



North Lanarkshire Council

Statutory Consultation – Final Outcome Report

proposal by North Lanarkshire Council to relocate Fallside School and Portland School to the vacated Mavisbank School building.

EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Published 5 March 2026

This report 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

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 North Lanarkshire Council has made significant progress in transforming ASN provision, aligning local practice with national policy and legislation. The work completed provides a strong foundation for future policy development, with a growing emphasis on wellbeing, inclusion, and sustainability. As demand continues to rise, future programmes focused on refining systems, expanding capacity, and embedding inclusive practice across all sectors will be required.
- 1.2 North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) continues to undertake a strategic review and a far-reaching reform of its Additional Support Needs (ASN) and Inclusion Services. This reform is driven by a commitment to the presumption of mainstreaming, the principles of Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), and recommendations from the Morgan Review (2020), Audit Scotland reports on Additional Support for Learning (2020 & 2025), and NLC's 2019 ASN Review. These reviews called for greater equity, accountability, inclusive practice, and improved outcomes for all learners, particularly those with complex or co-occurring needs.
- 1.3 This report outlines proposals relevant to the statutory consultations which is required to continue with improvements in ASN provision and will support the new five-year ASN strategy which will be presented to Committee in March 2026
- 1.4 Following the formation of We Aspire College, which was borne from the 2019 ASN review, the service proposes to relocate Fallside and Portland schools, within the existing Mavisbank school to ensure better support and access to therapeutic and skills-based programmes. The service did not implement the previous proposals due changing demographics of young people within North Lanarkshire.
- 1.5 In August 2025, the new Woodlands Park Secondary School and St Aidan's Primary LCSC opened at the former site of the Edward Lawson Centre, Coltness Road, Wishaw. Within the new facility, an Early Years Assessment Centre is also located. The service is seeking approval for an operational change to the assessment centre for the centre to become operational from January 2026, and to support children and families through assessing the level of need for learners in advance of transition to a primary setting.
- 1.6 The key reasons for the proposal, as set out in the Committee paper, were;
 - 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 Cambroek Primary School in Coatbridge by January 2026.
 - 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.
 - 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.

- This move is anticipated to enhance inclusive practice, reduce reliance on external placements, and improve outcomes for our more vulnerable learners

1.7 Appendix (i) of this report contains the consultation report as issued.

2. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

2.1 Consultation Framework

2.1.1 The consultation process was carried out in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the amendments contained in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. It is within this statutory framework that Education and Families, has engaged in a consultation exercise with all relevant consultees.

The consultation document developed for consideration included information on:-

- the proposal;
- the consultation process;
- the arrangements for public meetings;
- relevant school data;
- the educational benefits of the proposal;
- community benefits statement;
- equality impact assessment; and
- consultation timeline.

2.1.2 The Head Teacher of Fallside School and Portland School were notified of the consultation.

2.1.3 The consultation period commenced on Monday 24 November 2025 and concluded on Monday 19 January 2026, a total of 56 days, which included 30 school days.

2.1.4 Details of the consultation process were made available on a dedicated area of the North Lanarkshire Council website at www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/consultation

2.1.5 A face-to-face staff meeting was held on Tuesday 9 December 2025 from 4.00pm until 5.00pm at Chapelside Community Centre.

2.1.6 A face-to-face public meeting was held on Tuesday 9 December 2025 from 6.00pm until 8.00pm at Chapelside Community Centre.

2.1.7 Responses to the proposal could be made electronically to ef.fallsideandportland@northlan.gov.uk or in writing posted to the council.

2.2 Relevant Consultees

Consultees were identified according to Schedule 2 of the Schools

(Consultation)(Scotland)Act 2010. The relevant consultees included:-

- Parents/Carers and pupils of Fallside School and Portland School
- Staff of Fallside School and Portland School
- Anybody 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;
- HMle
- 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 Tuesday 9 December 2025 – 9 attendees.
- Public meeting held on Tuesday 9 December 2025 - 0 attendees. There was representation from HMle.
- The total number of individual consultee email responses received was 1.

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 www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/consultation

3.2 Consultation and Channels and views expressed

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

There was 1 email response in total to the proposal.

Pupils voice for Fallside and Portland School for each stage was collected to engage and discuss their ideas on the proposed new building.

The total number of individual consultee responses received was 1.

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 staff 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.

Response

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 parking 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.

Response

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 there are potential educational benefits in permanently moving the schools to a shared campus
- Both schools operate within North Lanarkshire Council's We Aspire College, which provides educational support to children and young people with significant social, emotional, and behavioural needs.
- They have a shared headteacher and staff use the same approaches to planning and delivery of the curriculum.
- Being part of a permanent, shared campus creates the potential to extend this shared approach further and increase opportunities for joint profession learning and support.

In response to the observations of HMIE, 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

No alleged omissions or inaccuracies

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 Fallside and Portland Schools
- Parents/carers of those pupils;
- Staff who work at Fallside and Portland Schools

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 26 May 2026.

If approved, an implementation group consisting of members of the senior management from Fallside School and Portland School and pupils, will be established to ensure continued engagement of all stakeholders throughout the relocation.

