

Statutory Consultation

Proposal to relocate Fallside School and Portland School

at the vacated Mavisbank School building in Airdrie

Education and Families

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NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION AND FAMILIES

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 To meet the needs of its learning communities, provide an effective educational service and to support teachers and pupils with the best resources, the education service must evaluate and amend its school estate as appropriate. Having identified the requirement to meet the needs of the pupils at Fallside and Portland Schools, this paper sets out the reasons for the proposal to relocate Fallside School and Portland School, close these school buildings and relocate the vacant Mavisbank School in Airdrie. Mavisbank School in Airdrie is relocating to the new refurbished Carnbroe Primary School in Coatbridge by January 2026.
- 1.2 We Aspire College provides tailored educational support for children and young people in North Lanarkshire with significant social, emotional, and behavioural needs (SEBN), while promoting the presumption of mainstream education. The College includes Fallside School, Portland School, Pentland Primary School and Willowbank School, alongside a growing Outreach service supporting both SEBN and Additional Support Needs (ASN) pupils.
- 1.3 The Outreach team collaborates with schools, families, and agencies using GIRFEC planning to maintain mainstream placements, reduce exclusions, and improve attendance and attainment. Since its inception, the Outreach model has successfully reduced out-of-authority placements and supported positive educational outcomes, including the withdrawal of ASN Tribunal cases due to effective interventions. It has also been successful in reducing the number of placements at Fallside and Portland Schools, whereby the service now deems it would be more effective for staff and pupils to relocate these two schools to share communities and resources.
- 1.4 This move is anticipated to enhance inclusive practice, reduce reliance on external placements, and improve outcomes for our more vulnerable learners.
- 1.5 If the proposal is approved a consultation with appropriate stakeholders will establish an action plan to relocate Fallside and Portland Schools.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The service proposes the relocation of Portland and Fallside schools to establish a joint campus at the former Mavisbank site, to better support learning and vocational programmes.
- 2.2 This will provide shared resource opportunities for young people to work within, between and beyond a range of establishments and services such as the Skills Academy, Cumbernauld Theatre and 7 Day Centre. It will facilitate increased collaboration of staff, agencies and others to make more effective use of existing expertise which supports the achievement of the best possible outcomes.
- 2.3 Fallside and Portland pupils are already incorporated into the We Aspire College (WAC), that provides school-based programmes of education and support for young people between the ages of 5-18 years. Importantly, the role of the service should be to both enable the semi-permanent and indeed permanent education of children in

intensive arrangements, but where possible, promote a pathway back to mainstream for those who are capable of it and a pathway beyond to employment and training.

- 2.4 The Service will also support the Fallside and Portland pupils across the clusters by providing intensive support, within WAC outreach provisions within Bothwellpark ASN Outreach and Skills Academy, subject to the outcome of the proposed statutory consultation. This campus will also improve the accessibility to the wider We Aspire College facilities vocational opportunities for young people.
- 2.5 Education and vocational provision within the Community Alternative and Skills Academy settings will also continue to be linked with the WAC portfolio, enhancing the ability to provide tailored support to those young people experiencing a range of adversities who may benefit from an alternative setting. Inclusion of these services as part of the We Aspire College will also strengthen opportunities and pathways for these young people and better connect provision to the wider service.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The proposal is that Fallside School and Portland School are relocated to the vacated Mavisbank School site to establish a new school.
- 3.2 This will enhance the current alignment of all vocational education activity within the purview of the We Aspire College, including access to the Skills Academy and 7 Day Centre.
- 3.3 The reasons for this proposal are:

- (i) The success of the various interventions and initiatives over the last couple of years have resulted in a fall in the school roll in both schools.

School	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Fallside	15	10	9
Portland	14	14	12

Table 1 School Rolls 2023/24-2025/26

- (ii) To improve the availability of shared resources, increase the sense of identity and community for staff and pupils and be more efficient in the use of the school estate.
- (iii) To strengthen leadership, provide greater depth and breadth of staffing and improve the offering to secondary aged children with a range of complex Emotional Behaviour Needs within localities.
- (iv) The historic ASN estate provision of North Lanarkshire has meant that Fallside and Portland Schools are smaller, more isolated ASN schools which can be more susceptible to challenges in recruiting appropriate staff and are less easy to naturally integrate with wider services, which can make them less sustainable.
- (v) The relocation of Fallside and Portland School to the existing Mavisbank school will provide an equitable service for children with SEBN needs across localities.

4. EDUCATION BENEFITS STATEMENT

- 4.1 Through the planned proposals it is expected that several educational benefits will be achieved on behalf of children and young people with the requirement for intensive services to meet their needs. These points were clearly established in the findings of the ASN Review and include:
- Empowerment of practitioners and local ownership of resources to meet needs
 - Improved access to high quality facilities
 - Strengthened leadership, provide greater depth and breadth of staffing and management of learning for those with additional needs
 - Strengthened transition arrangements at all key points of transition, under the leadership of a single head teacher.
 - Increased opportunities for professional learning and sharing good practice, through strengthened workforce arrangements.
 - Strengthened practice in planning to meet the needs of learners
 - Strengthened practice in pedagogy and learning and teaching
 - Clearer pathways to mainstream for those who can access such provision
 - a broad range of opportunities for personal achievement and interdisciplinary learning
 - Strengthened integrated planning with partners
- 4.2 Experience in new joint campus demonstrates a flexible learning environment, inspires staff and pupils and has a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of stakeholders. Further, it increases learners' aspirations, attainment, achievement and positive destinations at a later stage in their education. This is evident through improving trends in attainment and achievement of our young people.
- 4.3 Spaces 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.
- 4.4 The curriculum will provide the opportunity for learners to achieve across all curricular areas and to develop skills, attributes and capabilities through courses aligned with the design principles of Curriculum for Excellence: challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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.

5. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 5.1 Both Fallside and Portland Schools are beyond maintaining and repairing. Closure of these school buildings will provide the respective communities with the opportunities to embrace alternative options for these sites.

- 5.2 Work is being done to determine mitigation of any adverse impact on those using the facilities (wider access to school spaces may be possible in the evenings for example, or use of other facilities in the locality where available).
- 5.3 Work will now be done between Education and Families and Enterprise and Communities to:
- Assess the impact on community use
 - Assess the budget implications i.e., any impact on NLC on income streams
 - Engage effectively/co-producing the approach with communities/users

6. IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

- 6.1 It is recognised that for existing Fallside and Portland pupils the change of location may be challenging, and consideration has been given to how best to support pupils to make the transition as seamless as possible. Staff will work collaboratively with parents/carers and pupils to support pupils in preparing for the transition. 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 Transport
- 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 with regard to transport.
- 6.3 Financial Implications
- Through a range of management actions, the proposals outlined in this paper will contribute to the overall efficiencies sought through relocation and rezoning schools, as approved in the Budget Planning process. Subject to approval the Service will allocate capital funding within the existing budget envelope.
- 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. Considerations would include Compulsory Transfer, Premature/Early Retirement, Redundancy/ Redeployment.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

8. CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

- 8.1 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.

- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 The consultation period will be a minimum of 56 days, which include 30 school days. It begins on 24 November 2025 and finishes on 19 January 2026.
- 8.4 The consultation will involve pupils, parent/carers, Parent Councils and staff of the schools involved, as well as other associated stakeholder and statutory consultees.
- 8.5 A public meeting will be held on the evening of Tuesday 9th December 2025 for both schools.
- 8.6 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.
- 8.7 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 and online. It is envisaged that the report will be published on 5 March 2026. The key dates are set out in Appendix 4.
- 8.8 An online version of the document and other items related to the consultation can be found online: www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/fallsideandportland-consultation (not live)
- 8.9 Further information on the proposal can be obtained by sending an email to ef.fallsideandportland@northlan.gov.uk (not live)
- 8.10 All interested parties are invited to submit their comments on or before 19 January 2026.

9. INACCURACIES OR OMISSIONS

- 9.1 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.

9.2 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.

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

9.4 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.

9.5 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.

9.6 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.

10. THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION PROCESS – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

10.1 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.

10.2 This consultation has been planned in order to meet the following statutory requirements:

10.3 The consultation document sets out the details of the proposal.

10.4 The proposal paper details the educational benefits of the proposal and other relevant information.

10.5 The proposal paper will be published and widely advertised.

10.6 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.

10.7 The consultation period will be a period of at least 6 weeks including at least 30 school days.

10.8 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

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

10.9 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.

10.10 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.

10.11 The consultation timeline provides further information on the timescales for various staged in the statutory process.

Appendix 4 of Proposal Paper – Proposed Relocation of Fallside School and Portland School to the existing Mavisbank School.

Tentative Consultation Timeline

Stages	Date
11. Committee Date	18 November 2025
12. Consultation starts	24 November 2025
13. Public meeting	9 December 2025
14. Consultation Ends	19 January 2026
15. Report to Education Scotland	22 January 2026
16. Education Scotland produce report	12 February 2026
17. Consultation Report Published	5 March 2026
18. Time for further consideration – end	26 March 2026
19. Final Committee Decision	26 May 2026
20. Council implements outcome of consultation	Following council approval

