

North Lanarkshire Council

Statutory Consultation – Final Outcome Report

Proposal to build a new Gartcosh Primary School and to incorporate a Language & Communication Support Centre (LCSC) and Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) provision

EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Published August 2023

This re	port has been prepared having regard (in particular) to:
(a)	relevant written representation received by the council (from any persons) during the consultation period;
(b)	oral representations made to the council (by any person) at an online public meeting; and
(c)	Report by Education Scotland prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education
	This report is available for inspection at:
	(a) www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/consultation
	(b) Education and Families Headquarters, Civic Centre, Motherwell, ML1 1AB
	(c) Gartcosh Primary School

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

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Gartcosh Primary School is a non-denominational primary school which was built in 1913 and is located in Lochend Road, Gartcosh. Seven miles east of Glasgow City Centre and seven miles west of Cumbernauld. The present school building was opened in 1913; it is a traditional two storey stone construction with pitched and slated roof. Within the building there are seven classrooms off the central hall. The administration block is situated upstairs, and the school dinner hall is outside in the playground in what was the original school building (dated 1875). There is also a modular until within the school grounds which has temporary accommodation for two classrooms. The school capacity of the school is 188 with the current roll of 250, which includes 62 spaces created through the temporary two class modular unit. It is recommended that the proposed new building includes the existing Gartcosh Primary School, a new Language & Communication Support Centre (LCSC) and Early Learning & Childcare provision. The current site has no associated LCSC or nursery class within the current campus.
- 1.2 The key reasons for the proposal, as set out in the Committee paper, were;
 - The council is progressing its Town and Community Hub programme and this consultation proposal for Gartcosh Primary follows from the Committee Report on Schools and Centres 21 Phase 3 Investment approved at Education Committee on 1st March 2017
 - The pupils currently at Gartcosh Primary School will benefit educationally by attending a new build school which can offer a wider range of educational opportunities.
 - Strategic fit with the priorities of the Plan for North Lanarkshire;
 - Alignment with the Community Growth Area proposal;
 - Growth in the wider Northern Corridor area
 - Relocation of Existing Establishments within Alternative/Higher Quality Facilities
- 1.3 Appendix (i) of this report contains the consultation report as issued.

2. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

2.1 <u>Consultation Framework</u>

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; and
- consultation timeline.
- 2.1.2 Consultation packs were made available on-line and paper copies on request to all relevant consultees.
- 2.1.3 The Head Teacher of Gartcosh Primary School was notified of the consultation.

- 2.1.4 The consultation period commenced on Wednesday 2 March 2023 and consulted on Wednesday 3 May 2023, a total of 55 days, which included 30 school days.
- 2.1.5 Details of the consultation process were made available on a dedicated area of the North Lanarkshire Council website at <u>www.northlanrkshire.gov.uk/consultation</u>
- 2.1.6 A face-to-face staff meeting was held on Wednesday 8 March 2023 from 3.30pm until 4.30pm at Gartcosh Primary School.
- 2.1.7 A face-to-face public meeting was held on Wednesday 8 March 2023 from 7.00pm until 9.00pm at Gartcosh Primary School.
- 2.1.8 A follow up drop-in session was held for all stakeholders on Wednesday 26 April 2023 from 3.30pm until 5.00pm at Gartcosh Primary School.

Responses to the proposal could be made electronically to <u>gartcoshconsultation@northlan.gov.uk</u>, or in writing posted to the council.

2.2 <u>Relevant Consultees</u>

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

- Parent Council of Gartcosh Primary School
- Parents/Carers and pupils of Gartcosh Primary School
- Staff of Gartcosh Primary School
- Any body or organisation which 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;
- Education Scotland
- Elected members
- Trade Unions
- Community Councils

3. **RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION**

3.1 Overview of Level of Response to the Consultation

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

- Staff meeting held on Wednesday 8 March 2023 13 attendees.
- Public meeting held on Wednesday 8 March 2023 approx. 50 attendees. There was representation from Education Scotland.
- Follow up drop in session held on Wednesday 26 April 2023 no attendees.
- The total number of individual consultee email responses received was 3.

The matters raised by stakeholders are summarised in Appendix (iv) of this report and form the basis for the areas listed below. Copies of the full consultation responses and notes from the on-line meetings can be found at <u>www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/consultation</u>

3.2 Consultation and Channels and views expressed

Following the public meeting and drop in session the council produced a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document that was published on-line.

There were 3 email responses in total to the proposal.

A pupils committee for each stage was identified to engage and discuss their ideas on the proposed new building.

The total number of individual consultee responses received was 3.

Further analysis of opinion is included at Appendix (iii) through the FAQs.

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:-

- School location
- Traffic and parking concerns
- Community facilities

4.1 School location

Stakeholders asked if there was potential for the catchment area to change and further clarification on the location chosen for proposed new school build and whether it would be best to hold out for a different location.

Response

Any change in location would result in a change to the catchment area and the proposal is modelled on the existing catchment. The site is the best central location which is a very inspiring space which will allow for a creative design. The Service and design team will make best use of every space available.

4.2 Traffic and parking concerns

Stakeholders raised concerns about the surrounding roads and traffic issues as well as safe routes for pupils and families to walk.

<u>Response</u>

The Contracts & Provisions Service within Education, Children & Families will oversee the process that will assess the walking routes to ensure they are acceptable any assessment is evaluated under consideration that pupils would be accompanied to school by an adult. Education, Planning and Roads services will be involved in assessing the road and prking requirements for the school site at all entrances.

4.3 **Community Facilities**

Queries were raised about community facilities that will be available and if current community facilities will be retained.

<u>Response</u>

When the current community centre is decanted to the new building, the old building will become part of the council's surplus assets. The operating model and aspiration for all NLC Community Hubs is that they are open from dawn till dusk for the wider community.

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

The full report provided by Education Scotland is attached in Appendix (ii). Please see this report for full commentary. The main points are as follows:-

• HM Inspectors agree with the council's proposal to build a new primary school in Gartcosh.

- The school roll is predicted to rise further in the coming years due to house building and the existing building may not meet the demand.
- HM Inspectors also welcome the inclusion of an early learning and childcare provision which has potential to help facilitate the transition from nursery to primary school.
- Should the proposal go ahead, North Lanarkshire Council should continue to work with parents, staff and local residents to ensure that they are kept informed of and engaged in progress.

In response to the observations of Education Scotland, Education, Children & 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 continue to engagement with all stakeholders both formally (statutory planning process) and informally (through the school's management and parent councils) with regard to the proposals as they proceed, should this proposal be implemented.

6. ALLEGED OMISSIONS OR INACCURACIES

It was noticed by the Service that the indicative timeline within the Proposal to Consult Committee Paper dated 28 February 2023 did not take account of the teacher strike days that were announced during the consultation period. The indicative timeline was updated, and this change reported to Education Scotland and uploaded to the council's website.

7. EQUALITY CONSIDERATIONS

Assessments have been carried out in accordance with the following statutory duties:

Public Sector Equality Duty

Fairer Scotland Duty

Armed Forces Covenant Duty

Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing Act

The assessments concluded that the main groups impacted are:-

- Pupils of Gartcosh Primary School
- Parents/carers of those pupils;
- Staff who work at Gartcosh Primary School

The assessment summary is attached at Appendix (iv).

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 takes 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, Children & Families Committee on Tuesday 12 September 2023.

If approved, an implementation group consisting of members of the senior management from Gartcosh Primary School, along with parent council and pupils, will be established to ensure continued engagement of all stakeholders throughout the relocation.

Appendix (i) – Statutory Proposal to Consult

Statutory Consultation

Proposed relocation of Gartcosh Primary School to a new site incorporating a Language and Communication Support Centre and Early Learning and Childcare provision

EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Proposal to build a new Gartcosh Primary School and to incorporate a Language & Communication Support Centre (LCSC) and Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) provision.

1. INTRODUCTION

Gartcosh Primary School is a non-denominational primary school which was built in 1913 and is located in Lochend Road, Gartcosh. Seven miles east of Glasgow City Centre and seven miles west of Cumbernauld. The present school building was opened in 1913; it is a traditional two storey stone construction with pitched and slated roof. Within the building there are seven classrooms off the central hall. The administration block is situated upstairs, and the school dinner hall is outside in the playground in what was the original school building (dated 1875). There is also a modular until within the school grounds which has temporary accommodation for two classrooms.

The school capacity of the school is 188 with the current roll of 250, which includes 62 spaces created through the temporary two class modular unit.

It is recommended that the proposed new building includes the existing Gartcosh Primary School, a new LCSC and Early Learning & Childcare provision.

The current site has no associated LCSC or nursery class within the current campus.

2. CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

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.

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The consultation period will be a minimum of 60 days, which include 30 school days. It begins on Wednesday 1 March 2023 and finishes on Wednesday 3 May 2023.
- 2.3 The consultation will involve pupils, parent/carers, Parent Councils and staff of the schools involved, as well as other associated stakeholder and statutory consultees.
- 2.4 A public meeting will be held on week beginning 6th March 2023.
- 2.5 Council officers will be present at the public meeting to discuss the proposal. There will be limited time at the meeting to discuss all issues fully. 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 see contact details at 2.9.
- 2.6 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 and online. It is envisaged that the report will be published on 29 June 2023.

- 2.7 An online version of the document and other items related to the consultation can be found online at <u>www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/gartcosh-consultation</u>
- 2.8 Further information on the proposal can be obtained by sending an email to <u>gartcoshconsultation@northlan.gov.uk</u>
- 2.9 All interested parties are invited to submit their comments on or before 27 April 2023.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The proposal in this document is to build a new facility incorporating a new build Gartcosh Primary School in addition to a Language & Communication Support Centre (LCSC) and an Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) provision within the existing catchment area. There are two main reasons for this proposal:
 - The pupils currently at Gartcosh Primary School and the new LCSC and new Nursery Class will benefit educationally by attending new build schools which can offer a wider range of educational opportunities (see Educational and Community Benefits sections below).
 - The current Gartcosh Primary School needs replacement due to the levels of housebuilding in the area. The new school will be fully accessible and equipped with modern technology to ensure the best learning opportunities are afforded to every child.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the school will be sited on an area of land between on the current open space and football pitch located between Woodneuk Avenue and Johnstone Road.
- 3.3 If, following this statutory consultation, the Council proceeds with the proposed school, then the statutory planning process will be followed as required until completion of the new school. Prior to that, Gartcosh Primary will continue to operate on its current site.

4. EDUCATION BENEFITS STATEMENT

- 4.1 Through the planned proposals it is expected that several education benefits will be achieved on behalf of children and young people including:
 - Improved access to high quality facilities
 - Improved access to a greater variety of different education experience
 - Access to outdoor learning experiences
 - Strengthened practice in pedagogy and learning and teaching
 - Increased opportunities for professional learning and sharing good practice
- 4.2 Experience in new school buildings has demonstrated that a new and flexible learning environment inspires staff and pupils and has a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of stakeholders.

Improved high quality facilities for learning will be designated in such a way as to allow a range of teaching styles and approaches, including active learning, interdisciplinary learning and outdoor learning. The curriculum will provide the opportunity for learners to achieve across all curricular areas and to develop skills, attributes and capabilities aligned with the design principles of Curriculum for Excellence: challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance.

- 4.3 Children and young people will be provided with a broad range of opportunities for personal achievement and interdisciplinary learning across all curricular areas by building on best practice in curriculum design in North Lanarkshire Schools.
- 4.4 The provision of high-quality technology for learning will provide the potential to transform ways of learning and teaching by giving young people and staff flexible and embedded access to a fully digital learning environment.
- 4.5 The shared flexible learning and teaching spaces in the new joint campus school will enable staff to work together in a collaborative manner and provide more opportunities for co-operative working between pupils.

The new school will be fully accessible to disabled learners as required by the Equality Act (2010). This will be ensured through the delivery of the Council's:-

- Equality outcomes
- Promoting Inclusive Design Protocol and
- Partnership with North Lanarkshire Disability Access Panel.
- 4.6 The new school will be designed in such a way as to promote accessible, inclusive learning which will meet the needs of all learners including those with Additional Support Needs.
- 4.7 The new school will build on current, and facilitate new, opportunities for effective integrated working with other services and partner agencies and will provide necessary support to children and families in the new school catchment area.
- 4.8 The new school's design, construction and operation will be environmentally and energy efficient; contributing directly to delivering the year-on-year reductions in greenhouse gas emissions introduced by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and provide a rich context for learning for children and young people about sustainability now and in the future.
- 4.9 The inclusion of LCSC and Early years and Childcare provision in the new build proposal will provide a fully up-to-date setting for LCSC and Early Years provision in the Gartcosh area.

5. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 5.1 The current council education estate framework has delivered added value through:
 - Several apprenticeships have been created on the construction of the new schools.
 - Local employment opportunities.
 - Meaningful learning and engagement between the framework partners and the project schools.
 - Over 70% of the total investment is being procured through local supply chains.

- 5.2 In order to maximise the level of local community benefit regular meetings take place with framework contractors and the council's Estate Teams. As we move forward at the pre-qualification stage contractors appointed to the framework and their supply chains will be required to actively participate in the achievement of social, environmental and sustainability policy objectives relating to local regeneration, social and economic growth, recruitment and training along with local supply chain initiatives. In addition, sustainability will be a key objective on the construction of the new schools thereby contributing to the Councils target of reducing our carbon footprint.
- 5.3 As well as the educational benefits allocated to the specific school projects there will be wider educational benefits to the North Lanarkshire Community in that, with the significant level of savings required to be made over the next few financial years, the best value argument is that we would be utilising resources more efficiently and effectively. This is in line with 2003 Best Value Legislation and also the demands of the Education Scotland Act 1980.

6. IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

6.1 Rolls and Capacities

The projected rolls exclude placing requests but include house building estimates. Table

School	Capacity	Ro	II 2023	Ro	II 2024	Ro	II 2025
		Roll	%	Roll	%	Roll	%
Permanent	188	235	125	308	164	351	187
Temporary	62						

<u>3</u>: Projected rolls and capacities for Gartcosh Primary School 2023 - 2028

The projected rolls exclude placing requests but include house building estimates.

6.2 Transport to School

Council Policy currently provides free transport to those pupils living more than one mile from their zoned Primary School or where an appropriate walking route is not available. Education & Families will arrange for an assessment of the walking routes to the site of a new school and appropriate road crossing patrols will be established if considered necessary.

6.3 Staffing

The proposal should not have significant implications for staffing, either teaching or nonteaching. Any matter which arises will be dealt with within the terms of local and national agreements.

6.4 Secondary Education

The current zoning arrangement for secondary education is that pupils attending Gartcosh Primary School attend Chryston High School. No change to the primary to secondary transfer arrangements will be required as a result of this proposal. Parents who wish their children to attend an alternative secondary school will require to submit a placing request for their preferred school.

6.5 Class Sizes

Class structures are decided by the head teacher in accordance with authority guidelines and take account of a range of factors, including teacher deployment, school policies, the available accommodation and pupil numbers at each stage.

6.6 Future use of the existing school buildings

Education & Families will declare the existing school buildings surplus to its requirements should the proposal be approved. Thereafter, the council's Property Services will make recommendations on its future use or disposal in line with council policy.

6.7 Financial implications

Based on previous experience of new build projects within North Lanarkshire, it is anticipated this proposal will have a limited impact on school revenue budgets.

6.8 Placing Requests

It is anticipated that there will be no impact on pupils attending either school on a placing request. The following options exist for pupils in this position. Firstly, they can transfer to the new school. Secondly, they can enrol in their designated catchment area school or thirdly, submit a placing request to another School. The parents of these pupils will be given the opportunity to discuss their preference with Education & Families staff. Parents remain responsible for transport costs where an existing placing request to the new build school is continued.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 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, 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 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. 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 action) will be advised.

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 in order to meet the statutory requirements.
- 9.3 The consultation document sets out the details of the proposal.
 - The proposal paper details the educational benefits of the proposal and other relevant information.
 - The proposal paper will be published and widely advertised.
 - 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.
 - The consultation period will be a period of at least 6 weeks including at least 30 school days.
- 9.4 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.
- 9.5 During the consultation period, the authority will hold and be represented at public meetings on the relevant proposal.
- 9.6 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.
- 9.7 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.
- 9.8 The consultation timeline provides further information on the timescales for various staged in the statutory process.

Please click on the link below to share your views on the proposal (Ctrl + Click to follow link) <u>https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/gartcoshconsultation</u>

Appendix 1 Indicative Timeline for Reconfiguring Intensive ASN Systems and Services

Stages	Timeline	Date
1. Committee Date		Tuesday 28 February 2023
2. Consultation Starts Phase 1	Minimum of 6 weeks To include 30 calendar days	Wednesday 1 March 2023
3. Public Meeting	Mid way through consultation	Wednesday 8 March 2023
4. Consultation Ends	30 Days	Wednesday 3 May 2023
5. Report to Education Scotland Phase2	3 weeks	Thursday 25 May 2023
6. Education Scotland produce report	3 weeks	Tuesday 20 June 2023
7. Consultation report published Phase 3	No specified timescale	
8. Time for further consideration	3 weeks from publication date	This 3 weeks will be calculated once publication date known
9. Final Committee Decision		September 2023
10. Implement proposal if approved by Committee	3 weeks	



Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by North Lanarkshire Council to build a new Gartcosh Primary School and to incorporate a Language and Communication Support Centre and Early Learning and Childcare provision.

June 2023

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the <u>Schools (Consultation) (Scotland)</u> Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of North Lanarkshire Council's proposal to build a new Gartcosh Primary School and to incorporate a Language and Communication Support Centre and Early Learning and Childcare Centre. 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 process and the council's 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.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the school; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper;
- 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 8 March 2023 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
- visit to the site of Gartcosh Primary School including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 North Lanarkshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the <u>Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010</u>.

2.2 The consultation ran between 1 March and 27 April 2023. A public meeting was held in Gartcosh Primary School on 8 March 2023 and attended by approximately 50 local people and a few staff from North Lanarkshire Council. Members of the public were encouraged to respond to the consultation by email to the address given on the council website. Six written responses were received by North Lanarkshire Council during the consultation period. All those who responded to the consultation are in favour of the proposal. However, a few local parents and residents had questions about the design of the building, future use of the current school building and vehicle access to the new school.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The council outlines the educational benefits of the new school, including improved access to high quality, flexible learning spaces that will have a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of children and staff. They anticipate that this will lead to a greater range of educational experiences, including outdoor learning, which is limited in and around the current building. They state that this should provide increased opportunities for learners to achieve across all areas of Curriculum for Excellence. HM Inspectors agree that the new school will potentially provide a rich learning environment for those children currently attending Gartcosh Primary School and those attending in future. The current school building is over 100 years old and is no longer fit for purpose. The rising school roll presents a challenge for North Lanarkshire Council. It is increasingly difficult to deliver the curriculum for 240 children in a building designed for 188. As a result of extensive housebuilding, the school roll is predicted to rise further in the next few years.

3.2 All stakeholders are positive about the new school. Children who met with HM Inspectors are excited about being in a new building. They feel that more space will allow them to participate in a wider range of learning experiences such as drama and music. They like the idea of an early learning and childcare provision, allowing children to experience a smoother transition into primary school. Those staff who met with HM Inspectors agree that a new building will potentially provide a better learning environment for children. They recognise that the existing building can limit the delivery of some areas of the curriculum such as physical education (PE) and information and communications technology. They are frustrated about the lack of storage space in the current building and the poor toilet facilities. Staff feel that a dedicated space for the school library would be beneficial in supporting learning.

3.3 Parents who met with HM Inspectors feel that the provision of a new school is long overdue. They indicated that the current school is overcrowded but that the staff do their best in difficult circumstances. More suitable spaces for PE and larger classrooms are also welcomed by parents. The Parent Council is also supportive of the proposal. However, a few parents that attended the public meeting and responded to the consultation in writing have questions about the location of the new school and safe walking routes to school.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree with the councils' proposal to build a new primary school in Gartcosh. The school roll is predicted to rise further in the coming years due to house building and the existing building may not meet the demand. HM Inspectors also welcome the inclusion of an early learning and childcare provision which has potential to help facilitate the transition from nursery to primary school. Should the proposal go ahead, North Lanarkshire Council should continue to work with parents, staff and local residents to ensure that they are kept informed of and engaged in progress.

HM Inspectors June 2023

Appendix (iii) – Public and Staff Consultations Notes and FAQs

Public Meeting held Wednesday 8 March 2023 in Gartcosh Primary School

Notes/Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **Q** Question
- A Answer
- S Statement

MD opened by meeting outlining and explaining the purpose of the statutory consultation, including the process and timeline.

MD introduced the officers present:

G McLaughlin, Chief Officer (Education – North)

- M Dolan, Education & Families Manager
- C MacDonald, Principal Officer (Contracts & Provisions)
- M O'Halloran, Education & Families Manager
- M McGorry, Education Project Manager
- L Macpherson, Education Project Coordinator
- D Lees, Education Project Administration Assistant
- C McCabe, Hub Strategy Manager

MD introduced GMcL to present the educational benefits of the proposal.

GMcL presented the educational benefits to relocating the current Gartcosh Primary School to the new site at Woodneuk Avenue/Johnston Road. GMcL emphasised that an essential element of the consultation is gathering the views of stakeholders including parents/carers and pupils.

CMcC explained the historical position in respect of the previous consultation and why the council was now conducting a new consultation on a new site. To indicate the urgency the council is giving to resolving the current school capacity issues, it is prepared to work at risk by appointing a design team as soon as possible whilst awaiting the decision on the proposal. Should the proposal not be approved the council has a contingency for the land purchased. However, CMcC stressed that the Education Authority hoped that stakeholders would support the new proposal and for it to be approved.

MD opened the floor to questions:

Q How long will the new school be fit for purpose?

A The asset time attributed to school builds is currently 60 years. However there are three key measurables when assessing a school's state : The condition of the building (60 years); utilisation (space used) and suitability (how suitable the school is in relation to learners, staff, and other users). Therefore, the 60 years relates to condition only. The other two variables cannot be quantified in this way – as an example it was stated that the meeting was being held in a school that was deemed 'suitable' in 2013 but does not meet the highest level of 'suitability' in 2023.

CMcC provided information on how the school roll is projected in respect of the pupil product rate, using historical data on migration, etc and that the council builds for the forecasted peak number of pupils.

Q On what basis could this proposal be refused?

A Officers put forward the proposal to Elected Members and they make the decision. A report is put to Committee that includes your views, other stakeholder views such as Education Scotland and the Elected Members make the decision.

Q Will it be the case that the lowest bidder gets the contract, and that quality is not a factor?

A No, this is not the case. There is a cost: quality ratio in the tender. The council only uses Tier 1 contractors and 'award winning' Architects. We want to build the best facility that we can. The budget allocated to this project is comparable to any other in North Lanarkshire. The HT, staff and Parent Council Chair will be invited to visit some of the new facilities to see the quality of builds.

Q Will there be a change to the catchment?

- A No, this is not within the scope of this consultation. The proposal is modelled on the existing catchment. If a change to the catchment area was to be proposed, this would be subject to a statutory education process. This is not planned.
- Q Does the 434 roll include the 60 Language, Communication & Speech Centre (LCSC) places and 48 Early Years (EYs) places and are you confident this is sufficient (ie using accurate projections)? Capacity is a key question?

S The projections for Stepps, Glenboig and Chryston were inaccurate.

A These facilities used an older method of projection calculation. An explanation was given on the new projection criteria and, whilst acknowledging it is not a perfect science, by using the intelligence available at this time, the council has confidence in their figures.

Q Will the community centre be retained for community use (eg pensioners' lunch club). The village is struggling for community facilities such as GP surgery?

A Once the new community centre is decanted to the new build, the old community centre becomes surplus. An explanation was provided on the council's surplus asset process where empty buildings are offered to internal council services before going external (assets & disposals).

The NHS is a separate entity to the council and this suggestion would need to be pursued by the community and councillors.

S The size of the site at Newmains & St Brigid's Hub is far greater than that of the new site. I cannot see how the size of school will fit.

A It is acknowledged that the site at Newmains is significantly larger than the proposed site for Gartcosh. Newmains therefore was able to be designed with little constraints around site space, this is not normal. The council have evidenced that the primary, LSCC, and EYs facilities will fit on the new site.

S Would like to have been able to have discussed the red boundary lines.

CMcC explained the situation regarding the entrance and exit strategy for the new school – and a map was put on the screen to show the 'red line boundary.' A discussion took place regarding the current situation with the area of land north of the site (Blades Court).

Q Do you have plans to acquire the adjacent field?

A No – the red line boundary shown is the site that the new campus would occupy.

Q Will the council be maintaining the land south of the access road?

A This is not known at this time but is out with the scope of this consultation.

Q Do you have a plan B?

A We have considered many options over the years, and this is the best proposal and the 'plan A' which is being proposed. The 'plan B' would be to build two smaller schools and split the catchment area.

Q Is this still 'plan B'?

A If new build does not go ahead, then it is a possibility, but we would need to understand why the proposal was not accepted.

S Should we be getting better? holding out for better for our children? Do not like the language 'required' space.

A We would prefer a bigger site however this site is the best central location – it is a very inspiring space that will allow for a creative design. We have a very good design team and although we will meet the necessary metrics that is not our aim. We will make best use of every space available.

S We need other community facilities in the area.

An explanation was given on the council's position regarding the confines of the current consultation. The Education Service alongside colleagues from the road safety team will, under the council's Active Travel criteria, consider the condition of the walking routes from Gartcosh to the new school.

Q What about transport, how will the children get there the roads are shocking.

A The Contracts & Provisions service within Education will oversee the process that will assess the walking routes to ensure they are acceptable. The standard definition of 'acceptable,' under the Active Travel criteria, considers the walking route contingent on the pupil being accompanied by an adult.

Q What will happen to the current school building

A There is a surplus process that the council follows. The building will be offered to other NLC services, if they are not required, they are then offered out externally (assets & disposals).

Q What about the planning permission for the modular units in the current school, when does that expire?

- A The current planning permission for the modular units (3 1/2 years) will extend beyond the new build completion date.
- S The school chairperson thanked the team for all their hard work and confirmed that the Parent Council fundamentally support the proposal.

Q Clearly the existing building does not work and is bursting at the seams. How will the children be accommodated till the new building has been built?

A We are currently investigating temporary solutions to meet the increased capacity needs of the current school until such time as the school relocates (assuming the proposal is accepted).

Q What will the safer routes to school look like? The traffic is different at the new school – motorway traffic, how will this be managed?

- A All acceptable walking routes will be assessed, we do not know yet where the paths and gates will be positioned. It is offered that any assessment is evaluated on the basis that the pupil(s) would be accompanied to school by a responsible adult.
- Q Will the building be accessible out with school times?

A The operating model and aspiration for all NLC community hubs is that they are open from dawn till dusk and open to the wider community.

Q Can Parent Council visit other sites?

A The team will arrange for the Parent Council to visit other schools. The nearest will be Chryston PS when finished.

It is remarkable what has been done in other hubs and that is what we want for this school for the staff and young people. We will also be looking at the Early Years start and finish times. and consulting with parents on the flexibility of the service

Q If it takes 18 months to design and 18 months to build, when will the proposal be approved?

A The design process starts now (we are absorbing the risk). However, if approved, we will not have legal approval until after the statutory consultation is complete. The consultation is a 6-week process, within which time representation can be made, and it is expected that the recommendation will be presented to the Education, Children & Families Committee for approval in September 2023.

Q What about Gartcosh United, where will they play?

A We have reached a unilateral obligation with Gartcosh United to build an 11-a-side pitch with training facilities at the social club. There will be access to other facilities if the pitch is not ready on time (sub-station to move).

Q Will the entrance to the north be for cars or on foot? Residents have already petitioned the council for more parking to be provided, as this area is very tight.

A There are three separate authorities involved in assessing the requirements for the site and they will all deal with their own area. These authorities are Education, Planning and Roads, any issues in relation to these concerns will be raised and addressed through Planning and Roads services. These services operate independently in this regard.

Q Can the wider community use the outdoor space?

A We would look at the risk as all schools need to be secured, but if, for example, we had a MUGA, there would be a separate entrance for daytime for the school and for the wider public in the evening. This is how we have designed similar facilities (such as at the new Chryston PS Hub)

Q The emphasis on this is young people, what about the older people who do not have nice areas to walk in?

A Our focus is on this proposal for a new school. The Roads department will look at it from the aspect of getting pupils and others to and from the Gartcosh hub safely. An acceptable walking route will be established and where necessary adaptations put in place, such as safety barriers. Personal safety is a matter for the Police.

Q Will consideration be given to the noise?

A Acoustic specialists are part of the design team and Pollution Control will make sure that we meet the standards.

Q Will the community centre be next to a community garden?

A Access to the outdoor space for the community is a consideration that would be will be developed during the design process in collaboration with the Landscape Architects. There is opportunity to bring your ideas to the intelligent brief.

S Concern about traffic modelling around the artery roads, etc.

Concerns noted and reference made to previous responses regarding traffic.

MD closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and asked that comments are sent into gartcoshconsultation@northlan.gov.uk. All papers relating to this consultation are online and FAQs will be updated as the consultation progresses.

Gartcosh Primary School Relocation

Staff Meeting held Wednesday 8 March 2023 in Gartcosh Primary School

Notes/Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **Q** Question
- A Answer
- S Statement

MD, Education & Families Manager (EFM) welcomed everyone by explaining the purpose of meeting (to inform staff of the detail of the proposals and to gather staff views on the proposals).

- MD introduced the officers present:
- G McLaughlin, Chief Officer (Education North)
- M Dolan, Education & Families Manager
- C MacDonald, Principal Officer (Contracts & Provisions)
- M O'Halloran, Education & Families Manager
- M McGorry, Education Project Manager
- L Macpherson, Education Project Coordinator
- D Lees, Education Project Administration Assistant
- C McCabe, Hub Strategy Manager

MD explained the proposal for Gartcosh PS and the purpose of the meeting. MD highlighted that the questions asked will build the FAQs and, as well as being uploaded to the website, will form part of the Education Authority's report for Education Scotland.

GMcL highlighted that this had been a long journey, but the proposal is now going ahead as land has now been purchased. GMcL highlighted the numerous houses being built in the catchment area and the current school being no longer fit for purpose. The proposal of a new school, with access to high quality facilities is an exciting opportunity for the community. There will be direct collaboration between staff, parent's and children to discuss the approach and hear everyone's voices.

GMcL presented the educational benefits around the proposed relocation of Gartcosh Primary School site.

GMcL explained the ASN review and the key recommendation for children's learning environments.

CMcC advised NLC have purchased 3 pieces of land which will accommodate a school for 434 pupils. CMcC confirmed that they had modelled every house, including those not built yet, and that this provided a forecast of around 390 pupils. He also highlighted that there would also be new provision for 48 Early Years children, 60 ASN placements as well as a new community centre to replace the existing Gartosh Community Centre.

MD opened the floor for questions:

QUESTIONS

- Q When will the new school be ready? There is a sense of urgency which is good to hear. Why is the land only available now?
- A CMcC confirmed that the council have been looking at land since 2016 and have looked at 9 sites in total, including the social club site. Discussions with Balfour Beatty were prolonged due to legalities and Covid-19. There was also a non-disclosure agreement in place with which blocked us from updating on the situation within the public domain.

However, the council has access to the site investigations, and the architects have block planned the site so we know that the school can be built on the site.

CMcC outlined the project will be taken forward at risk by the council to prevent delays as the process from design to completion takes approximately 3 years. However, should this plan not be approved the council has a contingency plan for the use of the land and will revert to this plan taking the loss of any costs incurred until then.

Q We do not currently have an LCSC or Early Years provision, can we visit establishments to gain an understanding of lay outs and modelling?

A Visits to other recently opened new facilities will be offered to support management and staff. We have two teachers within the team who work as advocates for the school to support discussions with the designers.

Q What are the predicted problems and challenges within the project?

A The clock has started, there is a lot of background work that has already been carried out and we are highly motivated to deliver. We have expert mechanical, electrical, construction and traffic consultants within our wider build team to ensure we deliver high quality, carbon neutral facilities that support children's learning and teaching. We have looked at traffic modelling and a lot of challenges have already been mitigated through discussions with the Education Authority, Roads Department and Planning service.

Q We want children to understand what a new school can look like?

A There are many ways in which the experienced consultants can engage with children, including dialogue and images which will be supported by teachers. This will be done sensitively to take account of pupils who will have transitioned to secondary by the time the new build is complete.

There will be 'visioning' workshop sessions held with staff and the architects. We will also encourage staff to visit other completed projects to ensure they can discuss options with children. Architect's will require 'descriptive' input rather than 'prescriptive' as they will be creative in meeting the school's requirements. Engagement with the architects is a key factor in the ultimate design of the school.

Q How long until planning can begin?

A An architect and contractor will be appointed through our procurement framework with Hub South-West (a construction and design public-private partnership body). When the successful architect and contractor is appointed, we will take staff to a previous project the company has completed to give staff an idea of their style of work. We will also take staff to Chryston to introduce teachers to teachers who have recently taken ownership of a new build.

GMcL highlighted the areas of teacher comfort in Newmains and Chryston and confirmed this would be a key element of design. The design team will also speak to Facility Support Services on cleaning and catering requirements.

Exact timescales will not be known until Hub South-West complete the competitive tender process however it is anticipated that this will start before the end of term. The planning/design cycle usually takes around 18 months from start to finish, with the build taking 18 months thereafter.

Q What steps are being taken to approach the current capacity issues?

A A temporary solution is being investigated to provide increased capacity meantime.

General comments

Overall, the members of staff thought that the proposals were exciting.

GMcL agreed with the staff that they, and their pupils, have done their best in challenging circumstances.

MD closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and asked that comments are sent into <u>gartcoshconsultation@northlan.gov.uk</u>.

Appendix (iv) Equality Impact Assessment Form

Section 1. About the Policy

1.3 What is the scope of the assessment?	~	Detail where appropriate					
Whole of the organisation							
Service specific	\checkmark						
Discipline specific							
Other							
1.4 What is the policy/ strategy/ f	unc	tion/ saving trying to achieve / do?					
As highlighted in the Educational Benefits section of the statutory consultation document. The pupils currently at Gartcosh Primary School will benefit educationally by attending a new build school which can offer a wider range of educational opportunities							
1.5 If this is a budget saving, how	v wil	I the saving be achieved?					
Section 2. What do I know now? 2.1 Who are the stakeholders and	d be	neficiaries?					
Staff of the establishment, children parents of the children and young p		young people at the establishment and the le.					
2.2 What data, consultation, research and other evidence or information is available relevant to this assessment? (This is a desktop exercise)							
		ng. There were also separate consultation meetings the children and young people were consulted on					
2.3 Considering the information	in S	ection 1 and 2.1 and 2.2					

2.3.1 If this policy is subject to the FSD what does it suggest about the impact or potential impact on socio-economic disadvantage? (please refer to FSD Interim Guidance)

	Low income
	Low wealth
n	Material deprivation
n	Area deprivation
initias listed below likely to be more affected by	2.3.2 Are any of the people communi

2.3.2 Are any of the people communities listed below likely to be more affected by this policy than others?

People who share one or more of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010	Yes	Details	No	Details	Don't Know
Age (a particular age or range of ages)	√	3 - 11 year old children			
Disabled people and people with long term health conditions	√	3 -11 year old children			
Women and men, girls and boys			~		
People defined by their race, colour and nationality, ethnic or national origins.			~		
Married people and civil partners			~		
Pregnant women and new mothers (including breastfeeding women)			~		
Lesbian, gay and bisexual people			✓		
People transitioning from one gender to another			~		
People of different religions or beliefs or non-beliefs			~		
Other groups					
Children and families			 ✓ 		
Homeless people			~		
Looked after and accommodated people			~		
Care leavers			~		
Carers – paid / unpaid, family members			~		

Asylum seekers			\checkmark	
Employees – full and part time. Including SES, MAs etc.	~	Teaching, Ancillary and ASNA staff		
Others			~	

	Yes	No	Don't Know
1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010?		~	
2.Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not	√		
3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not?	√		
4. Protect and promote human rights?		✓	
5. Reduce socio-economic disadvantage		✓	

The children relocating from Mavisbank will have the opportunity to attend a campus with 'mainstream' peers. This will help to promote integration and inclusion and provide opportunities to celebrate diversity.

Section 3. What else do I need to know /find out?

3.1 Further consultation – Please use the table directly below to say who you will consult with (tick Yes or No). Consider those groups from section 2.3 where you ticked yes or don't know. Once consultation has taken place provide the details below.

<u>People and</u> <u>communities</u>	Yes	No	Describe what you did, with whom and when. Please provide a brief summary of the responses gained and links to relevant documents, as well as any actions
Age (a particular age or range of ages)		No	
Disabled people and people with long term health conditions		No	

Women and men, girls and boys		No	
People defined by their race, colour and nationality, ethnic or national origins.		No	
Married people and civil partners		No	
Pregnant women and new mothers and breastfeeding women.		No	
Lesbian, gay and bisexual people		No	
People transitioning from one gender to another		No	
People of different religions or beliefs or non-beliefs		No	
Other groups			
Children and families		No	
Homeless people		No	
Looked after and accommodated people		No	
Care leavers		No	
Carers – paid / unpaid, family members		No	
Asylum Seekers		No	
Trade Unions	Yes		
Employee Equality Forum		No	
Others			

3.2 What additional research or data is required?
N/A
3.3 What does the additional research and data tell you about potential or known effects?
N/A

Section 4. Assessing the impact and strengthening the policy

Considering all the evidence you now have from section 1-3, how will the policy affect different people and communities in relation to equality, socio-economic disadvantage and human rights?

4.1 How does/will the policy and resulting activity affect those with the characteristics listed below (including employees)? Please use the table below to provide details.

•			
	Detail any Positive impact	Detail any adverse impact	If adverse how can we mitigate this? Where no mitigating action is planned please say why not
Age (a particular age or range of ages)	Children and Young People (3-11yrs) will benefit from a high quality education in high quality surroundings which have been carefully designed to meet their needs.		
Disabled people and people with long term health conditions			
Women and men, girls and boys			
People defined by their race, colour and nationality, ethnic or national origins.			
Married people and civil partners			
Pregnant women and new mothers			

(including breastfeeding women)		
Lesbian, gay and bisexual people		
People transitioning from one gender to another		
People of different religions or beliefs or non-beliefs		
Other groups		
Children and families		
Homeless people		
Looked after and accommodated people		
Care leavers		
Carers – paid / unpaid, family members		
Asylum Seekers		
Employees – full and part time. Including SES, MAs etc.	Some staff will have to relocate.	Appropriate Council policies and processes will be adopted
Others		

4.2 What measures could be taken to strengthen the policy / strategy to help advance equality of opportunity, foster good relations, promote human rights and reduce socio-economic disadvantage.

N/A

4.3 Considering questions 4.1 and 4.2 what actions / measures will be put in place before introducing this policy please provide details.

Action	Timescales	Responsible Officer	Review details (include timescales)
Consultation with staff, trade unions and Head Teachers	As appropriate	Gerard McLaughlin	

Section 5. Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing **5.1. How will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the new policy?**

Lessons learned, outcomes and impact and further requirements and improvements.

Section 6. Making a decision and sign-off

Recommendation	Tick	Comment (where applicable, please give more information e.g. where to pilot, what modifications, etc.)	Timescales
Introduce the policy			
Adjust the policy then introduce			
Introduce the policy with justification regarding potential adverse impact			
Stop and withdraw the policy			

Name of Policy			
Head of Service /Senior Manager sign-off:			
Name	Job title and division/ team	Date	Signature
Michael Dolan	Education & Families Manager	8 August 2023	

For further information please contact:

Name:	Maryann McGorry	
Job title:	Education Project Manager	
1. Service:	Education, Children & Families	
2. Contact details:	Mcgorrym@northlan.gov.uk	