



Statutory Consultation

To establish an integrated 0 to 18 campus for Children with Complex Needs which includes the following proposals:

Proposal to relocate Bothwellpark High School to the Edward Lawson Centre

Proposal to establish a new stage of education, being a special class in a school which is not itself a special school namely:
A P4 - P7 Language & Communication Support Centre (LCSC) as part of St Aidan's Primary School, Nursery Class & LCSC

Proposal to create an Early Years Family Learning Centre for 0 to five years

**LIVE
LEARN
WORK
INVEST
VISIT**

Index

Section	Page
1 Introduction	3
2 Consultation requirements	3
3 Proposal	4
4 Education Benefits Statement	5
5 Community Impact	7
6 Implications of the proposal	7
7 Equality Impact Assessment	8
8 Inaccuracies or Omissions	9
9 The Statutory consultation process – Additional information	9
10 Technological / Digital Impact	10
11 Environmental Impact	10
12 Communications Impact	10
13 Risk Impact	10
14 Measures of Success	10

Proposal to relocate Bothwellpark High School to the Edward Lawson Centre and create a P4 - P7 Language Communication and Support Centre (LCSC) as part of St Aidan's Primary School & LCSC

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The current Bothwellpark High School building is categorised as C for suitability. The school roll at Bothwellpark High School is currently growing and there continues to be a demand for spaces, both from within North Lanarkshire and in relation to pupils we wish to repatriate from out of authority. The scope to redevelop the existing accommodation further is limited. Furthermore, the growing complexity of need for which the school now caters means that the current layout is growing increasingly unsuitable. While Bothwellpark High School has a range of outdoor facilities, these are not well connected with the main building.
- 1.2 As the complexity of need within our LCSC provisions has grown, the number of children for whom mainstream provision is appropriate from P4 onwards has reduced. This has resulted in increased pressure on the availability of P4 to P7 LCSC places. This is very much the case within the south locality at St Aidan's Primary School & Nursery Class (PS NC). Given the layout of the building at St Aidan's PS NC, options for further development are limited.
- 1.3 It is therefore proposed that Bothwellpark High School be relocated to redeveloped facilities within the current Edward Lawson Centre. It is further proposed that an extension of St Aidan's PS LCSC be created within the redeveloped facilities at the Edward Lawson Centre.
- 1.4 Additionally, it is proposed that part of the current Edward Lawson Centre will be repurposed to provide a 0 to five years' service. With the focus of the 0 to three provision being on vulnerable children with the three to five provision focussed on early assessment and intervention for children thought to have additional support needs.

2 CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 In terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Education Authority is required to publish details of, and consult on any proposal to establish a new school and on any proposal to establish, terminate or otherwise alter the catchment area of a school.
- 2.2 North Lanarkshire Council will not make any decision, or put any changes into effect, until the consultation period has been concluded in line with statutory requirements.
- 2.3 The consultation period will be a minimum of 60 days, which include 30 school days. It begins on 27 September 2021 and finishes on 16 November 2021.
- 2.4 The consultation will involve pupils, parent/carers, Parent Councils and staff of the schools and nurseries involved, as well as other associated stakeholder and statutory consultees.
- 2.5 Online public meetings will be held on Tuesday 19 October (Bothwellpark High School) and Wednesday 20 October (St Aidan's PS NC & LCSC) at 7pm.
- 2.6 Council officers will be present at the public meeting to discuss the proposal. To ensure that all issues are covered, and that those who may be uncomfortable with speaking publicly are heard, advance notice of specific

questions or issues to be raised will be accepted in writing up to two days in advance of the meeting:

Bothwellpark High School relocation:

BothwellparkConsultation@northlan.gov.uk

St Aidan's LCSC creation of P4 - P7:

StAidansLCSCConsultation@northlan.gov.uk

Family Learning Centre

FLCConsultation@northlan.gov.uk

- 2.7 At the end of the consultation process, a report will be prepared for North Lanarkshire Council detailing all responses received, summaries of their content and a statement from Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal. Responses to the issues raised through the consultation will also be incorporated in the report. Copies of the report will be available, prior to consideration by the council, in the affected schools, local libraries and online. It is envisaged that the report will be published on 28 January 2022. The key dates are set out in Appendix 2.
- 2.8 An online version of the document and other items related to the consultation can be found online www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/Bothwellparkconsultation and www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/StAidansLCSCconsultation
- 2.9 Further information on the proposal can be obtained by emailing Bothwellparkconsultation@northlan.gov.uk or StAidansLCSCconsultation@northlan.gov.uk or FLCConsultation@northlan.gov.uk
- 2.10 All interested parties are invited to submit their comments on or before 15 November 2021. There are a number of important reasons for this proposal:

3 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The proposal is that Bothwellpark High School be relocated to the Edward Lawson Centre, Wishaw. The Edward Lawson Centre is an existing North Lanarkshire Council facility, until recently utilised by the Talent & Organisational Development team. Since its opening in 1971, the building was utilised by social work and provided services to a range of users including adults with additional support needs. The building is situated in the Coltness area of Wishaw which is ideally located to serve the south locality. The building is a single-storey construction and would lend itself well to being repurposed as a 0 to eighteen years' facility.
- 3.2 The building would be repurposed to provide accommodation and facilities for Bothwellpark High School, St Aidan's P4 - P7 LCSC and a 0 to five early years ASN nursery. Internally, many of the rooms within the Edward Lawson Centre may be usable in their current configuration while others may require redevelopment.
- 3.3 Bothwellpark High School would retain its own management structure with the St Aidan's LCSC extension remaining within the scope of the management team at St Aidan's PS NC and LCSC.

- 3.4 The reasons for this proposal are:
- (1) Given the increasing roll and complexity of need within the pupil group at Bothwellpark High School, this proposal would provide more suitable internal and external facilities to meet the needs of the young people.
 - (2) The creation of an LCSC extension would ensure that children within the south locality are able to access this enhanced level of support, should they require it.
 - (3) The creation of an early years' provision within the existing Edward Lawson Centre would strengthen our capacity to provide for very young children within additional support needs and families who are experiencing particular challenges within the south locality.
 - (4) The overall package of enhanced facilities will strengthen our capacity to retain children and young people within North Lanarkshire placements as part of our 'Closer to Home' strategy, rather than accessing out of authority provision.

4 EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

Through the proposal put forward, it is expected educational benefits will be achieved on behalf of children and young people with the requirement for intensive services to meet their additional support needs. These points were established in the findings of the 2019 ASN Review and include:

4.1 Relocation of Bothwellpark High School

- 4.1.1 Improved access to high quality indoor facilities which meet a wider range of complex needs and facilitates the use of specialist equipment. This requires a larger space for children and young people.
- 4.1.2. Improved school ethos, due to the enhanced indoor and outdoor environment.
- 4.1.3 Learning experiences are enriched through re-designed spaces, adaptive to changing requirements of children and young people with complex needs, ensuring that all additional support needs are met in line with the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 and the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009.
- 4.1.4 Carefully designed outdoor spaces more readily provide improved access to outdoor learning experiences and opportunities for children and young people with sensory and therapeutic learning needs.
- 4.1.5 Enhanced pupil well-being facilitated by access to improved outdoor facilities.
- 4.1.6 Purpose-led development of a 0 to 18-years-old campus, which strengthens leadership at all levels through increased scope for partnership working to support children and young people with barriers to learning.

- 4.1.7 Increased capacity for assessment and planning, from birth to the secondary transition phase and beyond, to meet the needs of identified learners.
- 4.1.8 Strengthened integrated multi-agency planning, which facilitates strong partnership approaches and delivers a more holistic service for families.
- 4.1.9 Enhanced provision to provide and deliver flexible intensive care and learning pathways by offering an innovative and creative curriculum.

4.2 Creation of P4-P7 LCSC as part of St Aidan's PS LCSC

- 4.2.1 Access to additional, high quality, accommodation to facilitate the creation of a needs-driven LCSC provision for P4-P7 pupils in the south locality, who continue to require such support beyond P3.
- 4.2.2 Provision of a bespoke curriculum for P4-P7 learners who require LCSC support, to ensure that their needs are met in line with the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 and the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009.
- 4.2.3 Enhanced well-being for the P4-P7 learners by ensuring that they have access to small class sizes, and a low stimulus environment, within which to learn.
- 4.2.4 Improved attainment through access to small class sizes and teaching approaches carefully tailored to meet the learners' additional support needs.
- 4.2.5 Carefully designed outdoor spaces more readily provide improved access to outdoor learning experiences and opportunities for children and young people with sensory and therapeutic learning needs.
- 4.2.6 Purpose-led development of a 0 to 18-years-old campus, which strengthens leadership at all levels through increased scope for partnership working to support children and young people with barriers to learning.
- 4.2.7 Increased capacity for assessment and planning, from birth to the secondary transition phase and beyond, to meet the needs of identified learners.
- 4.2.8 Strengthened integrated multi-agency planning, which facilitates strong partnership approaches and delivers a more holistic service for families.
- 4.2.9 Enhanced provision to provide and deliver flexible intensive care and learning pathways by offering an innovative and creative curriculum.

4.3 Creation of ASN Family Learning Centre 0 to 5 Years

- 4.3.1 Working in partnership with existing community resources, to strengthen the capacity within the south locality to provide for young children with additional support needs.

- 4.3.2 Children and families have access to high quality, accessible, indoor facilities which meet a wider range of additional support needs.
- 4.3.3 Children and families benefit from the on-site input and expertise of appropriately qualified, specialist staff, who are committed to meeting the needs of young children, from education and other agencies.
- 4.3.4 High quality assessment, multi-agency planning and delivery ensure that the children's additional support needs are met in line with Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 and the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009.
- 4.3.5 Access to high quality services delivered in a flexible format within a highly nurturing, child-centred environment.
- 4.3.6 Carefully designed outdoor spaces more readily provide improved access to outdoor learning experiences and opportunities for children and young people with sensory and therapeutic learning needs.
- 4.3.7 Purpose-led development of a 0 to 18-years-old campus, which strengthens leadership at all levels through increased scope for partnership working to support children and young people with barriers to learning.
- 4.3.8 Increased capacity for assessment and planning, from birth to the secondary transition phase and beyond, to meet the needs of identified learners.
- 4.3.9 Strengthened integrated multi-agency planning, which facilitates strong partnership approaches and delivers a more holistic service for families.
- 4.3.10 Enhanced provision to provide and deliver flexible intensive care and learning pathways by offering an innovative and creative curriculum.

5 COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 5.1 Prior to Covid-19 there were no recent services being provided within the Edward Lawson Centre.
- 5.2 The site is currently 'mothballed' and being used as a Covid-19 testing centre.
- 5.3 There is no community access to the building.
- 5.4 Work is underway to engage with Coltness Community Council, as an interested party, to discuss the proposal.

6 IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

- 6.1 It is recognised that existing Bothwellpark High School pupils will require support in relation to any such change of location. Some pupils may require an enhanced level of transition support, such as those who have attended Bothwellpark High School for a longer period or have very complex needs. Staff will work collaboratively with parents and pupils to support these transitions to the new facilities within the Edward Lawson Centre campus. Each pupil will be offered individualised support to ensure they are completely comfortable to

complete the transition. This may involve numerous visits during and after school.

6.2 Pupils will continue to be transported from home to school. Transport contracts will be updated to reflect the different drop off and pick up point. As a result, there is no anticipated impact regarding transport.

6.3 Financial Implications

If the proposed relocation of Bothwellpark HS to the Edward Lawson Centre is subsequently approved there will be one-off capital costs and ongoing revenue costs.

The capital costs would incorporate the refurbishment of the Edward Lawson Centre and the re-purposing of the vacated space with the Our Lady's HS. The actual capital costs would be determined following formal design and tendering processes. For indicative purposes based on industry per square meter metrics the total capital expenditure is anticipated to be approximately £3m.

The additional revenue costs would reflect the previously assumed property saving linked to the closure of the Edward Lawson Centre and disposal of the site, ongoing annual facility costs and the increased number of pupils attending the new facility in comparison to current pupil numbers at the existing site. At this stage the additional revenue costs are estimated to be £0.480m per annum.

In conjunction with colleagues in the Education and Families Service, Financial Solutions staff have begun the process of reviewing funding options to support both the capital and revenue costs linked to this proposal.

As is typical in school consultation proposals future reports will highlight updated financial estimates as they become available alongside potential funding options.

6.4 HR Implications

Affected staff will be managed in accordance with the appropriate Workforce Change Policies of the Council, and in consultation with the signatory trades unions for both teaching and single-status staff.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and will underpin planning for these proposals, since a number of the young people involved are considered as being from a protected group, due to disability.

8 INACCURACIES OR OMISSIONS

8.1 There is a statutory requirement for the Council to consider any allegation of an inaccuracy or omission in the proposal paper and determine whether the allegation has foundation. Where inaccuracies or omissions are notified to, or discovered by, the Council within this proposal document, the Council will determine if relevant information has, in its opinion been omitted or whether there is in fact an inaccuracy. Notifiers of any omissions or inaccuracies will be informed of the Council's decision and the reasons for that decision. Notifiers will also be informed of any action. The Council will invite the notifiers to make further representations to the Council should they disagree with the Council's determination or its decision as to whether to take action.

8.2 If the Council has found, either itself or through a concern being raised, that there is an inaccuracy or omission in the proposal paper, it must decide whether this relates to a material consideration relevant to the proposal. Where

the confirmed inaccuracy or omission relates to a material consideration, there is a duty on the Council to correct it.

- 8.3 Appropriate action will then be taken by the Council depending on whether the inaccuracy or omission relates to a material consideration. Such action may include withdrawing the proposal and issuing a revised proposal paper for the whole consultation period, or issuing a corrected proposal paper with, if appropriate, an extension of the consultation period. In any of these eventualities, all relevant consultees (and, where applicable, the notifier(s) of any omissions or inaccuracies) and HMIE (Education Scotland) will be advised of the appropriate action. Where inaccuracies or omissions are discovered within the proposal document, the Council will determine whether relevant information has been omitted or if there has been an inaccuracy. Appropriate action will then be taken by the Council, which may include issuing corrections, issuing a corrected proposal document, or an extension of the consultation period. In any of these eventualities, all relevant consultees (and where applicable, the notifiers(s) of any appropriate action) will be advised.¹⁹ | Page 8.4 Notifiers of any omissions or inaccuracies will also be given the opportunity to make representations if they disagree with the Council's determination of any action on the matter, which may result in the Council making a further determination/decision on the matter.

9 THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION PROCESS – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 9.1 The current requirements for consulting are set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Act.
- 9.2 This consultation has been planned to meet the following statutory requirements:
- 9.2.1 The consultation document sets out the details of the proposal.
 - 9.2.2 The proposal paper details the educational benefits of the proposal and other relevant information.
 - 9.2.3 The proposal paper will be published and widely advertised.
 - 9.2.4 North Lanarkshire Council will seek to determine whether there are inaccuracies or omissions within the proposal paper and take such action as it considers necessary.
 - 9.2.5 The consultation period will be a period of at least 6 weeks including at least 30 school days.
 - 9.2.6 Prior to the commencement of the consultation period, the authority will give notice of the proposal to the relevant consultees. The relevant consultees are defined in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, and are as follows:
 - (a) The parent council or combined parent council of any affected school
 - (b) The parents of the pupils at any affected school
 - (c) The parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend the affected school within two years of the date of publication of the proposed paper
 - (d) The pupils at any affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of suitable age and maturity)
 - (e) The staff (teaching and other) at any of the affected school(s)

- (f) Any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of the persons mentioned above
- (g) The community council (if any)
- (h) The community planning partnership (within the meaning of section 4(5) of the Community Empowerments (Scotland) Act 2015 for the area of the local authority in which any affected school is situated
 - (i) Any other community planning partnership that the education authority considers relevant
 - (j) Any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant
 - (k) Any other users of any affected school that the education authority considers relevant

9.2.7 During the consultation period, the authority will hold and be represented at public meetings on the relevant proposal.

9.2.8 The council will involve Education Scotland in the consultation process. This will culminate in Education Scotland preparing and submitting an independent report on the educational aspects of the proposal.

9.3 Following the consultation period, the council will prepare and publish a consultation report. The report will be published at least three weeks before a final decision is taken on the proposal.

9.4 The consultation timeline provides further information on the timescales for various stages in the statutory process.

10 Technology / Digital impact

This proposal would facilitate a review of how digital tools are utilised to support and enable learning at Bothwellpark High School. Opportunities will be sought through the design reconfiguration of the Edward Lawson Centre to ensure that there is a high level of digital connectivity and accessibility.

11 Environmental Impact

Actions from the recommendations will contribute to making North Lanarkshire a better place to live and learn in. Linked to the 'Closer to Home' agenda this proposal would facilitate more pupils being educated within North Lanarkshire Council and, indeed, the south locality. Such changes, and the associated transport implications, have the potential to reduce North Lanarkshire Council's carbon footprint.

12 Communications impact

A communications plan, to include all affected stakeholders, will be established should the proposal be approved.

13 Risk Impact

If the school was selected for re-location it would have a significant impact on the affected pupils / parents / staff. However, the Service has extensive experience of successfully implementing new school builds, mergers and closures. This includes management of transition arrangements for pupils, updating transport requirements and staff/trade union communication and consultation. The Inclusion Board will oversee risk management.

14 Measures of Success

- 14.1 Improved facilities for young people which effectively supports a changing profile of need.
 - 14.2 Improved quality of service and provision to effectively meet the needs of pupils with severe and complex needs and their families.
 - 14.3 Increased numbers of children and young people remaining within and returning to North Lanarkshire.
 - 14.4 Strengthened integrated planning with partners.
-

Appendix 1

Proposal to relocate Bothwellpark High School, create a P4-P7 St Aidan's PS LCSC and a 0 to five early years provision within the Edward Lawson Centre. Please see proposed plan below.



Indicative Timeline for Statutory Consultation

Stages	Date
Phase Two	
1. Committee Date	14 September 2021
2. Consultation starts	27 September 2021
3. Public meeting(s)	19 & 20 October 2021
4. Consultation Ends	16 November 2021
5. Report to Education Scotland	6 December 2021
6. Education Scotland produce report	24 December 2021
9. Consultation Report Published	28 January 2022
11. Time for further consideration – ends	18 February 2022
12. Final Committee Decision	22 February 2022
13. Council Implement Decision	Following Council Approval