



EDUCATION EXECUTIVE

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NON-DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL AT WINCHBURGH AND ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS

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

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Education Executive approval, following formal public consultation, of the proposal to establish a new non-denominational secondary school at Winchburgh.

To present to Education Executive with details of the outcome of the formal consultation, and the comments of Education Scotland on the consultation.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Education Executive:-

1. Approves the proposal to establish a new non-denominational secondary school to the site on the B9080 to the west of Winchburgh village centre.
2. Notes the outcome of the formal consultation, and the comments of Education Scotland on the consultation.
3. Note that the preference of the stakeholders for the new school name without exception is Winchburgh Academy.

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>The approved Capital Programme to 2027/28 includes provision for the new Winchburgh Secondary School.</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 for the process.</p>
VII	Consideration at PDSP	<p>PDSP offered initial consideration at its meeting on 1 May 2018 on the proposal to establish a new non-denominational secondary school at Winchburgh. Education Executive, at its meeting on 23 April 2019, authorised the commencement of statutory consultation with initial pre-consultation on the proposed establishment of a new non-denominational secondary school and associated proposals.</p>
VIII	Other consultations	<p>Finance and Property Services, Operational Services, Planning Economic Development and Regeneration Services, Legal Services.</p> <p>A formal consultation period was conducted between Thursday 26 September 2019 until Friday 15 November 2019 involving all relevant consultees as outlined via Schedule 2 of the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010.</p>

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1. Background to Consultation Proposal

As part of the delivery strategy for the West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) it is proposed to establish a new non-denominational secondary school which would include new and existing properties in Winchburgh, developed areas located in the existing catchments at Linlithgow Academy and Broxburn Academy.

The preferred identified site on the B9080 to the west of Winchburgh village centre demonstrates scope for delivery of a vibrant learning hub for the Winchburgh community.

Proposed intention initially is the delivery of a non-denominational secondary school to accommodate 660 pupils. Design plans will allow for future expansion.

A key aim of the proposal is delivery of an efficient sustainable learning establishment ensuring the new school is flexible and allows the creative and multiple use of spaces by staff, pupils and the community.

Planning intention is to commence construction on site 2020 with delivery of accommodation for August 2022.

It is proposed the year stages of the new education establishment will be introduced on a phased basis.

Alongside the pre-consultation phase stakeholders will give consideration to the name of the new school and recommendations will be offered to the Education Executive prior to the commencement of the Statutory Consultation.

D2. CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Statutory Consultation was widely communicated through the council's website, digital media channels and in the local press. A letter informing the proposal and consultation process was issued to consultees. Copies of the Public Consultation Paper were made available via central locations within West Lothian.

The formal consultation period began on Thursday 26 September 2019 and continued until Friday 15 November 2019, a period of 30 school days. A copy of the Public Consultation Paper is included in Appendix I, The Final Report on the statutory Consultation on the establishment of new non-denominational primary school at Calderwood, East Calder and Associated Proposals (The Final Report). Details of the consultees and consultation arrangements are also given in The Final Report, section 1.5.

A public meeting was held at Winchburgh Primary School on Wednesday 9 October 2019. A note of this meeting is included in section 3 of The Final Report.

D3. RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

All interested parties were invited to submit their comments in writing to Education Services, Civic Centre, Howden Road South, EH54 6FF or by email via the dedicated West Lothian Council School Consultation email address Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk.

No written representations were made. All email representations are detailed in The Final Report, Appendix 1, section 2.1.2. all of which were responded to in accordance with statutory guidelines.

No expression of opposition to the proposal was received during the statutory consultation.

The views of stakeholders with regard to the new school name were taken. Without exception the preference was Winchburgh Academy.

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

D4. EDUCATION SCOTLAND RESPONSE

Education Scotland has written a report on West Lothian Council's proposal to establish a new non-denominational secondary school at Winchburgh and associated proposals.

Education Scotland agrees that the proposed new secondary school and the associated catchment changes have the potential to relieve pressure on the existing local provision of secondary education. The new school has the potential to provide modern, improved facilities closer to the young peoples' homes and communities.

Should the proposal go ahead, the council should continue to work with stakeholders in terms of planning routes to the new school and clarifying entry arrangements for year groups of young people.

The full Education Scotland report is attached as Appendix 3.

E. CONCLUSION

With regard to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and having considered all of the information received during the consultation process, officers of West Lothian Council are satisfied that no comments have been received which would have caused them to review the merits of the proposal to establish a new non-denominational secondary school at Winchburgh and associated proposals.

Moreover, officers have listened carefully to the points made at the public meeting and have considered equally carefully the written representations, including the Education Scotland report which states, 'The new school has the potential to provide modern, improved facilities closer to the young peoples' homes and communities.'

It is recommended that Education Executive agree to implement the proposal to establish a new non-denominational secondary school at Winchburgh and associated proposals based on the specifications intimated on the original proposal paper and the enhancements detailed as per The Final Report, Appendix 1.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Education Executive report 23 April 2019 - Establishment of New Non-Denominational Secondary School at Winchburgh and Associated Proposals - Report by Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)

Education Executive report 10 September 2019 - Establishment of New Non-Denominational Secondary School at Winchburgh and Associated Proposals - Report by Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)

Appendices/Attachments:

- Appendix 1: Consultation Document
- Appendix 2: Report of the Statutory Consultation

- Appendix 3: Education Scotland Report

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

Date of meeting: Tuesday 21 January