



EDUCATION EXECUTIVE

RELOCATION OF CEDARBANK SCHOOL, LIVINGSTON

REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION (LEARNING, POLICY AND RESOURCES)

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Education Executive approval to relocate Cedarbank School as part of the Council's continuing commitment to ensure equitable, high quality and sustainable education provision for pupils in West Lothian with a range of additional support needs related to learning difficulties and social communication needs.

To present to Education Executive with details of the outcome of the formal consultation, and the report of Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Education Executive:-

1. Approves the proposal to relocate Cedarbank School.
2. Notes the outcome of the formal consultation, and the report of Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	<p>The consultation does not change any existing policies.</p> <p>Legal</p> <p>The Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994. Education (Scotland) Act 1980 and related regulations. The Standards in Schools (Scotland) Act 2000. The School Education (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2002 and School (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. It is also necessary to consider primary and secondary school provision and catchment area arrangements in the context of the West Lothian Local Development Plan.</p>

III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	<p>We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities.</p> <p>Our economy is diverse and dynamic, and West Lothian is an attractive place for doing business.</p>
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	<p>Capital budget provision has been included in the Capital Programme for development of the additional needs school estate.</p> <p>Approved financial resources will meet obligations for printing and postage, costs associated with public meetings, for advertisements for the public meetings and for dedicated staff time required for this process.</p>
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Following consideration on 18 December 2018 the report was considered by the Education Executive of 23 April 2019, which approved the formal consultation.
VIII	Other consultations	<p>Finance and Property Services, Operational Services, Planning Economic Development and Regeneration Services, Legal Services.</p> <p>Formal consultations involved Parent Councils, parent/carers, pupils, staff and trade unions at affected schools. Community Councils within the catchment areas of the affected schools were also be consulted.</p>

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1. Background to Consultation Proposal

Cedarbank School is a secondary education establishment for children with a range of additional support needs related to learning difficulties and social communication needs. The school is currently located over 3 sites encompassing the Cedarbank School Building, Deans Community High School and Armadale Academy.

It is proposed that S1-S6 education for pupils with a range of additional support needs related to learning difficulties and social communication needs will be delivered by means of a separate provision within the estate of The James Young High School, Livingston. Cedarbank School will remain a defined school having a separate entrance to that of the mainstream school, it will maintain its identity and will continue to operate under the management of the Head Teacher of Cedarbank

School.

West Lothian Council wishes to optimise the educational experience for every pupil by providing the best possible education which meets the need of all learners. The relocation of Cedarbank School from the current sites at Cedarbank School building, Deans Community High School and Armadale Academy to an all-purpose facility will create a single inspiring learning environment for secondary stage pupils that meet the needs of existing and projected pupils with a range of additional support needs related to learning difficulties and social communication needs.

The proposal will ensure that accommodation at Cedarbank School will be fully accessible and equipped with modern solutions to provide opportunities for learners to achieve across all curricular areas, develop skills, attributes and capabilities through secondary education based courses that are aligned with the key principles of Curriculum for Excellence.

On evaluation of existing school estates and review of available land within the authority for relocation, it was considered that the site and provisions within The James Young High School estate offered best opportunity for expansion. Proposals for building the extension to The James Young High School are being developed with the intention of avoiding the necessity for children and young people to decant during the construction.

Initial design plans show future accommodation can incorporate the required functions for the delivery of secondary phase education in a personalised specialist environment.

Should the proposal be agreed and progressed and on completion of proposed works, the newly constructed Cedarbank School will have capacity to accommodate on a defined purpose built provision within The James Young High School estate, a 13 class base facility for secondary year stages S1 to S6 with an anticipated capacity of 10 pupils per class. West Lothian Council do not foresee any impact to the existing Cedarbank School roll capacity as a result of implementation of this proposal.

A copy of the Consultation Document is appended to this report as Appendix 1.

D2. Consultation Process

The consultation period incorporated a period of 30 school days (excluding any school holiday) from Monday 9 September 2019 until Wednesday 30 October 2019.

The Education Service proposal information was delivered through the undernoted media avenues:

- West Lothian Council Website
- West Lothian Council digital media products
- Local Press
- Available in hard copy via central locations within West Lothian
- Hard copy available for postal distribution on request

The Consultation Document was made available through the following means as and when requested:

- Translation Services
- Provision for deaf and hearing impaired, blind and visually impaired

Public meetings were held at Cedarbank School, Livingston, on Wednesday 18 September 2019 and at The James Young High School on Thursday 26 September 2019. Council officers outlined the key elements of the proposed relocation of Cedarbank School and answered question from meeting attendees.

During the consultation period views on the proposal were welcomed in writing.

D3. Outcome of Consultation

Written responses were received from:-

- Armadale Primary School Pupil Council
- Livingston Village Primary School Pupil Council
- The James Young High School Pupil Council
- Livingston Village Community Council

These groups received the proposals positively. Some concerns raised by pupils of The James Young High School were addressed.

Twelve individual e-mail responses were received.

There were 13 attendees at the public meeting held at Cedarbank School. Meeting attendees sought clarification of a number of points, and raised issues which were noted and responded to. Meeting attendees commented favourably on the proposed relocation of Cedarbank School, and in particular the proposed dedicated access, parking, outdoor space, and the large hall and dining area were well received.

There were 12 attendees at the public meeting held at The James Young High School. The Parent Council of The James Young High School were very supportive of the proposal.

Specific issues raised by in written responses, and at the public meetings, related to site access, natural light, availability of hall space for PE, toilet facilities, dining facilities, location of specific educational spaces, staff car parking, playground and open space facilities with defined boundaries, physical access route to shared facilities, number of teaching spaces, space allocated to each pupil, sufficiency of budget, capacity of school, the possibility of expanding the school and the suitability of accommodation to deliver curriculum for excellence.

A copy of the Council's Report of the statutory consultation is appended to this report as Appendix 2.

D4. Comments of Education Scotland on the Consultation

Education Scotland has written a report on West Lothian Council's proposal to relocate Cedarbank School.

Education Scotland agreed that the proposal has significant potential educational benefits for young people who currently attend Cedarbank School. They would have access to a more flexible, modern and integrated learning environment, with ready access to the curriculum opportunities and resources of The James Young High School. In preparing its final report, the Council should address the issues

raised by parents and staff relating to the specifications for the new school. In taking its proposal forward, an effective communication strategy and an action plan will be essential for the Council to keep all stakeholders informed and engaged in this development. The Council should include details of these in its final report.

The full Education Scotland report is appended to this report as Appendix 3.

D5. Specification of the New School – Ongoing Engagement with Parents

Work continues on the detailed design of the proposed new school. It is intended that both the Cedarbank School and The James Young High School communities (pupils, parents and staff) will continue to be involved in discussion regarding the final design.

This will provide the opportunity for the issues raised in written submissions and during the public meetings to receive further consideration in light of emerging detailed design, in order to ensure that the views of the school communities are taken account of as the design progresses.

It is intended that parents at both schools receive regular updates as the design process proceeds, with specific reference to those issues raised during the consultation.

E. CONCLUSION

The relocation of Cedarbank School will create a single inspiring learning environment for secondary stage pupils that meet the needs of existing and projected pupils with a range of additional support needs related to learning difficulties and social communication needs.

The accommodation will be fully accessible and equipped with modern solutions to provide opportunities for learners to achieve across all curricular areas, develop skills, attributes and capabilities through secondary education based courses that are aligned with the key principles of Curriculum for Excellence.

The outcome of the consultation process was that the proposal was welcomed by those participating, as set out in this report. A number of issues were raised during the consultation, as set out in this report. It is intended that both the Cedarbank School and The James Young High School communities will continue to be involved in discussion regarding the final design. This will provide the opportunity for the issues raised to receive further consideration, in order to ensure that the views of the school communities are taken account of as the design progresses.

Education Scotland agrees that the proposal, should it be approved, has significant potential educational benefits for young people who currently attend Cedarbank School.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

- Review of Additional Support Needs (ASN) Provision, Education Executive 12 November 2013
- Review of Additional Support Needs ASN provision, Education Executive 4 February 2017
- Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

- Education Executive Report dated 15 January 2019
- Education Executive Report dated 23 April 2019

Appendices/Attachments:

- Appendix 1: Consultation Document
- Appendix 2: Report of the Statutory Consultation
- Appendix 3: Education Scotland (HMle) Report

Contact:

Andrew Sneddon, Service Manager – Learning Policy and Performance

James Cameron, Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)

Date of meeting: 21 January 2020