Appendix 1 of Committee Paper of 17 November 2026

Statutory Consultation

Proposal to establish six enhanced provisions within Eastfield Primary, New Monkland Primary, St Thomas's Primary, Our Lady's High School (Motherwell), Coltness High School, Braidhurst High School

Education, Children & Families

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL – EDUCATION & FAMILIES

1 Background

1.1 As demand for ASN provision continues to grow, ongoing investment is required to support service delivery, expand capacity and further embed inclusive practice across all educational sectors. The establishment of five pilot Enhanced Support Provisions has successfully demonstrated a sustainable model of inclusive practice, enabling children and young people to access specialist educational support within their local mainstream school settings. The pilot programme has strengthened opportunities for learners to be educated alongside their peers, while benefiting from high-quality inclusion experiences, enhanced community participation and improved educational outcomes. The positive impact of these provisions has informed the continued expansion of the model across North Lanarkshire schools.

1.2 North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) continues to progress a strategic review and comprehensive transformation of its Additional Support Needs (ASN) and Inclusion Services. This programme of reform is underpinned by a commitment to the presumption of mainstream education, the principles of Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), and the recommendations arising from the Morgan Review (2020), Audit Scotland reports on Additional Support for Learning (2020 and 2025), and NLC's ASN Review (2019). Collectively, these reviews highlighted the need to strengthen equity, accountability and inclusive practice, while improving outcomes for all learners, particularly those with complex, high-level or co-occurring additional support needs.

1.3 This report outlines proposals relating to the next phase of statutory consultations required to support the continued improvement and expansion of ASN provision across North Lanarkshire. These proposals build upon the Council's five-year ASN Strategy, which was endorsed by Committee in March 2026, and support the ongoing implementation of its strategic priorities.

1.4 As part of the strategic review of ASN provision, the Council established a new model of support through five pilot primary Enhanced Support Provisions. Following a successful period of implementation and evaluation, these have now transitioned to permanent provisions within St John Paul II Primary School, Holy Cross Primary School, Muirhouse Primary School, Shawhead Primary School and Berryhill Primary School.

1.5 Headteachers and staff from these established provisions have played a significant role in supporting the development of a further 6 Enhanced Support Provisions, providing mentoring, professional guidance and opportunities for shared learning to build capacity across the expanding network.

1.6 These colleagues are also members of a multi-agency working group comprising officers from Inclusion, Educational Psychology and other partner services. The group is undertaking a review of all co-located specialist provision across North Lanarkshire to promote consistency, strengthen quality assurance arrangements and support the delivery of high-quality practice, training and professional learning for staff working across both specialist and mainstream settings. This work will help ensure a coherent and sustainable approach to meeting the needs of children and young people with additional support needs across the authority.

2 Introduction

Current Operating Model

2.1 Following subsequent reviews, the LCSC estate in North Lanarkshire has increased in size and currently consists of 9 primary LCSC units and 3 secondary LCSCs located within mainstream schools. In addition to 12 LCSCs collocated on mainstream campuses, there are also 13 standalone ASN schools.

2.2 Within mainstream schools, rising numbers of pupils presenting with additional support needs, contributes to challenges around, dysregulated behaviour, low attendance and attainment levels amongst pupils. Establishments have sought to address this through creative approaches to curriculum offers, part-time timetables and support from Virtual school and the We Aspire Outreach team.

2.3 In line with national trends, the local authority has experienced an increasing number of requests for specialist ASN and LCSC primary and secondary placements over the last 4 years. The number of applications for a specialist primary one placement to CREST: formally TPR and NBPR have continued to rise (*Cluster Request for Enhanced Support for Transition (2026), Transition Pathway Review 2024-2025, Needs Based Pathway Review 2022-2023)*.

2.4 There is an increased expectation among some families that children and young people with additional support needs require education within specialist provision. In 2026, 441 pre-school children were registered through CREST for consideration for a specialist primary placement, while a further 157 pupils in Primary 6 were registered through CREST for consideration for specialist secondary provision.

2.5 A prevailing perception has emerged in North Lanarkshire that mainstream schools are unable to adequately meet additional support needs. This is reflected in the increasing number of placing requests, mediation cases, and tribunal references submitted by parents seeking placements in ASN (Additional Support Needs) establishments.

Placing Requests			
Year	ASN	LCSC	Out of Authority
2022/23	16	51	2
2023/24	59	56	3
2024/25	114	91	5
2025/26	83	58	2

Table 1 placing requests, mediation cases and ASN tribunal references each academic session from 2022 to 2026

The Pilot Model – Enhanced Support Provisions

2.6 The growing demand for specialist education placements has placed significant pressure on ASN schools and Language and Communication Support Centres (LCSCs), with pupil rolls continuing to increase year on year. As a result, pressures on accommodation, staffing and resources have intensified, creating challenges in maintaining learning environments that fully meet the diverse and increasingly complex needs of learners.

2.7 In response, the service must continue to identify and develop additional specialist and enhanced support provision across the learning estate. This will help alleviate pressure on existing ASN establishments, increase local capacity, and ensure that children and young people can access high-quality learning environments staffed by skilled practitioners of meeting the evolving pattern of needs presenting across mainstream schools. The continued expansion of Enhanced Support Provisions also supports the Council's commitment to inclusive education by enabling more learners to receive specialist support within their local school communities.

2.8 The development of enhanced provisions, encompasses Scottish educational priorities relating to inclusion, children's rights and statutory duties placed on local authorities. e.g. Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act, The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000, as amended GIRFEC (Scottish Executive, 2006) and the Education (Scotland) Act 2016.

Primary Enhanced Support Provisions

2.9 To respond to the increase in demand for specialist primary placements and following the success of the newly permanent ESPs in St John Paul II Primary, Muirhouse Primary, Berryhill Primary, Holy Cross Primary and Shawhead Primary the service has established a further three Enhanced Support Provisions pilots in August 2026 within the following three Primary Schools:

- **Eastfield Primary**
- **New Monkland Primary**
- **St Thomas's Primary**

Secondary Enhanced Support Provisions

2.10 From 2023-2025 two of the original secondary LCSCs piloted an enhanced operating model of intensive support through a 'Primary 8' model to meet the diverse needs of learners transitioning from specialist primary settings. This proved successful in supporting the inclusion of young people within mainstream classes, and meeting pupil needs at an appropriate pace. Classes were supported by a mixture of primary and secondary teaching and support staff. Pupils were initially educated in a class set. With the aim that almost all pupils are integrated within mainstream classes with support by the end of S1.

2.11 The long-term goal for the service is to move towards an Enhanced Support Provision model within all clusters to meet the additional support needs of most pupils within their own community. The first 3 Enhanced Support Provision Secondary Pilot establishments each welcomed up to 12 pupils in August 2026 within the following schools:

- **Coltness High School**
- **Braidhurst Secondary School**
- **Our Lady's High School (Motherwell)**

Enhanced Support Provision Timeline for Implementation

2.12 Each Enhanced Support Provision provides appropriate space including a teaching classroom(s), small spaces to support regulation and sensory requirements, plus access to separate accessible toilet facilities. Feasibility studies were completed by early 2026 with all adaptations and refurbishments required completed by July 2026. All establishments received additional funding for resources and have been offered an enhanced suite of training for both single status and teaching staff. These provisions are also prioritised for targeted support from NHS partners, including Speech and Language Therapy delivered by NHS Lanarkshire.

2.13 All 6 of the newly established Enhanced Support Provisions had staff in post from April 2026 to enable effective, enhanced transition for all young people allocated to attend the provisions from August 2026. The staffing model within the ESP includes 1 Principal Teacher, 1 Classroom Teacher and a minimum of 2 Learning Assistants to support learning and the holistic needs of the pupils.

2.14 Initial feedback from schools, staff, parents/carers and pupils is that the intensive model offered within the Secondary ESP has proved to be successful in supporting pupils to transition confidently to secondary school, reducing anxiety, and enabling pupils to access quality learning opportunities appropriate for their own stage of development, with some pupils already accessing specific mainstream classes with support.

2.15 In addition to the ongoing service review, which focuses on evaluating the effectiveness, impact and outcomes of the Enhanced Support Provision model, approval is sought to undertake statutory consultation to establish these provisions on a permanent basis. This will ensure continuity of support for the children and young people currently attending these settings, while enabling the longer-term impact of the model on learner outcomes, inclusion and capacity within the wider ASN system to be fully evaluated.

Consultation Process

2.16 In terms of the schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Education Authority is required to publish details of and consult on any proposal to vary arrangements for the constitution of a special class in a school other than a special school. Schedule 1 Section 7 Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

2.17 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.

2.18 The consultation period will be a minimum of 30 school days. It begins on 23rd November 2026.

2.19 The consultation will involve pupils, parent/carers, Parent Councils and staff of the schools involved, as well as other associated stakeholder and statutory consultees.

2.20 A public meeting will be held in each establishment to ensure each learning community's questions and comments are addressed. The dates of these meetings are as follows:

2.20.1 Monday 7th December 2026

- Eastfield Primary School
- New Monkland Primary School
- St Thomas's Primary School

2.20.2 Wednesday 16th December 2026

- Our Lady's High School (Motherwell)
- Coltness High School
- Braidhurst High School

2.21 Council officers will be present at each 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.

2.22 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 reports will be published on 11th March 2027.

2.23 The live links for each of the consultations will be live from 23rd November at the following location on the council's website: Live consultations | North Lanarkshire Council

2.24 All interested parties are invited to submit their comments on or before 22nd January 2027.

EDUCATION BENEFITS STATEMENT

3.1 Through the pilots 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 council's ASN Review of 2019 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
- Additional staffing allocation for lunch/break/absence cover
- Strengthened transition arrangements at all key points of transition, under the leadership of a single head teacher
- New Inclusion Training programme implemented for teaching staff and Learning Assistants offering high-quality professional learning, sharing good practice, focused on key areas identified by staff
- ASN Network established for shared learning/collaboration across all collocated specialist provisions
- Strengthened practice in planning to meet the needs of learners
- Strengthened practice in pedagogy and learning and teaching
- Enhanced adult support and individual education planning during primary career
- Stronger evidence for consideration for secondary pathway
- Clearer pathways to mainstream for those who can access such provision
- a broad range of opportunities for personal achievement and interdisciplinary learning
- Designated Education Support Officer (Inclusion) assigned to support the ongoing development and quality improvement of Enhanced Support Provisions through professional learning and training, support with individual target setting, tracking & monitoring, risk assessment, curriculum design and development, moderation activities, quality assurance processes, and the provision of strategic and pastoral support to staff and school leaders
- Strengthened integrated planning with partners
- Additional resources/adaptations/budget allocation reviewed annually

3.2 Spaces for learning are designated in such a way as to allow a range of teaching styles and approaches, including active learning, interdisciplinary learning and outdoor learning.

3.3 The curriculum provides 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.

3.4 Pupils are 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.

3.5 The provision of high-quality technology for learning provides 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.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

4.1 There is limited impact for traffic management due to the small number of pupils involved in the delivery of the pilot.

4.2 It is anticipated that any community impacts that come from the consultations will be mitigated.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

5.1 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.

5.2 Financial Implications

The Service has developed the six pilot enhanced classrooms through the existing capital budget envelope.

5.3 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.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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.

7. CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

7.1 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.

7.2 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.

7.3 The consultation period will be a minimum of 30 school days. It begins on 23rd November 2026 and ends on 22nd January 2027.

7.4 The consultation will involve pupils, parent/carers, Parent Councils and staff of the schools involved, as well as other associated stakeholder and statutory consultees.

7.5 Public meetings will be held week on 7th December 2026 (primary provisions) and 16th December 2026 (secondary provisions).

7.6 Council officers will be present at each 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 7.9.

7.7 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 2.

7.8 An online version of the document and other items related to the consultation can be found online: Live consultations | North Lanarkshire Council

7.9 Further information on the proposal can be obtained by sending an email to

coltnessespconsultation@northlan.gov.uk

OurladysMotherwell@northlan.gov.uk

Braidhurstespconsultation@northlan.gov.uk

eastfieldespconsultation@northlan.gov.uk

stthomasespconsultation@northlan.gov.uk

newmonklandespconsultation@northlan.gov.uk

7.10 All interested parties are invited to submit their comments on or before 22nd January 2027.

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.

8.2 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.

8.3 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.

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

8.5 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.

8.6 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.

8.7 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.

9.2 This consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Act. This consultation has been planned in order to meet the following statutory requirements:

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

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

9.5 The proposal paper will be published and widely advertised.

9.6 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.

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

9.8 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.

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

9.10 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.

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

Appendix 2 of the Proposal Paper to provide six enhanced provisions

Tentative Consultation Timeline

Proposal to Consult on the proposal that six enhanced provisions Eastfield Primary, New Monkland Primary, St Thomas's Primary and Braidhurst High School, Coltness High School and Our Lady's High School (Motherwell) are made permanent

Milestone	Date
Committee approval to consult	17 November 2026
Consultation opens	23 November 2026
Public meeting	7 December 2026 (Primaries) & 16 December (High Schools)
Consultation closes	22 January 2027
Documentation submitted to HMIE	12 February 2027
HMIE engagement period	15 February 2027 to 11 March 2027
Consultation report published	25 March 2027
Further consideration period	Until 13 April 2027
Committee decision	May/June 2027 (TBC)