked beautifully. Kids fed back at an event on their experience post-occupancy and were quite clear about what their fears had been but of the benefits of being on the site during construction. She added that it is important to understand that all of these aspects are taken into consideration by the Council and the construction company.

Councillor O'Kane commented that the phasing of the whole operation is important. For example, some works can take place over the summer when pupils are on holiday.

A parent asked about one of the options which would result in decanting. Mrs Shaw replied that, unfortunately there are no schools lying empty, and so there is nowhere to decant to. However, there may be some temporary accommodation as was the case at Crookfur. Temporary accommodation is expensive and so would not be the preferred option. It would be preferable to use that money more creatively.

Someone else asked if the temporary accommodation would be on the Neilston site, as there had been talk a number of years ago about pupils being bussed to schools in Barrhead. Councillor O'Kane highlighted that this is just one of the options and it is just indicative of what could be done.

In relation to Pig Square, someone asked if parents will be involved in what they would like to see on the site. Mrs Shaw replied that, for previous new school builds, the architects brought parents together and separately. The same was done with groups of pupils and staff.

A parent asked if there would be access to the framework and Miss Morrison said that the procurement process would be followed in terms of quality and cost. Builders that have been used in the past have been quality builders. There would be a separate tender exercise.

Another parent said that, in terms of the sports facilities, he would welcome these as people often have to travel elsewhere for such facilities. However he is concerned in terms of the use of the sports facilities in the evenings as this might attract vandalism. The facilities, as with other local authority sites, would be open to lets. However, he wondered if the income from those lets is ring fenced and passed back to the school or is it swallowed and used elsewhere.

Mrs Shaw explained that it is the Trust who lets the facilities and that's part of their income, as part of the management fee we pay to them. The new school would offer opportunities but there is not a school in Scotland that operates like that.

The parent added that if the money came back to the school it would make them more self-sufficient.

Mrs Shaw explained that the department works closely with the department's Property & Technical Services and if there is a particular issue, then that will be taken up with them. However, the minimum we expect our schools would be is wind and water tight. She said that she expects vandalism would be tackled speedily. However, there will be more evening use of the facilities and the adult presence would act as natural security around the site.

There was some further concern that the Council was 'getting big on facilities' to the detriment of green space and that there is a feeling that it's more about maximum income rather than the loss of green space

Mrs Shaw responded that schools are not profit making facilities. They operate on the basis of DSM (Delegated School Management) and any fund raising is not about income generation.

Mrs Shaw referred to their meeting with the advisory group. There is a process whereby the master planning of the village has to be looked at and this proposal is a huge part of that. It will be to the benefit of the community but sight will not be lost of the picture of Neilston. She said that the LDP (Local Development Plan) will be out after the summer and the Council will be gathering views around that for all of East Renfrewshire's communities.

Someone asked about evening clubs and if a timetable would be worked out for during the day so that the schools could use the facilities at certain times but open to the public at others. In addition, someone referred to Mrs Shaw's comment about the cost of membership etc. and this would mean that children attending, for example, a football group, would be expected to pay because the football group has to pay. Neilston has already been identified as an area of deprivation and yet people will be expected to pay a fortune.

Councillor Buchanan explained that all clubs have their charges and they are fighting for space and lets.

Mrs Shaw reminded parents that pupils will also be consulted.

Councillor O'Kane thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, reminded them of the ways in which they can respond and encouraged as many people as possible to respond. He said that the parent council can respond as a group and also as individuals. He advised that the public meeting will take place on 5 June 2018 and everyone is welcome to attend that.

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East Renfrewshire Council : Education Department

Public Meeting  
Tuesday 5 June 2018 at 7pm in Glen Halls, Neilston

Re Future Non-Denominational Education Provision for Children of Neilston Primary and Madras Family centre; and Future Denominational (Roman Catholic) Education Provision for Children of St Thomas' Primary, Neilston

Present: Councillor Tony Buchanan, Leader of the Council  
Councillor Paul O'Kane, Deputy Leader and Convener for Education & Equalities  
Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education  
Fiona Morrison, Head of Education Services (Provision & Resources)  
Colin McMenemy, Admissions & Development Manager  
Councillor Charlie Gilbert  
Brendan Docherty, Head Teacher, St Thomas's PS  
Gerard Curley, Head Teacher, Neilston PS  
Mary Hart & Evelyn Hunter (Note Takers)

Councillor O'Kane welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the panel members and other members of the audience. He explained that this meeting forms part of the statutory consultation process as set out in the Schools Education Act 2010 and is in relation to the future education provision in Neilston and the proposal for a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras. He advised that Fiona Morrison would be delivering a presentation which would provide further information on the consultation and there would then be an opportunity for questions from parents. He advised that the meeting will be minuted.

He emphasised that this is not about the design of any new building or decisions on sites or outdoor facilities. It is about gathering the views of the local community and parents on whether or not this would work in principle or if they can and should share a site. He added that funding is not available at the moment but that it is important for the Council to be prepared should funding come along and this proposal is approved. Councillor O'Kane advised that there is a representative present from Education Scotland (formerly HMle) as they too have a statutory role in the process.

#### Learning in Neilston : Consultative Proposal

Miss Morrison explained the rationale behind the proposal and said that she would be outlining the current position, the proposal itself and what happens next.

Miss Morrison explained that it is about the principle of establishing a joint campus and whether or not people are for or against the schools coming together on a joint site. She said that a consultation meeting had taken place informally with the parent councils separately to seek their views on the proposals and they would be responding officially.

Journey from the Current State to Improvements. Schools and Madras Family Centre.

Fiona Morrison gave an overview of the current provision, indicating that St Thomas' Primary School is older than Neilston Primary School and had been extended about ten years ago. However, both buildings are not up to modern standards and the Department is seeking investment to provide schools more suited to the modern curriculum. Both schools are proud community schools and the excellent learning and teaching going on in both is not matched by the school estate. East Renfrewshire want to ensure opportunities and experiences are

further improved by the provision we make available to them. We want the building and facilities to be excellent to support their learning further.

This consultation is an important and necessary stage in that journey. The outcome of the consultation will inform the next steps which are conditional on necessary approvals and resources being available.

Miss Morrison spoke about the condition of the current buildings. She advised that the Scottish Government and COSLA have a joint commitment to improve school estate for young people in respect of condition and suitability. It is the Council's intention to improve that. Eight key areas have been identified in terms of opportunities for the wider ERC area. One of these was to improve school estate, particularly in Neilston. The Council has made considerable investment in improving the school estate, through particular pots of money which have been made available. There needs to be sufficient provision to ensure there are sufficient places. The Council also has to ensure best value and will continue to seek investment. We need to ensure building matches demand and that there are not too many places. However, we need to be 'shovel ready' in order to take advantage of any funding that comes along.

Miss Morrison explained that school buildings are graded in terms of their condition, their state of repair, their suitability and if they are fit for purpose in addressing modern curricular needs. The recognised assessment criteria ratings are A-D, i.e. good to unsatisfactory. There are no East Renfrewshire educational establishments in category D, due to the investment that has been made, although there are some in category 'C'. Both Neilston and St Thomas' are rated 'C' (poor) in terms of condition and suitability. With regard to Madras Family Centre, it serves the wider area. It had a satisfactory rating of 'B'. The building was extended in 2016 to include 80 places for 3 & 4 year olds and 15 places for 2 year olds. It is proposed to increase the number of 3 & 4 year old places to 100. However, it too would benefit from being within the campus. This would improve transitions.

Miss Morrison provided information on the demand, pupil numbers and planning capacity over the last 10 years in each establishment. St Thomas's PS serves Neilston and Uplawmoor and is a 1-stream school with a capacity of 210 places. The current occupancy is 62%. Taking into account future demand, it is anticipated that the roll will steadily increase with occupancy reaching 71%. The school would, therefore, remain a 1-stream school.

In Neilston PS, the roll has been more stable in recent years at around 290+. The current roll is 295. Neilston is a 2-stream school with a capacity of 420 pupil places. The current occupancy rate is 70%. Again, taking into account future demand, it is anticipated that the roll would increase and reach an occupancy rate of 73%. However, it will retain its 2-stream provision.

Madras Family Centre is part of the early years community of Barrhead, Neilston and Uplawmoor, principally serving Neilston and Uplawmoor. The current entitlement is 600 hours of free early learning and childcare. Madras FC was extended in 2016 to include 80 places for 3 & 4 year olds and 15 places for 2 year olds. It is proposed to increase the number of 3 & 4 year old places to 100.

### Gauging Interest.

In an effort to find out if there was an appetite for change in the local community, officers met informally with parent councils in 2017. Parent councils consulted at that time with the wider parent forum and the department also consulted with Neilston Town Centre Advisory Group. The informal consultation received positive interest, although concern was expressed about traffic management.



Scoping. Asset Management Feasibility Study.

A detailed condition survey of all 3 educational establishments and the 3 Trust operated facilities was carried out and this indicated that all properties were in need of investment. There followed a site option appraisal to ascertain if there was a suitable site for a new campus. St Thomas' PS was considered unsuitable as the site was too small to accommodate the 2 schools and the family centre. The current site of Madras and Neilston offered an opportunity to develop a campus approach. With additional resources, it may be possible to include library and leisure centres in this proposal.

Miss Morrison explained that sometimes money comes with certain conditions. For example, for the worst condition schools, and/or has to be spent with a certain timescale. She said that that is why the Council is trying to be 'shovel ready'.

Miss Morrison indicated that it is possible that the project would be undertaken in stages, i.e. it may be that Learning in Neilston could be established as Stage 1 with the leisure and library facilities taking place at a subsequent stage. It was highlighted that there is no funding available at present should there be a positive response to this consultation.

She reiterated that the site investigation process found that St Thomas' site was not big enough to accommodate the needs of the two schools. However, the Neilston / Madras site offered the opportunity to relocate both on a campus approach. She added that there is currently a backlog of maintenance of £1.7m (St Thomas') and £1.1m (Neilston).

Miss Morrison advised that all the properties could do with more investment but that we have to be realistic and be ready to have a proposal. Within the Council, other sites have timescales and other conditions attached which would delay the ability to progress as and when money became available whereas the Director of Education can remodel current school curtilages.

Miss Morrison informed the meeting that the Scottish Government, under the auspices of the SFT, provide monies and this had allowed Crookfur PS to be remodelled/extended and Barrhead HS to be replaced. Crookfur had also been graded as a 'C'. The build had to be completed within a set timeframe and, as it was being built on site, there was no requirement to undertake a statutory consultation. A consultation is required if an authority wishes to make changes to school estate, for example change to delineated catchment areas, relocation to another site.

The Proposal.

Miss Morrison referred to Paragraph 57 of the consultation document which details the five themes of the proposal.

She said that the principle proposal is 'Learning in Neilston' and the wider proposal would be the addition of leisure and library facilities. She emphasised that there would be two schools, with two head teachers and two parent councils. The school would not be merging together – they would be two separate schools on the same site. She added that if it was found to be possible to include the library and leisure facilities these current buildings and St Thomas' PS would be closed and declared surplus. This would open up an opportunity for the Council in terms of master planning.

Education Benefits.

- Education benefits would be realised, not just improvement to the fabric of the building.
- to increase the number of early learning and childcare places
- investment in facilities
- new provision which would be more environmentally sustainable and efficient, with better physical accessibility to comply with the Equality Act 2010

- improve learning environments and experiences. Indoor and outdoor spaces to help further excellence and equity
- supports transition : early years
- campus approach facilitates staff from both schools and the family centre working together, improving learning, teaching and achievement
- campus approach allows further opportunities to foster good community relations
- better facilities designed from the outset, including improved traffic management to encourage community use
- there would be separate schools, with some separate areas and some shared areas. For example, science room, drama and music facilities.
- Teachers could work together and plan for improvement with better facilities.

If approved, the building would be designed in cooperation with stakeholders – pupils, parents, teaching staff and other staff. It would provide opportunities for adult learning and community learning. Even without library and leisure facilities on site, it would allow additional multipurpose rooms, for example science, drama, music and Art and everyone would benefit from common shared facilities. It would be up to the head teachers to decide what would best meet the needs of their learners and staff. Miss Morrison said that these buildings were built in the 1960s when there was no Equalities Act and we would like them to be more physically accessible.

### Implications.

Miss Morrison said that proper cognisance would be taken of traffic managements issues. These schools were built when there were fewer cars. Nowadays, pedestrian traffic has to be separate from cyclists, cars, parking, drop-off areas etc. Any proposal taken forward would take all of this into account. There would be no change to walking distances to school for pupils and no changes to admission or transfer arrangements, with St Thomas' continuing to feed into St Luke's and Neilston into Eastwood High School.

Madras would still serve the same early years community.

Miss Morrison emphasised that they would continue to operate as 2 separate schools, with their own head teachers and designated parent councils. They would all benefit from the new build and shared facilities.

When the report is considered by Education Committee on 4 October and, if approved, it will be pending monies being available to progress the proposal if funding does become available. The department would write a report to Cabinet and they would consider the implications for the Council and any funding they would have to contribute.

A consultation on the ultimate design on any new facility would take place with stakeholders and the community to establish new provision.

Miss Morrison explained that this statutory consultation is about Learning in Neilston, although library and leisure facilities may be included, albeit this may not happen in the first phase. The results of the consultation would be submitted for elected members' consideration of the report. If approved, this would then put the Council in a position to accept any funding opportunity that comes along.

### What Next?

Miss Morrison outlined the timescales. The Education Committee considered and approved the proposal to go out for consultation at its meeting on 10 May. The consultation started on 11 May and will last until midnight on 26 June 2018. She explained that it is necessary to consult with key stakeholders. These include parents/carers, pupils, staff, the Catholic Church, community councils, elected members, MPs, MSPs. She advised that there will also

be consultation with pupils through the engagement of independent consultants who are experienced in consulting with young people to seek their views. Pupils contribute valuable input to such consultations. In addition, Education Scotland have a statutory role in the process. Notes of all meetings and responses are passed to Education Scotland. They then look and ensure we have followed due process.

It was explained that a representative from Education Scotland (formerly HMIE) would visit both schools early in the new session and meet with key groups, staff, parents and pupils to gauge their views. Education Scotland will then write a report in which there may be recommendations to consider or points to reflect on.

Following the consultation period, a report will be submitted to Education Committee at its meeting on 4 October 2018. The report is available for public scrutiny 3 weeks in advance of the meeting. Should approval ultimately be given, the next stage of the journey is securing investment to realise the Learning in Neilston project or, possibly, the larger project, Learning and Leisure in Neilston.

Miss Morrison reminded parents of the ways in which they can respond to the consultation – in writing/by email to the Council Offices, via the Council website or by completing the response form attached to the consultation document. She added that people can respond whether or not they are statutory consultees but responses from statutory consultee carry more weight. It was noted that petitions are considered as one response. Parent councils can send a response as a group but can also respond individually.

Councillor O’Kane thanked Miss Morrison for the very full presentation which had given the context of this statutory consultation and invited questions or comments from the floor.

Jonathan Kerr, resident and parent, referred to Councillor O’Kane’s comment that this public meeting is to gather views on the proposal and asked if there would be an opportunity to ask questions about the design of the building etc. He feels that this has been kept quite narrow.

Miss Morrison responded that we want to make sure we are ready, in particular for the school part of it first. Any other sites considered could have conditions attached and this would not only add time to the project but possibly additional costs. What the Council wants to do is to identify how the project can be delivered quickly and then the planning and design process would come into play.

Alan Walker, resident, commented that he is fully supportive of the concept of a joint campus but it is his opinion that the process is flawed. He feels that this could compromise the master planning process. Fiona Morrison had mentioned that traffic management has to be considered but why did the Council not ask the planners to have a look at the master plan in relation to the school being on a particular site.

Miss Morrison replied that she can’t speak for the planning department. Consideration was given to the use of Pig Square and the Church Hall but the potential loss of the site at St Thomas’ and the sports centre has to be considered as part of the master plan. That has been thought about. Those in planning know about the proposal, but it’s done through another parallel process. There is a due statutory timeframe and process. That helps with the LDP and the local plan.

Mr Walker said that the report doesn’t say what will happen if the full proposal goes ahead – what will happen to the library, sports centre and St Thomas’ PS – will they be left to rot and become derelict over the years or will they be demolished? That’s where the master plan would come in.

Fiona Morrison said that this will be fed back. The principle is about the two schools coming together. This is what this part is about. There is a separate process considered as part of the master plan.

Frances Boyle resident, said that, until June of last year, she taught in a joint campus. She said that the design of the campus is crucial to its success. Her niece, who was also at the meeting, works in that campus. Their experience has not been a good one. There have been difficulties because of flaws in the design. She expressed concern about how the shared facilities would work, particularly if the gym hall and computer suite were shared. She feels that gym time is crucial and doesn't think that it works timetable wise. She thinks that the campus would require two separate entrances. In their campus there is only one front entrance and it causes congestion with children trying to get down the corridor and parents waiting to speak to someone at the office. They have found it to be very inflexible. There is also a shared conference room which has to be pre-booked.

Mrs Shaw commented that the scenario they are painting is not one that she has experienced in East Renfrewshire. All of these issues were taken into consideration with staff, parents, pupils and faith leaders all involved in the initial design. The architects were then able to take it all on board. As far as the joint campus is concerned, she has had very successful news stories from St Clare's and Calderwood Lodge so it has been a different experience. She informed the lady that she was a head teacher at Mearns PS for 4 years. The school also had a nursery and they managed to get everyone in one gym hall. She reassured the lady that it does work.

Councillor O'Kane said it was a fair point. However, it is his view that we are not comparing apples with apples. He agrees that the design is crucial and we do learn from experiences.

Miss Morrison advised that, before schools are built, officers go to other authorities and learn from others' experiences. She said that the design is uppermost and she gave her assurance that this does work. She added that the parent councils of both Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools will be visiting our joint campus to allow them to speak to staff and hear about their experiences.

The other lady who works at the joint campus in another authority said that we need to be careful that this is not just about a money saving exercise. Schools can very easily lose their own identity. It's not just about children coming together – head teachers struggle to have their own space.

The head teacher of St Thomas' commented that he has visited our joint campus and they have their own entrances and very much their own identity. The head teacher of Neilston agreed, saying he is aware of the school the lady is referring to and it is an entirely different model. The schools in our campus have their own identity but have the opportunity of working together when possible.

A local resident commented that he feels it strange that the Council is trying to bring the library and leisure centre onto the same site and expressed concern in relation to security issues for the school, parking and traffic etc.

Miss Morrison stressed that, again, design is key. There can be parts of buildings sectioned off for parts of the day but can be accessible for the public at certain times. She said that lessons can be learned from others, for example Midlothian, which ER worked in partnership with when the new Eastwood High School was being built. However, facilities can be on the same site but in separate buildings.

Councillor O’Kane highlighted that Eastwood High School has leisure facilities which are open to the public but it is in a separate building. However he reiterated that these discussions are for later on at the design stage.

A gentleman in the audience commented that he thinks the site of our current joint campus is about twice the size of the Neilston site. Fiona Morrison responded that the typography of these sites is important to what can be achieved. Architects are quite inspirational and very experienced to ensure that they get the best fit out of a site.

A local resident, referred to the Neilston Feasibility Study. She asked if options 1-6 were the only ones being considered and what is the least likely. Are there alternatives and how would people find out about them?

Miss Morrison replied that the study determines if everything can fit on the site. The study has shown that the Neilston site is a suitable size. The architects have just included the drawings in the feasibility study to show people possible options. The building can be any shape or size and the actual design will be taken forward at a later stage. She added that they could have consulted and just said we don’t where the school is going to be, but the site and the various options were shown to give reassurance to parents and residents.

A gentleman said that he had attended a Community Council meeting last week and they had expressed disappointed that option 7 had not been included in the document. He understands that we need to be ready when funding is available. However, it’s important as a Neilston resident that the best option for the village is carried through. He asked if there could be a longer term option to incorporate option 7 that the Community Council has prepared. Officers indicated that they were unaware of option 7.

Mrs Shaw responded that, as a statutory consultee in the process, the Community Council’s considerations will carry some weight and they can put their views forward in their response.

Elaine Hutchison, parent, commented that it is a really good idea to put everything on the one site as this would provide a lot of opportunities. However, she wishes to advise caution in relation to the design as they would want to ensure that the Council don’t do too much to the detriment of the pupils and teachers. She would rather have a playground than a library and leisure centre.

She added that, when Crookfur was remodelled, it was very difficult for pupils and teachers. It was very noisy and disruptive. There have been some schools built on site that were managed well, for example a lot of work was carried out during the holiday period. She feels that it is important not to try and squeeze everything in when money is available to the detriment of education.

Fiona Morrison replied that she is surprised at these comments as the evaluations received from the young people, staff and parents at Crookfur indicated that they thought it had been managed exceptionally well. She said that while you can’t make an omelette without breaking eggs, there were no health and safety issues and no interruption to learning at Crookfur. In addition, there had been opportunities for pupils to engage with the builders at very stage. It all went exceptionally well and was very well thought through in advance with the designers. It’s all about the planning and designing. In relation to this proposal, the Council will want to minimise any disruption.

In relation to the issue raised about the playground, Miss Morrison advised that there are statutory guidelines and requirements around outdoor play and legislation must be followed. Youngsters learn in and outwith school grounds as part of their wider curricular experiences. The school grounds that she would envisage at Neilston would be very much enhanced.

John Scott, resident, and member of the Community Council, asked about the possibility of utilising land at Kingston Road which is being developed by Dawn Homes for housing. The land there is bigger and it would make more sense. This would also release land for housing for the centre of the village.

If Scottish Government release a pot of money and you build the library and leisure centre in one would they stay open and who would pay the transfer costs? It was confirmed that they would remain open until the campus is ready and the Council and the Trust would have responsibility for transfer costs.

Sue Mathers, a grandparent and local resident, asked a question in relation to the figures quoted in the document in terms of the increase in pupils from new housing. She said she is aware of a number of proposed developments and can the Council confirm how the numbers were calculated in the presentation. How many is it based on?

Miss Morrison advised that, taking account of the Uplawmoor area, there are 180 units planned until 2023. Thereafter, there are a further 380 units planned. However, this does not generate a lot of pupils. She highlighted that the planning figure after 2023 is indicative at the moment.

The lady said that demographics can change dramatically. Often schools are built and very rapidly become too small. Councillor O’Kane responded that East Renfrewshire schools are busy places. However, officers are well versed in terms of planning for capacity. No decision has been taken on the planning principles alluded to.

Miss Morrison said that, even if additional housing is built that no one knows about there would still be scope in the schools to include that additional housing. These situations are regularly reviewed as demographics change, birth rates change etc. During the whole process officers will always monitor things and decisions will be taken as and when appropriate.

Neil Wilson, parent and resident, referred to both schools retaining their head teacher. He asked if there was the same commitment to retaining other staff, for example pupil support staff.

Mrs Shaw replied that, essentially, staffing is based on the number of children coming into schools in terms of ASN. There are criteria for that based on pupil needs. Pupils are well looked after in East Renfrewshire. However, head teachers in the future, will have responsibility for doing their own staffing models and looking after their own schools and staffing. It’s based on pupil needs but within a particular envelope of resources. She can say at the moment that staffing models will stay as they are. However, if the Education Bill goes through parliament in the Autumn, head teachers will make those decisions.

Councillor O’Kane said that different schools will make different decisions.

There was a question in relation to timescales and how long it is likely to take from receiving funding to having a fully functional school.

Miss Morrison said that the process from beginning to end takes approximately 4 years. There would be a tendering process and a project of this scale would take around 18 months to 2 years. If the proposal is agreed, then it would be built into the planning cycle of the Council.

Councillor O’Kane explained the funding and how it all works. The Scottish Government has a school building programme which they deliver to councils to enable them to build new schools. under the auspices of the SFT. They have periods of commitments of money. The

enabling money comes from the Scottish Government and then the Council has to look at its money as it may be necessary to contribute to the cost. The Scottish Government is committed to a school building programme to be delivered in the lifetime of this Parliament by 2021. 32 authorities would be competing for funding.

Miss Morrison added that it would be a bidding process. The project would need to be considered attractive in that it met the criteria in terms of addressing the poor condition of schools, supporting community aspects and joint facilities, for example.

A gentleman referred to the backlog of maintenance in the schools. He asked if, after 2021, that backlog will be cleared or would it be a case of within 4 years there would be no school. Miss Morrison explained that the Council is required to do the best possible to ensure that schools are maintained in line with health and safety guidelines and that they are wind and watertight.

Councillor O’Kane thanked everyone for their attendance. He reminded everyone of the ways in which they can respond to the consultation and added that a hard copy of the consultation document can be made available if required.

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## East Renfrewshire Council: Education Department

## Equalities Impact Assessment of Proposed New Policy

The general equality duty requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to:-

- Eliminate unlawful treatment;
- Advance equality of opportunity; and
- Foster good relations

across the following protected characteristics:-

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Sex and Sexual Orientation
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Religion and Belief

1. Title of the new proposal	FUTURE NON-DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF NEILSTON PRIMARY AND MADRAS FAMILY CENTRE; AND FUTURE DENOMINATIONAL (ROMAN CATHOLIC) EDUCATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF ST THOMAS' PRIMARY, NEILSTON
2. Description of the new policy/proposal	The purpose of the proposal is set out in the consultative document on page 9, paragraph 57.
3. Responsibility for implementing the policy	East Renfrewshire Council
4. In what way does the proposed new policy eliminate unlawful treatment of the protected characteristics groups:	<p>The vision of the Education Department, <i>Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences</i>, is at the heart of the work that the education department and school staff undertake as they seek to provide the highest quality education and services to develop all children and young people.</p> <p>There is a statutory requirement for every education authority to secure, for their area, adequate and efficient provision of school education. East Renfrewshire Council has organised the structure of school provision to ensure that children can attend their local catchment denominational or non-denominational primary school, and can then progress to their local secondary school. In providing adequate and efficient provision of school education, East Renfrewshire Education Department is required to take account of the relevant legislation and guidance.</p>

	<p>The Council also has a statutory duty to make adequate and efficient provision for the mandatory amount of early learning and childcare for its area in respect of eligible children. Children are eligible during the period from the school term following their third birthday until the end of the school term before they are first eligible to attend primary school. Two year olds whose parents are entitled to certain benefits are also eligible for the mandatory amount of early learning and childcare.</p> <p>Proposed additional places for early learning and childcare would build capacity across the area allowing for efficient delivery of the increased entitlement of 1140 hours by 2020 in the local area.</p> <p>The Council is required to formally consult on changes to a delineated catchment area, establishing new schools and changes to the admissions arrangements, or the relocation of any school. How this is carried out and who must be consulted is clearly set out in the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended. This process ensures that all key groups are consulted with (see page 17, section 3). Education Scotland also has a statutory role in the process.</p>
Age	
Disability	For pupils, staff and any other building users with additional support needs, the new non-denominational primary would be fully compliant in terms of the Equality Act 2010 and provide specialist facilities to help meet their needs.
Gender reassignment	
Sex and Sexual Orientation	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	
Pregnancy and Maternity	
Race	
Religion and Belief	
5. In what way does the proposed new policy advance equality of opportunity for each of the protected characteristics groups:	<p>The proposed policy advances equality of opportunity for those children within ERC who attend an ERC primary school as they will be able to progress to their local secondary school in line with a 3-18 curriculum, supporting continuity, progression and transition.</p> <p>The accommodation and resources associated with</p>

		<p>the proposed new campus are also likely to have a positive impact on the motivation, aspirations and enjoyment of children, staff and the wider school community. The proposed new campus would provide flexible indoor and outdoor learning spaces and would be able to respond to the demands of <i>Curriculum for Excellence</i>.</p> <p>The proposed new campus will improve the transitions from nursery to primary, with both primary schools being co-located within the campus. This will support continuous and progressive learning experiences for children that build on prior learning.</p>
Age		The proposal sets out how ERC will provide additional early years spaces in Madras Family Centre.
Disability		
Gender reassignment		<p>Toilet infrastructure would be designed to allow gender neutral provision. This will allow Head Teachers to plan the operation of these facilities in a way that meets the needs of all stakeholders.</p> <p>This infrastructure will be able to be operated in a way that will remove the stigma of having to choose a gender specific toilet, and reduces likelihood of associated bullying. Increased levels of supervision in toilets will be facilitated by having no front doors. They will increase privacy of toileting, particularly compared to previous boys' toilets which included troughs, through provision of ceiling to floor walls and doors in cubicles.</p>
Sex and Sexual Orientation		Gender neutral infrastructure will reduce the likelihood of homophobic bullying taking place in toilets, due to increased levels of supervision in toilets being facilitated by having no front doors.
Marriage and Civil Partnership		
Pregnancy and Maternity		
Race		
Religion and Belief		<p>Neilston Primary School and St. Thomas' Primary School would continue to operate as two separate schools with their own Head Teachers and distinct Parent Councils, but would benefit from new build and shared facilities.</p> <p>Schools' admissions arrangements will be unaffected. There will be no change to</p>

		<p>schools delineated catchment areas and no change to primary to secondary transfer: St. Thomas' Primary School to St. Luke's High School and Neilston Primary School to Eastwood High School.</p> <p>School design, including toilet infrastructure will reduce the likelihood of prejudiced based bullying related to race taking place in toilets, due to increased levels of supervision in toilets being facilitated by having no front doors.</p>
<p>6. In what way does the proposed new policy foster good relations with each of the protected characteristic groups:</p>		<p>See question 5.</p>
<p>Age</p>		
<p>Disability</p>		
<p>Gender reassignment</p>		
<p>Sex and Sexual Orientation</p>		
<p>Marriage and Civil Partnership</p>		
<p>Pregnancy and Maternity</p>		
<p>Race</p>		
<p>Religion and Belief</p>		<p>ERC has consulted with the Diocese of Paisley over this proposal.</p>
<p>7. Potential for the proposed new policy to have a negative impact (Low, Medium, High)</p> <p>If this is deemed to be high, the following questions (8 – 12) should be completed.</p>		<p>Low</p>
<p>8. Evidence to be considered in relation to the protected characteristics.</p>		

<p>9. Evidence of higher or lower participation, uptake or exclusion by any group within the protected characteristics.</p>	
<p>10. In the context of the preceding sections, identify any groups whom you consider should be consulted. Please specify and give reasons.</p>	
<p>11. Actions to be taken to address any issues identified and ways in which positive impact can be demonstrated.</p>	
<p>12. Justification for the proposed new policy based on the above information.</p>	
<p>Name of Departmental Officer developing the proposed policy:-</p> <p>Colin McMenemy (Education Admissions and Development Manager) David Gordon (Quality Improvement Officer)</p>	
<p>Date of this assessment:</p> <p>July 2018</p>	

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