Appendix 1

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Statutory Consultation – Outcome Report

Proposal to alter existing non-denominational catchment area within the Ravenscraig area

Proposal for a new build non-denominational primary school within the Ravenscraig area

This report is available for inspection at:

1. Education and Families Headquarters, Civic Centre, Motherwell, ML1 1 AB
2. Berryhill, Glencairn, Keir Hardie, Knowetop and Muir St. Primary Schools
3. Via the following link:

This report has been prepared having regard (in particular) to:

1. relevant written representation received by the council (from any persons) during the consultation period;
2. oral representations made to the council (by any person) at an online public meeting; and
3. Report by Education Scotland prepared by Her Majesty’s Inspectors of Education

**This document has been issued by North Lanarkshire Council in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and amendments contained in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014**

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**1 BACKGROUND**

1.1 At its meeting on 25th February 2020, the Education Committee approved the issue of a consultative document that proposed the alteration of the existing catchment area and for a new build non-denominational primary school within the Ravenscraig area.

* 1. Appendix (a) of this report contains the consultation report as issued.
		1. The key reasons for the proposal, as set out in the committee paper, were:
1. The size of the new Ravenscraig site and the number of children expected to be resident in the 3000 new houses.
2. The need to re-define the existing Berryhill, Glencairn, Keir Hardie, Knowetop and Muir St. PS non-denominational catchment areas and to create a new catchment area within the new Ravenscraig site.

**2 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS**

2.1 Consultation Framework

2.1.1 The consultation process was carried out 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. It is within this statutory framework that Education and Families, has engaged in a consultation exercise with all relevant consultees.

The consultation document developed for consideration included information on:-

* the proposal;
* the consultation process;
* the arrangements for public meetings;
* relevant school data
* the educational benefits of the proposal;
* community benefits statement;
* equality impact assessment;
* site map of proposed new build location; and
* consultation timeline.

The document also included a Consultation Response Form.

* + 1. Consultation packs were made available to all relevant consultees. The pack included the proposal document and a letter from the Assistant Chief Executive explaining the process. An online survey was created and consultees were invited to indicate their agreement or disagreement regarding the proposal, and to make comments. The following specific questions were posed:-
* Do you support the proposal to alter non-denominational catchment areas within the Ravenscraig site?
* Do you support the proposal for a new build non-denominational primary school within the Ravenscraig site?
	+ 1. The Head Teachers and Parent Councils of Berryhill, Glencairn, Keir Hardie, Knowetop and Muir St. Primary Schools were notified of the consultation.
		2. The consultation period commenced on **Monday 2nd March 2020** and concluded on **Friday 6th November 2020**, a total of **250** days, which included 124 school days**.** This extended consultation period was put into place due to the pandemic.
		3. Details of the consultation process were made available on a dedicated area of the North Lanarkshire Council website.
		4. An online public meeting was held on 7th October 2020 from 7pm until 8.30pm.
	1. Relevant Consultees

Consultees were identified according to Schedule 2 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The relevant consultees included:-

* + Parent Council of Berryhill, Glencairn, Keir Hardie, Knowetop and Muir St. primary schools;
	+ parents/carers of pupils at Berryhill, Glencairn, Keir Hardie, Knowetop and Muir St. primary schools;
	+ staff at Berryhill, Glencairn, Keir Hardie, Knowetop and Muir St. primary schools
	+ anybody which it has been established by North Lanarkshire Council, whether formally or informally, for the purpose of assisting it in carrying out its functions under Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2003;
	+ Community Councils;
	+ Trade Unions; and
	+ Pupils at Berryhill, Glencairn, Keir Hardie, Knowetop and Muir St. Primary Schools.
1. **RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION**

3.1 Overview of Level of Response to the Consultation

During the consultation period the numbers of consultees who engaged in the process were as follows:-

* Online Public Consultation Meeting held on the **7th October 2020** at 7pm – approximately 20 people were in attendance.
* Pupil Consultations, delivered online by the Education and Families Pedagogy Team, were held in September in all five primary schools. 136 children responded to the follow-up survey.
* An online meeting for the head teachers of the three primary schools was held on **2nd September 2020**. All head teachers were informed about the consultation and were asked to share the presentation with their staff.
* The total number of individual consultee responses received via the online survey was 82.

The wide ranging, often detailed, matters raised by individuals and groups are summarised in Appendix (b) of this report and form the basis for the issues included in section 4 below. Copies of the full consultation responses and notes from the online meeting are available on request.

3.2Consultation Channels and views expressed

The consultation period ran from 2nd March 2020 until 6th November 2020.

An online public meeting was held on 7th October 2020 which was attended by approximately 20 members of the public.

Responses to the proposals could be made electronically or in writing, posted to the council headquarters.

There were 82 responses in total to the proposals.

In terms of the proposal to alter non-denominational catchment areas within Ravenscraig site, of those who expressed an opinion, 44 agreed with the proposal, 11 disagreed and 27 people were unsure.

In terms of the proposal for a new build non-denominational Primary School within Ravenscraig site, of those who expressed an opinion, 53 agreed with the proposal, 13 disagreed and 15 people were unsure.

Further analysis of opinion is included at Appendix (b).

**4 SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED BY STAKEHOLDERS AND EDUCATION & FAMILIES RESPONSE**

 The issues raised by participants in the consultation have been grouped and considered by Education and Families, with input from other Council officers with appropriate specialisms, under the following headings with the response from the service added in each case:-

4.1 Education

4.2 Building and Planning

4.3 Land Issues

4.4 Community

4.1 **Education**

4.1.1 There were questions about re-aligning catchment areas and the impact that this could have on children perhaps having to move schools before the end of their time at primary school.

Response

New houses in the Ravenscraig area which are already complete will be rezoned to the new catchment areas. Children will not be required to move to a new school against their wishes. They will be able to remain in their current school.

4.1.3 A question was raised about the predicted capacity of the proposed new schools.

Response

When a new school is built, generally pupil populations take time to grow with only some pupils electing to move to a new school. The school is being built for the longer term pupil population and will have capacity for 217. It is anticipated that this will provide adequate capacity for the foreseeable future, with the pupil population growing over the years.

4.1.4 There were a number of questions about how the proposals would impact on secondary school catchment areas.

 Response

A separate consultation will take place on secondary catchment areas once this consultation process has been completed.

4.2 **Building and Planning**

4.2.1 There were several questions about the design of the proposed new school.

Response

The design of schools is an iterative process and each new school is designed differently. The design of the school would not be commissioned until after an agreement was reached to proceed with the project (i.e. subject to a successful education consultation) and funding allocated to deliver the proposals. Current schools in design and those recently completed are not open plan.

4.2.2 Questions were asked about the timescales involved in building the proposed new school.

 Response

The project cannot be planned and put into the pipeline until a successful consultation has been approved. Previous projects suggest that it takes three years from when a project is added to the build programme until a school is opened. However, this does not necessarily mean it will be three years from completion of consultation – funding must first be allocated. It’s approximately three years from when funding is approved and it is included within the build programme**.**

4.2.3 Some parents expressed concerns and asked questions about traffic calming measures, car parking and crossing patrols.

 Response

Required parking would be included as part of the design, in accordance with the planning application process. A drop off zone would be considered as part of this exercise. A traffic impact assessment, which would be carried out at the design stage, would inform if any measures were required. This would be determined at the planning stage. Acceptable walking route assessments will be carried out at the appropriate time (usually not until the design has been approved and the entrances to the school are known). However, it will be clear to residents what the position is in advance of the school opening.

4,3 **Land Issues**

4.3.1 A question was raised about the safety of the land with particular reference made to the lack of trees on the Ravenscraig site.

Response

After the closure of Ravenscraig, British Steel commissioned a series of investigations to determine the scale and extent of potential residual contamination at the site. In the late 1990s, as a direct result of these investigations, a large-scale remediation project was undertaken to address the principal areas of contamination with the aim of making the site suitable for use at the time. Following the demolition of the buildings and structures on the site, most of site had a surface scrape of the materials and soils, and any potentially contaminated material was taken to the SEPA Licenced Landfill on site. Due to the extensive movement of soils and the production of development platforms, it has resulted in these development areas being clay-capped to produce a suitable platform to build upon, and thus the material is unsuitable for plant growth without suitable topsoil. (It should also be noted that any development that requires landscaped or garden areas requires the importation of a suitable growing medium, which is the normal way of developing on brownfield sites).

4.3.2 Questions were asked about testing on the site and a particular question was asked about previous concerns around the St. Ambrose site in Coatbridge.

 Response

 The St Ambrose site was correctly and properly investigated to all current guidance and standards for the time, and this was backed up by independent review by an independent consultant on behalf of the Scottish Government. Both the Scottish Government and the Lanarkshire health authority found no fundamental link between the school and its grounds and any health effects of the pupils or teachers.

The Ravenscraig site has had extensive testing carried out over the years, and the following reports can be made available to the public:

Mason Evans Ravenscraig Housing Site Investigation 2003

URS APB1 Additional Investigation Carfin 2006

URS Slag Validation and Supplementary Site Investigation 2006

4.3.3 Concerns were raised about noise and air pollution.

 Response

Active travel is promoted through the Green Action Trust to reduce traffic speed. The active travel plan to connect Motherwell and Wishaw has cycle routes to where the new campus will be. The whole travel route will be improved, with a focus on pedestrians and cyclists.

An Air Quality Trailer will be placed near the school at the Innovation Park. Further detail will follow from Environmental Health on this specific ask. In terms of noise pollution Environmental Health Officers will carry out a Noise Impact Assessment as part of the planning conditions.

4.4 **Community**

4.4.1 A question was asked about links and communication with the local community.

 Response

 In order to look at community aspects, a group has recently been established. The aim is to link up local groups in Ravenscraig to canvas local voices. The email address for this group is: ravenscraig@gmail.com.

**5 SUMMARY OF EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT AND RESPONSE OFFERED BY THE SERVICE**

5.1 The full report provided by Education Scotland is attached at Appendix (c). The summary of the report outlines that:

*Overall, there are clear educational benefits in the council’s proposal.*

*Children attending the new school will benefit from a modern state of the art learning environment.*

*A new 21st century school building will provide a hub for learning and activities and facilities that should make a contribution to improving children’s health and wellbeing.*

*The school environment should promote creative and engaging teaching approaches.*

*Young people and staff will have access to a fully digital learning environment.*

*In taking the proposal forward, the council needs to work with parents and the local community to find a solution to any concerns.*

5.2 In response to the observations of Education Scotland, Education and Families agree that these findings are consistent with those of the service.

North Lanarkshire Council has a strong track record in engaging with all stakeholders in the aspects of school design, management and operation. The Service will indeed continue to engage with all stakeholders both formally (statutory planning process) and informally (through the schools’ management and the parent councils) with regard to the proposals as they proceed, should this proposal be implemented.

**6 ALLEGED OMISSIONS OR INACCURACIES**

 There were no alleged omissions or inaccuracies.

**7 EQUALITY CONSIDERATIONS**

An equality impact assessment has been carried out in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty. The assessment concluded that the main groups impacted are:

* Pupils of primary schools within the Berryhill, Glencairn, Keir Hardie, Knowetop and Muir St. catchment areas.
* Parents/carers of those pupils.
* Staff who work at Berryhill, Glencairn, Keir Hardie, Knowetop and Muir St. Primary Schools.
* Local residents of the Ravenscraig area.

The assessment is attached at Appendix (d)

**8 NEXT STEPS**

Following the publication of this report, time is allowed for further considerations. A three week period will lapse before North Lanarkshire Council will take a final decision on whether to implement a final proposal.

The report on this consultation is due to be considered by North Lanarkshire Council’s Education and Families Committee on Tuesday 18th May 2021.