Appendix 1 – Final Outcome Report

North Lanarkshire Council

Statutory Consultation – Final Outcome Report

proposal by North Lanarkshire Council 2026 Schools Admission Policy:
Placing Requests & Exclusions

EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Published Monday 19 October 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

North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) manages school admissions in line with the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 and Scottish Government guidance. Parents and carers have the legal right to submit a placing request for their child to attend a school other than their designated catchment school, although approval depends on available places and other statutory considerations.

Children are normally expected to attend their local catchment school, determined by their home address. Registration usually takes place in January for an August start, and parents must provide proof of the child's age and residence. School capacities are set by the local authority and can influence admission decisions.

Parents may also request early entry to primary school for children who are not yet five years old, with applications assessed individually based on the child's readiness for school.

Where placing requests cannot be granted, parents have a right of appeal under Scottish education legislation. NLC seeks to balance parental choice with school capacity, resource management, and educational provision, using clear prioritisation criteria to ensure fairness and transparency.

The Council also aims to reflect the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Incorporation (Scotland) Act 2024 in decisions relating to school placements and appeals. Catchment areas remain an important factor, with children living within a school's designated area generally receiving priority for admission.

1.1 The key reasons for the proposal, as set out in the Committee paper, were;

- Increasing demand for school places
- Greater need for fairness and transparency
- Compliance with legal duties
- Management of school capacities
- Formalising existing practice at Dalziel High School
- Parental Choice
- Improving consistency across primary and secondary transfer
- Supporting The Plan for North Lanarkshire

1.2 Appendix (i) of this report contains the consultation report as issued with reported amendments.

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 consultation period commenced on Tuesday 5 May 2026 with the closing date on Friday 21 August 2026, a total of **79 weekdays which included 43 school days.** Timeline at Appendix (ii)

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

2.1.4 A face-to-face staff meeting was held on Tuesday **2 June 2026** from 4.00pm until 5.00pm at **Clyde Valley High School**

2.1.5 A face-to-face staff meeting was held on **Wednesday 3 June 2026** from 4.00pm until 5.00pm at **St Ambrose High School.**

2.1.6 A face-to-face staff meeting was held on **Thursday 5 June 2026** from 4.00pm until 5.00pm at **Cumbernauld Academy**

2.1.7 A face-to-face public meeting was held on **Tuesday 2 June 2026** from 6.00pm until 8.00pm at **Clyde Valley High School**

2.1.8 A face-to-face public meeting was held on **Wednesday 3 June** from 6.00pm until 8.00pm at **St Ambrose High School**

2.1.9 A face-to-face public meeting was held on **Thursday 4 June** from 6.00pm until 8.00pm at **Cumbernauld Academy**

2.1.10 Responses to the proposal could be made electronically to **efadmissionsconsultation**@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 North Lanarkshire Council
- All affected teaching and non-teaching staff of North Lanarkshire Council
- 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;
- HMIE
- 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 2 June 2026 – 8 attendees.
- Public meeting held on Tuesday 2 June 2026 - 8 attendees. With representation from HMIE
- Staff meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2026 - 18 attendees.
- Public meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2026 - 19 attendees
- Staff meeting held on Thursday 4 June 2026 - 8 attendees
- Public meeting held on Thursday 4 June 2026 - 6 attendees. With representation from HMIE
- The total number of individual consultee email responses received was 10

Copies of the full consultation responses and notes from the on-line meetings can be found at Appendix (iii)

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 were 10 email responses in total to the proposal.

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:-

- Catchment Changes
- Cross Border placing requests
- School Capacities
- Dates for decisions made earlier

4.1 Catchment Changes

Stakeholders asked if there was potential for the catchment area to change

Response

There are a few variables used by the council's Forward Planning team to determine catchment areas such as post code and population numbers. There is a page on the council website where you can put in your postcode, and it will show you your catchment schools. There are areas where people live on the boundaries of catchments and their catchment school is further than the nearest school.

There are no plans at the present time to amend catchment area.

4.2 Cross Border Placing Requests

Will there be a review of boundaries? What are the benefits to NLC allowing Glasgow schools is it financial, is it for specialist provision

Response

We are not looking to rezone under this consultation; the proposal is to amend the admissions policy priorities. In 2005 a consultation was approved for delineation, we will

take all comments on board. The catchment consideration is not part of this proposal at this time

4.3 **School Capacities**

Are there any plans to revise capacities within schools?

Response

No. North Lanarkshire council are governed by the Scottish Government guidance on school capacities

4.4 **Dates for Decisions made earlier**

Parents of P7 children who have been refused a placing request have asked if there will be any impact on the timelines of the process?

Response

The timescales follow the national guidelines; the new proposal should help pupils within associated primaries and reduce the need for appeal and give parents a response in a timeous manner

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

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

5.1.1 Overall HMIE supported North Lanarkshire Councils proposal to amend the Admissions Policy for mainstream primary and secondary schools. They agreed that the proposed changes would bring education benefits and improve the fairness, transparency and consistency of the admissions and placing request system

5.1.2 Education Scotland identified the following key potential educational benefits:

- Provide access to quality education
- Manage school capacities more effectively
- Support parental choice
- Consistency throughout a child's educational journey

HM Inspectors agree that the proposed amendments should support the council to adopt a more rigorous process to continue to ensure fairness and transparency.

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal should help North Lanarkshire Council to ensure it can provide consistency for pupils in their school career and support choice for parents. HM Inspectors agree that the council should make the proposed amendments to the current Admissions Policy (mainstream).

Should this proposal be agreed, North Lanarkshire Council will work with schools and other relevant local authorities to support cohesive and effective transitions for all children.

The council will clearly signpost parents, to whom this may apply, to placing request information in other local authorities.

Should this proposal be agreed, it will be important for the council to consider a review of catchments for all mainstream primary and secondary schools in North Lanarkshire.

In finalising its report, the council should consult Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Comann nam Pàrant and seek their views on the proposals.

In response to the observations of HMIE, Education, Children & Families agree that these findings are consistent with those of the Service.

The Service will continue to engage with all stakeholders both formally 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 OR AMENDMENTS

Amendments attached as Appendix (vi)

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 North Lanarkshire Council
- Parents/carers of those pupils;
- Staff who work at schools throughout North Lanarkshire Council

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 17 November 2026.

Appendix (i) – Statutory Proposal to Consult

Statutory Consultation (as amended)

Proposal to amend the admission policy
PRIORITIES FOR ADMISSIONS: PRIMARY MAINSTREAM
PRIORITIES FOR ADMISSIONS: SECONDARY MAINSTREAM

EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



PROPOSED (as amended)

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND FAMILIES

PRIORITIES FOR ADMISSIONS: PRIMARY MAINSTREAM

Parent/carers who live in North Lanarkshire apply for a Primary 1 place for their child in either the non-denominational or denominational primary school in their catchment area. Arrangements for registration are publicised each year in January. Where there are sufficient places, all those children will be allocated a place at their catchment primary school.

To allow more effective management of placing requests to the school the following priority order for admission to the school is being proposed:

(a) children who live in the catchment area, including any who previously could not be accommodated in the school in accordance with the following priorities:

1. those children with a specialist request, as per section 2.12 of the Committee paper, that can only be accommodated within the requested school.

2. In the case of a denominational school, where applications from those living within the catchment area exceed the number of places available, priority will be given to those pupils who have been baptised into the Roman Catholic Church, as evidenced by a Baptismal Certificate.

(b) children who live out with the catchment area but within the North Lanarkshire Council area in accordance with the following priorities:

1. those children with a specialist request as per section 2.12 of the Committee paper, that can only be accommodated within the requested school.

2. those children who have older siblings, in attendance at the school at the time the application for a place in Primary 1 takes effect.

(c) children who live out with the North Lanarkshire Council area in accordance with the following priorities:

1. those children with a specialist request, as per section 2.12 of the Committee paper, that can only be accommodated within the requested school.

2. those children who have older siblings, in attendance at the school at the time the application for a place in Primary 1 takes effect.

Once applications have been considered, and if there are still more requests than places available, these will be allocated by ballot. The ballot will follow the admission priorities listed above.

PROPOSED (as amended)

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND FAMILIES

PRIORITIES FOR ADMISSIONS: SECONDARY MAINSTREAM

Parent/carers who live in North Lanarkshire apply for a Secondary 1 place for their child in either the non-denominational or denominational primary school in their catchment area. Arrangements for registration are publicised each year in January. Where there are sufficient places, all those children will be allocated a place at their catchment secondary school.

To allow more effective management of placing requests to the school the following priority order for admission to the school is being proposed:

Parent/carers who live in North Lanarkshire apply for a Secondary 1 place for their child in either the non-denominational or denominational primary school in their catchment area.

Arrangements for registration are publicised each year in January. Where there are sufficient places, all those children will be allocated a place at their catchment secondary school.

To allow more effective management of placing requests to the school the following priority order for admission to the school is being proposed:

(a) children who live in the catchment area, including any who previously could not be accommodated in the school in accordance with the following priorities:

1. those children with a specialist request, as per section 2.12 of the Committee paper, that can only be accommodated within the requested school.

2. In the case of a denominational school, where applications from those living within the catchment area exceed the number of places available, priority will be given to pupils who have been baptised into the Roman Catholic Church, as evidenced by Baptismal Certificate.

(b) children who live out with the catchment area but within the North Lanarkshire Council area in accordance with the following priorities:

1. those children with a specialist request, as per section 2.12 of the Committee paper, that can only be accommodated within the requested school.

2. those children who have older siblings, in attendance at the school at the time the application for a place in Secondary 1 takes effect.

3. those children who attend an associated primary that are out with the secondary catchment area.

(c) children who live out with the North Lanarkshire Council area in accordance with the following priorities:

1. those children with a specialist request, as per section 2.12 of the Committee paper, that can only be accommodated within the requested school.

2. those children who have older siblings, in attendance at the school at the time the application for a place in Secondary 1 takes effect.

Once applications have been considered, and if there are still more requests than places available, these will be allocated by ballot. The ballot will follow the admission priorities listed above.

Appendix (ii) – Indicative Timeline

Stage	Timeline requirements	Dates (actual)
1. Committee Date		Tuesday 3 March 2026
2. Consultation Starts Phase 1	Minimum of 6 weeks To include 30 calendar days	*Tuesday 5 May 2026 –Friday 21 August 2026
3. Public Meetings	North; South; Central	Tuesday 2 June, Wednesday 3 June and Thursday 4 June
4. Consultation Ends	30 Days (actual 43 school days)	Wednesday 12 August 2026
5. Stakeholder Documentation to HMIe	No specified timescale	Tuesday 15 September 2026
6. HMIe produce report	3 weeks	Tuesday 6 October 2026
7. HMIE one week notice of publication		Friday 9 October 2026
8. Consultation report published	No specified timescale	Monday 19 October 2026
9. Time for further consideration	3 weeks from publication date	Monday 9 November 2026
10. Final Committee Decision		17 November 2026
11. Implement proposal if approved by Committee		

*excludes Monday 4 May, Thursday 7 May, Friday 22 May, Monday 25 May and 26 June to Tuesday 11 August 2026

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

Staff Consultation Meeting

Admissions Policy Consultation

Date: 2 June 2026

Start Time: 16:11 End Time: 16:31

Venue: Clyde Valley High School

Notes/Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Present:

T O'Hagan Senior Education and Families Manager

A Henry Senior Education and Families Manager

M Dolan Education and Families Manager (North)

M McGorry Project Manager – Learning Environment

L Macpherson Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (notes)

D Lees Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (notes)

Q Question

A Answer

S Statement

MD welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the panel; MD explained the reason for the proposal and outlined the statutory process. MD then presented the proposal to staff and opened the floor for questions

Q For pupils within North Lanarkshire Council, where is their right to their current school?

A Pupils have a right to their school place within their catchment school. The Admissions Policy: Placing Requests (Mainstream) there have been several admission policy revisions and in particular updates in 2006 and prior to that 1996.

Q If the child has a placement within their catchment but applies for a placement in South Lanarkshire Council which is rejected, is there a possibility they could lose their place in their catchment?

A Parents/Carers have the right to apply for a placing request anywhere in Scotland and the pupil will be entitled to a place within their catchment school

Q Is it correct that we cannot retain places for potential pupils applying mid-term. It would be classed as a mid-term placement, and if there is capacity within the requested school then the pupil will be considered for a space. If the school is over capacity it is moved to HQ to allocate via the process. It is correct that the current policy is not to keep places, and should that be a highlighted concern that comes out through this consultation, it will be taken into consideration.

S New policy feels very clear and helpful and its useful and valid.

MD closed meeting with the agreement of all stakeholders and again encouraged stakeholders to send in their comments, views and questions to the mailboxes. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document will be updated on the website to reflect stakeholders' comments, questions and views

Public Consultation Meeting

Admissions Policy Consultation

Date: 2 June 2026

Start Time: 18:08 End Time: 18:31

Venue: Clyde Valley High School

Notes/Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Present:

B Smedley Chief Officer, Education (North)

T O'Hagan Senior Education and Families Manager

A Henry Senior Education and Families Manager

M Dolan (MD) Education and Families Manager (North)

V Sherry Education and Families Manager (North)

M McGorry Project Manager – Learning Environment

L Macpherson Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (notes)

D Lees Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (notes)

Q Question

A Answer

S Statement

MD welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the panel; MD explained the reason for the proposal and outlined the statutory process. MD then presented the proposal to staff and opened the floor for questions

Q Is it the same criteria for Dalziel?

A Yes

S The mailbox has been reduced from three to one to avoid confusion for people who were unsure what area their school came under

ef.admissionsconsultation@northlan.gov.uk

However, the other mailboxes will remain live and are monitored.

Q As a parent of a P7 child whose place was refused, will there be any impact on the timelines of the process, my child has been very anxious with very little support. Catchment school has been very supportive; however, the process has been very drawn out and has a detrimental impact on children, appeals also take too long?

A The timescales follow the national guidelines, and it is important that the Head Teacher is aware of any anxieties to allow them to support. The new proposal should

help pupils within associated primaries and to reduce appeals and to give parents a response in a timeous manner.

Q What's my daughter's chances of getting into her preferred school?

A Cannot discuss individual cases but one of the panel members will be happy to speak to you after the meeting. In general, any parent can apply to any school, that is their right.

Q What if my placing request is refused?

A Young person will be accommodated in their catchment school.

Q Is any consideration given to the feelings of the child – what if my child says "that is where I want to go?". Surely it is not in their best interests to refuse them that request.

A Of course we would want every child to go to the school of their choice. However, to place children across the authority we have to consider the capacity of the schools. Some of our schools run at full capacity.

MD closed meeting with the agreement of all stakeholders and again encouraged stakeholders to send in their comments, views and questions to the mailboxes. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document will be updated on the website to reflect stakeholders' comments, questions and views

Staff Consultation Meeting

Admissions Policy Consultation

Date: 3 June 2026

Start Time: 16:12 End Time: 16:34

Venue: St Ambrose High School

Notes/Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Present:

T O'Hagan Senior Education and Families Manager

A Henry Senior Education and Families Manager

M Dolan (MD) Education and Families Manager (North)

M McGorry Project Manager – Learning Environment

L Macpherson Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (notes)

D Lees Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (notes)

Q Question

A Answer

S Statement

MD welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the panel; MD explained the reason for the proposal and outlined the statutory process. MD then presented the proposal to staff and opened the floor for questions

Q Are there any plans for the postcodes to be changed in the catchment for St Ambrose or rezoning.

A No, that would require a separate public consultation for all establishments in North Lanarkshire Council where appropriate. The proposals put forward on this presentation is what is being consulted on. There are no proposed changes to the five associated primary schools to St Ambrose.

Q Are there any plans to revise capacities within schools?

A No. North Lanarkshire council are governed by the Scottish Government guidance on school capacities

Q If schools are over capacity does that mean we will not accept any more placing requests?

A The proposal is to change the criteria for placing requests. We project the number of placing requests over the next two years via our forward planning team.

Q Will placing requests be decided earlier?

A All submissions must be completed by 15 March and parents/carers notified by 30 April, if the proposal is accepted we would hope to inform parents/carers earlier

MD closed meeting with the agreement of all stakeholders and again encouraged stakeholders to send in their comments, views and questions to the mailboxes. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document will be updated on the website to reflect stakeholders' comments, questions and views

Public Consultation Meeting

Admissions Policy Consultation

Date: 3 June 2026

Start Time: 18:07 End Time: 18:36

Venue: St Ambrose High School

Notes/Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Present:

B Smedley Chief Officer, Education (North)

T O'Hagan Senior Education and Families Manager

A Henry Senior Education and Families Manager

M Dolan (MD) Education and Families Manager (North)

V Sherry Education and Families Manager (North)

M McGorry Project Manager – Learning Environment

L Macpherson Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (notes)

D Lees Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (notes)

Q Question

A Answer

S Statement

MD welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the panel; MD explained the reason for the proposal and outlined the statutory process. MD then presented the proposal to staff and opened the floor for questions

Q If your application is denied, will I still get a place in the catchment school?

A Yes

Q Is there priority for Roman Catholic over non-denominational for requests to RC schools?

A We don't distinguish between postcodes at this time. Denomination and non-denomination requests for placements within NLC schools will be considered as part of the statutory consultation.

S Section 2.18 says children will be a priority; it needs to be clear if RC is not being prioritised.

A FAQ's will be updated

Q Will parents find out earlier if the placing request has been successful?

A All submissions must be completed by 15 March and parents/carers notified by 30 April, if the proposal is accepted we would hope to inform parents/carers earlier

Q I'd like to highlight the difficulty in planning transitions for pupils where there is no guarantee of secondary place. Pupils who live nearer their non-catchment secondary than their catchment secondary should be considered a priority. Pupils going to St Ambrose get better transitions as there are only 5 associated schools whereas there are 9 associated schools to St Andrew's. Would it not make sense to reduce St Ambrose to 3 schools and then realign the associated primaries more equally?

A There is no plan at present to change the catchment areas or zones. There is no proposal to change the 5 associated schools to St Ambrose.

Q Will there be a review of boundaries? What are the blockers to a wider consultation. I don't fully understand as to why we can't look at the catchments?

A We are not looking to rezone under this consultation; the proposal is to amend the admissions policy priorities.

Q Is this for children with special needs?

A No, mainstream only. A member of the panel will be available after the meeting to discuss Additional Support Needs placements

Q Over 90% children come to St Ambrose, it's highly disappointing that there are schools in the area that are not RC get precedence over my child as they live in the area. The children have a right to a safe walking route to school, it is safer to walk to St Ambrose than walk to catchment school. Schools from Glasgow are allowed in, there needs to be a wider consultation on how North Lanarkshire Council can get it right for every child as it doesn't seem to be getting it right. What are the benefits to NLC allowing Glasgow schools is it financial, is it for specialist provision?

A In 2005 a consultation was approved for delineation, we will take all comments on board and happy to have individual conversation at the end of this meeting. The catchment consideration is not part of this proposal at this time.

Q How often does NLC go out to consultation, there are more homes being added to the St Kevin's cluster, there are no other Catholic Schools near in Glasgow

A Glasgow schools are part of the delineation; we need an admissions policy fit for all schools within NLC

S We look at projected roles, and we are comfortable with the projections taking into account all new building in the area

MD closed meeting with the agreement of all stakeholders and again encouraged stakeholders to send in their comments, views and questions to the mailboxes. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document will be updated on the website to reflect stakeholders' comments, questions and views

Staff Consultation Meeting

Admissions Policy Consultation

Date: 4 June 2026

Start Time: 16:14 End Time: 16:27

Venue: Cumbernauld Academy

Notes/Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)Present:

T O'Hagan(TO'H) Senior Education and Families Manager

A Henry Senior Education and Families Manager

M Dolan (MD) Education and Families Manager (North)

M McGorry Project Manager – Learning Environment

L Macpherson Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (notes)

D Lees Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (notes)

Q Question

A Answer

S Statement

MD welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the panel; MD explained the reason for the proposal and outlined the statutory process. MD then presented the proposal to staff and opened the floor for questions

Q When you mention specialist provision and the example you gave was GME does

that include ASN

A No, where an establishment can only provide that specialist provision

MD closed meeting with the agreement of all stakeholders and again encouraged stakeholders to send in their comments, views and questions to the mailboxes. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document will be updated on the website to reflect stakeholders' comments, questions and views

Public Consultation Meeting

Admissions Policy Consultation

Date: 4 June 2026

Start Time: 18:07 End Time: 18:33

Venue: Cumbernauld Academy

Notes/Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Present:

B Smedley Chief Officer, Education (North)

T O'Hagan Senior Education and Families Manager

A Henry Senior Education and Families Manager

M Dolan (MD) Education and Families Manager (North)

V Sherry Education and Families Manager (North)

M McGorry Project Manager – Learning Environment

L Macpherson Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (notes)

D Lees Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (notes)

Q Question

A Answer

S Statement

MD welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the panel; MD explained the reason for the proposal and outlined the statutory process. MD then presented the proposal to staff and opened the floor for questions

Q Is there anyway of pre-empting in advance that a school will be over-subscribed? The proposal specifically mentions Dalziel and St Ambrose, are there any others?

A The two schools were used as examples as there are a number of schools across the authority that are at capacity. The school roll information is published by Scottish Government on their website annually.

Q Is any consideration given to a child's needs such as a reason for a particular school in the child's GIRFME plan?

A This consultation if for mainstream only, placements are based on the school's capacity.

Q Who do I get in contact with to get help with travel to mainstream schools? School have stated that it is not them and to contact Education.

A There is an email address on the website however, someone will be available to speak to you at the end of the meeting.

Q When my son is due to start school, will he have priority as he will have an older sibling at the school.

A Yes

Q How do you determine catchment area?

I thought my catchment was North Lanarkshire. My children go to a school nearest my home, but it is not their catchment school.

A There are a few variables used by the council's Forward Planning team to determine catchment areas such as post code and population numbers. There is a page on the council website where you can put in your postcode and it will show you your catchment schools. There are areas where people live on the boundaries of catchments and their catchment school is further than the nearest school.

A There are no plans at the present time to amend catchment areas.

Q I have just moved in the Cumbernauld area my daughter is currently at Coatbridge High School, the catchment school is Greenfaulds/OLHS and not Cumbernauld Academy, Do I have to register my daughter at her catchment school then apply for placing request or do I apply direct for placing request from her current school?

A There are two ways either register from catchment or apply directly for a placing request, happy to speak to you after the meeting.

Q What's the turnaround for placing request?

A All submissions must be completed by 15 March and parents/carers notified by 30 April, if the proposal is accepted we would hope to inform parents/carers earlier.

Q Is there anywhere we can see historical data on schools, maybe the last 3 or 4 years?

A An FOI can be submitted requesting the information.

MD closed meeting with the agreement of all stakeholders and again encouraged stakeholders to send in their comments, views and questions to the mailboxes. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document will be updated on the website to reflect stakeholders' comments, questions and views

Appendix (iv) Education Scotland Report

HMIE | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland
Luchd-sgrùdaidh an Rìgh airson Foghlam ann an Alba

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by HMIE addressing educational aspects of the proposal by North Lanarkshire Council to amend the current Admissions Policy: Priorities for admissions: Primary and Secondary Mainstream

September 2026

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from HMIE has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of a proposal by North Lanarkshire Council to amend the current Admissions Policy: Priorities for admissions: Primary and Secondary Mainstream. 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' view. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it alongside any relevant considerations the council received and then prepare its consultation report. The council's consultation report should include this 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 consultation report at least three weeks before it takes its final decision. With all proposals the council needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area
- 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.

In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meetings held on 2 June and 4 June 2026 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;
- visits to the sites of Aitkenhead Primary School, Christ the King Primary School and Nursery
- Class, Greengairs Primary School and Nursery Class, Our Lady and St Francis Primary School and Nursery class, Clyde Valley High School, Cumbernauld Academy, Greenfaulds High School, St Aidan's High School and St Ambrose High School, including discussion with relevant consultees;
- discussion with a representative from the Scottish Catholic Education Service.

2. Consultation process

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

2.2 The statutory consultation ran from 5 May to 21 August 2026. Copies of the proposal were made available to stakeholders and on the council website and social media. Having listened to comments and feedback at the public consultation meetings, the Education Service amended the Admissions Policy proposal. The statutory consultation period was extended by ten days, excluding school days. This was due to the amendments and links to the proposal on the council website not working initially and to allow for further consideration.

2.3 The council held three public meetings on 2, 3 and 4 June 2026 at Clyde Valley High School, St Ambrose High School and Cumbernauld Academy. Thirty-three stakeholders in total attended the public meetings. Interested parties were invited to respond to the statutory consultation through the council's online platform or by email. In total, the council received eight written responses to the consultation. Stakeholders raised queries and concerns about placing requests from families, whose children already attended associated primary schools, possibly being refused places at secondary schools which are at capacity. Stakeholders also raised queries and concerns around catchment areas and the amount of new housing in North Lanarkshire since catchment areas were last reviewed and amended. A few stakeholders expressed concerns about some cross boundary primary and secondary school catchments between North Lanarkshire Council and neighbouring local authorities.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 North Lanarkshire Council proposes to review and amend the council's processes in managing school admissions as a result of placing requests to mainstream primary and secondary schools. North Lanarkshire Council state this should improve transparency, expand capacity, and better support appeals, which should enhance the system's fairness and effectiveness. HM Inspectors and almost all stakeholders who met with them agree that there are education benefits in North Lanarkshire Council providing one clear point of reference for admissions as a result of placing requests across all mainstream educational establishments in North Lanarkshire. HM Inspectors and almost all stakeholders who met with them agree this proposal should support North Lanarkshire Council to ensure fairness and transparency in the allocation of placing requests. They agree this should improve transparency and enhance the system's fairness and effectiveness.

3.2 HM Inspectors agree that there are educational benefits in North Lanarkshire Council being better placed to ensure that all children have access to quality education in a school that meets their needs, whilst also managing resources and school capacities effectively. HM Inspectors agree that partnership working with parents through a clearer policy will help schools to develop a warm, welcoming and inclusive ethos. HM Inspectors and almost all stakeholders agree that this would support the council to ensure that they can provide consistency for pupils in their school career and support choice for parents. Stakeholders who spoke to HM Inspectors say that they would like the council to consider making the process for enrolment in P1, and subsequent consideration of placing requests, earlier in the academic year. A few parents, children and young people describe missing out on enhanced transition due to the timing of approval of placing requests. They report this can cause undue

stress for children and families. In taking forward its proposal, it will be important for the council to consider facilitating enhanced transition for children and young people awaiting the outcome of placing requests.

3.3 Currently, children living within the catchment area for a few North Lanarkshire Council primary schools normally progress to secondary schools in other local authorities. Stakeholders say those parents of children who attend such North Lanarkshire primary schools, as a result of a placing request, are unclear on the process for their child to attend secondary schools which are out with North Lanarkshire. They believe if a child attends a particular North Lanarkshire primary school as a result of a placing request, they should be considered a priority to progress to the associated secondary school in another council. Stakeholders are worried that the proposal could negatively impact on the continuity of learning and wellbeing as these children move into secondary education. They would like clear guidance about this. In taking forward its proposal, it will be important for the council to consider providing clear guidance about how parents can access information about admissions policies in other associated local authorities.

3.4 Currently, children living within the catchment area for primary schools in a few other local authorities progress to secondary school in North Lanarkshire. Stakeholders believe if a child attends a particular North Lanarkshire primary school as a result of a placing request, they should be considered a priority to progress to the associated secondary school. In taking forward this proposal, it will be important for the council to consider if such requests should be given priority.

3.5 Stakeholders are concerned that current catchment areas do not meet the needs of communities which have grown, and continue to grow, due to housing development within the council. In taking forward its proposal, North Lanarkshire Council should consider reviewing catchment areas for mainstream schools (primary and secondary).

3.6 The Catholic Church supports the proposal to ensure that denominational primary and secondary schools are fully available to Catholic pupils who live in the school's catchment area with priority for enrolment to each school given to Catholic pupils in possession of a baptismal certificate.

3.7 Although the proposed amendments to the current Admissions Policy (mainstream) do not make any changes to Gàidhlig Medium Education, the council should invite Bòrd na Gàidhlig to provide a report or express their views on its proposal. The council may also benefit from engaging with Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) to ensure full representation of parents' views on their proposals. It should give further consideration to users of Gàidhlig Medium Education to enable their proposed Admissions Policy (mainstream) to be fully a one-step and inclusive reference for all educational provisions. In so doing, the council should take account of legislation specific to Gàidhlig and specify how their proposal, should it be progressed, meets outcomes to promote Gàidhlig and North Lanarkshire Council's Gàidhlig Language Plan.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree with the educational benefits outlined by the council of the proposed amendments. They agree that the proposed amendments should support the council to adopt a more rigorous process to continue to ensure fairness and transparency. HM Inspectors agree that the proposal should help North Lanarkshire Council to ensure it can

provide consistency for pupils in their school career and support choice for parents. HM Inspectors agree that the council should make the proposed amendments to the current Admissions Policy (mainstream). Should this proposal be agreed, it will be important for North Lanarkshire Council to work with schools and other relevant local authorities to support cohesive and effective transitions for all children. When taking forward this proposal, it will be important to clearly signpost parents, to whom this may apply, to placing request information in other local authorities. Should this proposal be agreed, it will be important for the council to consider a review of catchments for all mainstream primary and secondary schools in North Lanarkshire. In finalising its report, the council should consult Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Comann nam Pàrant and seek their views on the proposals.

HM Inspectors
September 2026

On behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland

Appendix (v) – Amendments Published

Admissions Policy Proposal Placing Requests & Exclusions.pdf

Admission Policy Proposal Amended 20260615.pdf

Admissions Policy Indicative Timeline Amended 150626.pdf

Appendix (vi) Equality Impact Assessment Form

Section 1. About the Policy

1. Name of the policy / strategy / function / procedure:	
2026 Schools Admission Policy: Placing Requests & Exclusions	
Is this a: -	
A new policy /strategy / function / procedure / service	**Y**
Budget saving	
Review of policy /strategy / function / procedure	**Y**
Review of Service	
Other (please specify) Community Asset Transfer	
Is this a key strategic decision subject to the Fairer Scotland Duty Yes, in relation to the Fairer Scotland Duty requirement for public bodies "to actively consider how they could reduce inequalities of outcome in any major strategic decision they make."	**Y**

1.2 Person Responsible for the policy etc.	
Name:	**Job Title and Service / Team:**
Michael Dolan	**Education & Families Manager**

1.3 What is the scope of the assessment?	P	Detail where appropriate
Whole of the organisation		
Service specific	Y	Education, Children and Families
Discipline specific	Y	
Other	Y	

4. What is the policy/ strategy/ function/ saving trying to achieve / do?

1.5 If this is a budget saving, how will the saving be achieved?
n/a

Section 2. What do I know now?

2.1 Who are the stakeholders and beneficiaries?
• **Pupils** • **Parents/Carers** • **Employees: Head Teachers, teaching and non-teaching staff** • **Managers: The Operational Team that will project manage this strategy, Programme Board that will oversee it, and managers across the departments who will be asked to provide their views and input throughout the review process** • **Third sector partners** • **Owners: The Project Sponsor, Barry Smedley Chief Officer (North); Michael Dolan, Resource Officer.**
2.2 What data, consultation, research and other evidence or information is available relevant to this assessment? (This is a desktop exercise)
A consultation process will be 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.

2.3 Considering the information in Section 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	**n/a**

Low wealth	**n/a**
Material deprivation	**n/a**
Area deprivation	**n/a**

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)	**Y**	**4-18 years**			
Disabled people and people with long term health conditions	**Y**				
Women and men, girls and boys	**Y**				
People defined by their race, colour and nationality, ethnic or national origins.	**N**				
Married people and civil partners	**N**				
Pregnant women and new mothers (including breastfeeding women)	**N**				
Lesbian, gay and bisexual people	**N**				
People transitioning from one gender to another	**N**				
People of different religions or beliefs or non-beliefs	**N**				
Other groups					
Children and families	**Y**				
Homeless people	**N**				
People who are care experienced	**Y**				
Care leavers	**Y**				
Carers – paid / unpaid, family members	**N**				
Asylum seekers	**N**				

Employees – full and part time. Including SES, MAs etc.	**Y**				
Others	**Y**	**.**			

2.4 Do you have evidence or reason to believe that this policy will, or may potentially affect the Council's duty to: (Please tick all that apply).			
	Yes	**No**	**Don't Know**
1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010?	**Yes**		
2.Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not	**Yes**		
3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not?	**Yes**		
4. Protect and promote human rights?	**Yes**		
5. Reduce socio-economic disadvantage	**Yes**		

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.			
People and communities	**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)	**Y**		
Disabled people and people with long term health conditions	**Y**		
Women and men, girls and boys	**Y**		

People defined by their race, colour and nationality, ethnic or national origins.		**N**	
Married people and civil partners		**N**	
Pregnant women and new mothers and breastfeeding women.		**N**	
Lesbian, gay and bisexual people		**N**	
People transitioning from one gender to another		**N**	
People of different religions or beliefs or non-beliefs		**N**	
Other groups		**N**	
Children and families	**Y**		
Homeless people			
Care Experienced people	**Y**		
Care leavers	**Y**		
Carers – paid / unpaid, family members	**Y**		
Asylum Seekers		**N**	
Trade Unions	**Y**		
Employee Equality Forum		**N**	
Others		**N**	

3.2 What additional research or data is required?

3.3 What does the additional research and data tell you about potential or known effects?

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)	**4 – 18 years - Improve outcomes**		
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	**n/a**		
Looked after and accommodated people			
Care leavers			
Carers – paid / unpaid, family members	**n/a**		
Asylum Seekers	**n/a**		
Employees – full and part time. Including SES, MAs etc.			
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.

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

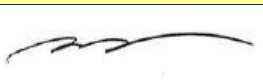
Action	Timescales	Responsible Officer	Review details (include timescales)

Section 5. Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing

5.1. How will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the new policy?
Monitoring placing requests annually (approvals and refusals)

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	X	Approval requested	November 2026
Adjust the policy then introduce			
Introduce the policy with justification regarding potential adverse impact			
Stop and withdraw the policy			

Name of Policy	Admissions Policy		
Head of Service /Senior Manager sign-off:			
Name	Job title and division/ team	Date	Signature
Michael Dolan	Education & Families Manager	20/09/2026	

For further information please contact:

Name:	Maryann McGorry
Job title:	Project Manager – Education
Service:	Education and Families
Contact details:	mcgorrym@northlan.gov.uk