

3. 2010 BASE SCHOOL FORECASTS

Medium term primary and secondary school forecasts were critical elements in the forward planning of revenue and capital investment in West Lothian and covered a time range from the current school session, 2009-10, with forecast rolls from 2010-11 through to 2020-2021.

The Education Executive considered a report by the Head of Service – Schools with Education Support (which had been circulated) advising of the updated 2010 base school forecast which would be used for future revenue and capital plans, pupil placement decisions, school provision planning and consultations and development plan consultations. In addition, the report provided an update on method changes, particularly the need to fully document and verify the forecast process for transparency and for future reference.

The report provided full information on the medium term school roll forecast methodology; caveats relating to current school roll forecasts including 0-18 year old population trend, housing allocations post 2019, and analysis of vacant properties and properties for sale in West Lothian; and concluded with information on the 2010 base school roll forecasts which were fully detailed in the appendices to the report.

The 2010 forecasts highlighted a particular demand for school places in the west of West Lothian. A recently completed secondary catchment review would greatly assist in the management of the anticipated school roll growth. Ongoing catchment reviews were essential. The forecasts were demand led and would be annually adjusted by actual placing decisions although it would prove impossible to balance all demand without significant school catchment revisions as well as the currently proposed school extensions.

The Head of Service – Schools with Education Support recommended that the Education Executive:-

- a. Agree the forecast update on pupil roll numbers, the assumptions and methodology applied in producing the data;
- b. Agree the school roll forecasts as being the basis for future education provision planning and consultation on development planning; and
- c. Agree that an updated report on school forecasts be brought to the Education Executive annually.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.