

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



EDUCATION EXECUTIVE

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON DECHMONT / BANGOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL

REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION (PRIMARY, EARLY LEARNING AND RESOURCES)

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Education Executive approval, following public consultation, to relocate Dechmont Infant School, introduce year stages P4-P7 and review primary to secondary school transfer arrangements.

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 relocate Dechmont Infant School to a new school facility within the Bangour estate and introduce year stages P4-P7.
2. Notes the outcome of the formal consultation, and the comments of Education Scotland on the consultation.

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.</p>
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None

IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	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.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	PDSP offered initial consideration at its meeting on 27 August 2019 of the proposals and to seek Panel recommendation for submission to Education Executive to commence pre-consultation. Education Executive, at its meeting on 10 September 2019, authorised the commencement of pre-consultation. Education Executive considered the outcome of the pre-consultation and authorised the commencement of statutory public consultation at its meeting on 18 January 2022.
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 Monday 22 August 2022 until Friday 07 October 2022 involving all relevant consultees as outlined via Schedule 2 of the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010.</p>

D. TERMS OF REPORT

- D1.** Non-denominational primary stage education provision in the Dechmont and Bangour area currently consists of an infant school in Dechmont that delivers P1-P3 education followed by progression to Kirkhill Primary School in Broxburn for P4-P7 education.

Dechmont Infant School is the only remaining P1-P3 education facility in West Lothian. As part of the proposed development of the former Bangour Hospital site it is proposed to construct a new non-denominational P1-P7 primary school and nursery class incorporating Dechmont Infant School to cover both the existing village of Dechmont and the new development site at Bangour.

Pre-Consultation was undertaken in Autumn 2019 including a public meeting at Dechmont Hall on 08 October 2019. Consultees were supportive of the principles of the consultation and did not feel strongly about the alternative school site locations.

Consultees expressed a view that the site with best Educational Benefits should be chosen. Subsequent work by Education Services identified the Recreation Hall, Bangour as the best option.

The Pre-Consultation was reported to Education Executive on 18 January 2022.

D2. CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Statutory Consultation was widely communicated through the council's website and digital media channels. 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 Monday 22 August 2022 until Friday 07 October 2022, a period of at least 30 school days. A copy of the Public Consultation Paper is included in Appendix I, The Final Report on the statutory Consultation on the proposal to relocate Dechmont Infant School, introduce year stages P4-P7 and review primary to secondary school transfer arrangements (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 Dechmont Infant School on Wednesday 21 September 2022. A note of this meeting is included in section 3 of The Final Report.

D.3 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 or email responses were received regarding the proposals and no expressions of opposition to the proposals were received during the consultation period.

The seven attendees at the Statutory Consultation Meeting unanimously supported the consultation proposals. Although the number of attendees was small this was not unexpected with the current school roll at Dechmont Infant School and given there were no expressions of opposition during the pre-consultation conducted in 2019.

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

D4 EDUCATION SCOTLAND RESPONSE

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by West Lothian Council to relocate Dechmont Infant School, introduce year stages P4-P7 to new primary school and revise catchment for stages P4-P7 to new primary school at Bangour.

The council's proposal provides a strong case to relocate Dechmont Infant School, introduce year stages P4-P7 and revise catchment areas for P4-P7 from Kirkhill Primary School to a new primary school at Bangour. The associated educational benefits are clearly outlined. All children and school staff who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal. The council's proposal, should it proceed, should see increasing numbers of children and young people in the area benefit from a building equipped to meet the needs of 21st century learners. This will result in a much-improved environment for the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence and potentially improved outcomes for learners. The proposed new site will provide enhanced outdoor play spaces and physical education facilities with the potential for wider community use. In taking forward the proposal, the council would benefit from involving the wider community, school staff, parents and pupils in the final decision on the name of the school.

The full Education Scotland report is attached as Appendix C.

E. CONCLUSION

With regard to the 2010 Act 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.

Based on these findings, it is recommended that West Lothian Council Education Executive agree to implement the proposal to relocate the schools, introduce year stages P4-P7 and revise the catchment for stages P4-P7. If agreed the changes would be implemented on completion of the new school currently planned for August 2026.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

PDSP Report 27 August 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=43284>

Education Executive Report 10 September 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=43560>

Education Executive Report 18 January 2022

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=50876>

West Lothian Council Schools and Education Consultations Public Webpage

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/75236/Proposal-to-Relocate-Dechmont-Infant-School>

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix A Final Report of the Statutory Consultation

Appendix B Consultation Document

Appendix C Education Scotland Report

Contact Person:

Catherine Campbell, Senior Education Development Officer

Email catherine.campbell@westlothian.gov.uk

Greg Welsh, Head of Education (Primary, Early Learning and Resources)

Date: Tuesday 17 January

APPENDIX A Final Report of the Statutory Consultation

PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE DECHMONT INFANT SCHOOL, INTRODUCE YEAR STAGES P4-P7 AND REVIEW PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS.

**FINAL REPORT OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION
Monday 22 August 2022 until Friday 07 October 2022**

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**Education
Services****1. INTRODUCTION****1.1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to give information on:

- West Lothian Council's proposals in relation to Dechmont Infant School.
- the Consultation Process
- Consultee Responses
- Notes of Public Meeting

1.2 SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

West Lothian Council, Education Services propose to:

- Relocate Dechmont Infant School to the new Bangour school site
- Introduce Year Stages P4-P7
- Revise catchment for P4-P7 from Kirkhill Primary school to new Primary School at Bangour

1.3 BACKGROUND

Non-denominational primary stage education provision in the Dechmont and Bangour area currently consists of an infant school in Dechmont that delivers P1-P3 education followed by progression to Kirkhill Primary School in Broxburn for P4-P7 education.

Dechmont Infant School is the only remaining P1-P3 education facility in West Lothian. As part of the proposed development of the former Bangour Hospital site it is proposed to construct a new non-denominational P1-P7 primary school incorporating Dechmont Infant School to cover both the existing village of Dechmont and the new development site at Bangour.

Pre-Consultation was undertaken in Autumn 2019 including a public meeting at Dechmont Hall on 08 October 2019. Consultees were supportive of the principles of the consultation and did not feel strongly about the alternative school site locations.

Consultees expressed a view that the site with best Educational Benefits should be chosen. Subsequent work by Education Services identified the Recreation Hall as the best option.

The Pre-Consultation was reported to Education Executive on 18 January 2022.

Education Services

1.4 TIMELINE

The following timeline was established and incorporates the organisation of a public meeting, Education Scotland involvement, the preparation and publication of the report on the outcomes of the consultation and subsequent submission to West Lothian Council Education Executive for its decision in 17 January 2023.

Date	Event	Description
27 August 2019	Education PDSP Meeting	To seek Panel recommendation for submission to Education Executive on proposal to commence formal public consultation
10 September 2019	Education Executive Meeting	Meeting to discuss proposal and agree continuation to statutory consultation phase
08 October 2019	Pre-Consultation meeting	Seeking stakeholder views on the proposal
18 January 2022	Education Executive meeting	Report on pre-consultation
22 August 2022	Start of Consultation	Beginning of formal public consultation (min 6 continuous weeks consultation period including min of 30 school days)
21 September 2022	Public Meeting	Public Meeting to discuss proposal
07 October 2022	End of Consultation	End of Public Consultation
12 October 2022	Submit report to Education Scotland*Dates to be agreed in advance with Education Scotland	West Lothian Council Education Services relays report on proposal and consultation findings to Education Scotland
November 2022	Deadline for Education Scotland three week period for reporting back to Education Services	Education Scotland response to West Lothian Council submission
December 2022	Give Education Scotland at least 5 days notice prior to publishing final report	Upon receipt of response from Education Scotland Authority will prepare and publish final consultation report
December 2022	Publication of final consultation report	A minimum of three weeks after publication of consultation report Authority will make final decision
17 January 2023	Education Executive Meeting	Decision made

Education Services

1.5 CONSULTEES

In terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, any proposal to make amendments to the school estate in this case, establishment of a new education establishment, requires a formal consultation.

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, sets out the statutory consultation requirements.

The statutory consultees for a proposal to relocate an education establishment are prescribed as follows:

- the Parent Council or Combined Parent Council of any affected school
- the parents of the pupils at any affected school
- the parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend any affected school within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper
- the pupils at any affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity)
- the staff (teaching and other) at any affected school
- any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of the persons mentioned in bullet point above
- the community council (if any)
- the Community Planning Partnership (within the meaning of section 4(5) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 for the area of the local authority in which affected school is situated.
- any other community planning partnerships considered relevant by the Authority.
- any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant
- any other users of any affected school that the education authority considers relevant
- in relation to any relevant proposal which affects a denominational school, the Church, Denominational Body or Scottish Hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church

**Education
Services****1.6 CONSULTATION PROCESS**

The consultation period incorporated a period of 30 school days (excluding any school holiday) from Monday 22 August 2022 until Friday 07 October 2022. This timescale adheres to the statutory consultation period for such circumstances which is a minimum of 6 consecutive weeks and include at least 30 school days.

To communicate, the Education Service proposal information was delivered through the undernoted media avenues:

- West Lothian Council Website:
- <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/75236/Proposal-to-Relocate-Dechmont-Infant-School>
- West Lothian Council digital media products
- Available in hard copy via central locations within West Lothian
- Hard copy available for postal distribution on request

In order to ensure all parties had the same opportunity to access the consultation information, facilities were put in place to communicate the proposal in a manner best suited to the needs of the individual. To this regard, 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

A copy of the Consultation Document is attached as Appendix B.

A public meeting was held at:

Dechmont Infant School on Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 7pm.

Council officers outlined the key elements of the proposal and answered questions from meeting attendees. Minutes of the public meeting are detailed in Section 3 of this report.

During the consultation period views on the proposal were welcomed in writing to the address given below:

Catherine Campbell, Education Services, Civic Centre, Howden Road South, EH54 6FF

Responses by e-mail were directed to Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk

All interested parties were invited to submit their comments by close of business Friday 07 October 2022.

Education Services

2 CONSULTEE RESPONSES TO PROPOSAL

West Lothian Council Education Services noted comments made through a variety of means however only those official representations submitted in the terms of the **Consultation Document SECTION 5: Consultation Process and How To Have Your Say (Appendix B)** have been recorded for reporting purposes.

No hard copy written representations were received during the consultation period. All responses from consultees were received either in electronic format (email) or by oral representation at the statutory public meeting.

2.4 RESPONSES RECEIVED

2.1 Responses Received

No written or email responses were received regarding the proposals.

3 NOTE OF PUBLIC MEETING

**MINUTE OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT
DECHMONT INFANT SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7PM
TO DISCUSS PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT:**

**“DECHMONT INFANT SCHOOL PROPOSALS TO RELOCATE SCHOOL,
INTRODUCE YEAR STAGES P4-P7, REVISE CATCHMENT FOR STAGES P4-P7”**

In attendance from West Lothian Council:

Andrew Maguire	Executive Councillor for Education
Catherine Campbell	Senior Education Development Officer
Andrew Cotton	Senior Education Planning Officer

Meeting attendees: 3 parents and 4 members of staff.

- Cllr Maguire opened the meeting with introductions and the agenda.
- Andrew Cotton delivered a PowerPoint presentation to the attendees.
- Link to Education Services Presentation here:



Dechmont
Statutory Consultati

Additional Comments During the Education Presentation:

Andrew Cotton reminded the attendees that during the pre-consultation in 2019 there was no strong preference from consultees about the location of the new school. It has subsequently been agreed at Education Executive that the most suitable site for the new school is the

Education Services

Recreation Hall in the Bangour Village development. Developers have now signed the S75 agreement and planning permission has been granted.

No change to the Dechmont Infant School catchment will take place until the new school is completed. This will also be the case if there is a delay in opening. Although not part of this consultation and already agreed the new primary school will be aligned with Winchburgh Academy.

Catherine Campbell provided an overview of the design concepts for the new school so far. Much of the Recreation Hall will serve as dining and social space. A new two-story building will sit along side this listed building and will contain the main entrance, teaching spaces, gymnasium and nursery.

Discussion Opportunity – Cllr Maguire opened the floor to comments and questions:

Attendee Comments
A parent attendee asked what will happen to children who have already moved on to Kirkhill PS and wish to go with friends to Broxburn Academy.
WLC Response:
The authority will honour current circumstances of children who have already transferred to Kirkhill PS and wish to attend Broxburn Academy.
Attendee Comments
What will the name of the new primary school be?
WLC Response:
Officers explained that the naming of the school is not part of the consultation. However, the authority will note stakeholders' views on this. A decision will be made at Education Executive on the naming of the new school.
Attendee Comments
Further discussion took place around the naming of the new school. One attendee expressed that the identity of Dechmont would be lost if the new school didn't recognise the name in some way.
Attendee Comment:
Another attendee suggested Bangour and Dechmont Primary School. The group agreed unanimously their preference for Dechmont to be included in the school name.
WLC Response:
Officers noted the attendee's views.
Attendee Comment:
A member of staff asked what the capacity of the new school will be.
WLC Response:
Officers responded that the new school would be a 1 stream, 231 capacity school. The school would also have a nursery facility.
Attendee Comment:
A follow up question was asked regarding the new school's comparison with Kirkhill PS.
WLC Response:
Officers explained that although Kirkhill PS has a capacity of 415 the school is currently under utilised for its capacity.
Attendee Comments
Discussion took place around the history of the school and it's 100-year celebration. The memorial quilt was discussed and the group indicated that if possible they would like this to be transferred to the new school.
WLC Response:
Officers noted the attendee's views.

Education Services

Attendee Comment:
A question was asked about the proposed opening date.
WLC Response:
Officers confirmed that an August 2026 opening is currently planned for.
Attendee Comment:
An attendee asked if Dechmont Infant School was viable enough until the new school opens.
WLC Response:
Officers reassured the group that there were no plans to change the operation of Dechmont Infant school before the new primary school was opened. Planning officers explained that they expected to see numbers increase with new house building in the next few years.
Attendee Comment:
Question was asked about the number of houses expected to be built in the Dechmont and Bangour development area.
WLC Response:
Planning officer responded that there was planning permission for 120 homes on Dechmont Main Street and 998 houses planned for the Bangour Village development.
Attendee Comment:
An attendee asked if the new school would be oversubscribed after the housing development was all in place.
WLC Response:
Planning officer explained that from calculations taken a 231 capacity, 1 stream school is big enough to accommodate all of the new housing and existing housing in Dechmont. The officer went on to explain why they thought there would be less issues here than at other projects such as Armadale because of the remote location.

Meeting Close:

Cllr Maguire thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in discussions.

Attendee Comment:
A parent returned to the hall to ask a follow up question regarding the circumstances around what might happen if her child wished to stay with friends at Kirkhill PS and not transfer to the new school. Would they still be entitled to transport?
WLC Response:
Officers reassured the parent that transport would still be provided in their circumstances. Her child also had an older sibling at the same school and the authority would honour the same transport arrangements regardless if she changed her mind or not.

**Education
Services**

4 ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

No written or email responses were received regarding the proposals and no expressions of opposition to the proposals were received during the consultation period.

The seven attendees at the Statutory Consultation Meeting unanimously supported the consultation proposals. Although the number of attendees was small this was not unexpected with the current school roll at Dechmont Infant School and given there were no expressions of opposition during the pre-consultation conducted in 2019.

**Education
Services****5.0 REPORT BY EDUCATION SCOTLAND**

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by West Lothian Council to relocate Dechmont Infant School, introduce year stages P4-P7 to Kirkhill Primary School and revise catchment for stages P4-P7 to new primary school at Bangour.

5.1 SUMMARY

The council's proposal provides a strong case to relocate Dechmont Infant School, introduce year stages P4-P7 and revise catchment areas for P4-P7 from Kirkhill Primary School to a new primary school at Bangour. The associated educational benefits are clearly outlined. All children and school staff who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal. The council's proposal, should it proceed, should see increasing numbers of children and young people in the area benefit from a building equipped to meet the needs of 21st century learners. This will result in a much improved environment for the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence and potentially improved outcomes for learners. The proposed new site will provide enhanced outdoor play spaces and physical education facilities with the potential for wider community use. In taking forward the proposal, the council would benefit from involving the wider community, school staff, parents and pupils in the final decision on the name of the school.

6.0 COUNCIL OFFICER REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION**6.1 REVIEW OF PROPOSAL**

Feedback from consultee submissions and the report from Education Scotland have been analysed in order that any issues highlighted were given cognisance and responded to. As a result of this analysis officers conclude the undernoted factors:

Identified Key Benefits:

- The new school provision will offer children the opportunity to play, learn and develop within a state-of-the-art facility which will benefit from modern design and materials.
- The new facility will allow the delivery of P1-P7 education in a single school education provision in the Dechmont/Bangour area.

6.2 RECOMMENDATION

With regard to the 2010 Act 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.

Based on these findings, it is recommended that West Lothian Council Education Executive agree to implement the proposal to relocate the schools, introduce year stages P4-P7 and revise the catchment for stages P4-P7. If agreed the changes would be implemented on completion of the new school currently planned for August 2025 or before.

Appendix A – Letter to Consultees

05 September 2022

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
Livingston
West Lothian
EH54 6FF

Contact: James Cameron

Tel 01506 281680

E-mail: james.cameron@westlothian.gov.uk

Dear Consultee

West Lothian Council Education Services Proposal to relocate Dechmont Infant School.

West Lothian Council's Education Executive at its meeting on 18 January 2022, authorised Education Services to commence statutory consultation on the proposal to:

- Relocate Dechmont Infants School
- Introduce year stages P4-P7
- Revise catchment for P4-P7 from Kirkhill Primary School to the relocated Primary School at Bangour.

The consultation document outlining the proposal is available online from 22 August 2022 on the following webpage: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/75236/Proposal-to-Relocate-Dechmont-Infant-School>

Hard copies of the consultation document are also available for uplift from the Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF or can be requested in writing from:

Catherine Campbell, Project Officer, West Lothian Council Education Services, Civic Centre,
Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF.

The consultation period is from 22 August 2022 to 5pm on 07 October 2022.

A public meeting to discuss the consultation document will be held at Dechmont Infants School on Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 7.00pm-8.00pm.

You are also invited to submit your comments on the consultation in writing to Catherine Campbell at the above address or by e-mail to Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk

For written representations to be considered they must be received no later than 5pm on Friday 07 October 2022.

A decision on the proposal is planned to be made in January 2023 by the Council's Education Executive. This decision will be based on feedback received from all stakeholders through written responses and through information gathered from public meetings. Feedback received from Education Scotland will also be offered due regard.

Yours sincerely

Greg Welsh
Head of Education (Primary, Early Learning and Resources)

Appendix B – Consultation Document

**WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL EDUCATION SERVICES
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

DECHMONT INFANT SCHOOL

PROPOSALS TO:

- **RELOCATE SCHOOL**
- **INTRODUCE YEAR STAGES P4-P7**
- **REVISE CATCHMENT FOR STAGES P4-P7**

CONTENTS**SECTION 1**

- 1.1 Purpose of this Document**
- 1.2 Background**
- 1.3 Summary of Proposals**

SECTION 2

- 2.1 Integrated Impact Assessment**

SECTION 3

- 3.1 Educational Benefits Statement**

SECTION 4

- 4.1 Consultation Process: How To Have Your Say**

SECTION ONE

This section introduces the reason for the consultation. It provides information about why West Lothian Council is proposing to relocate Dechmont Infant School, introduce year stages P4-P7 and review primary to secondary school transfer arrangements.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to advise:

1. West Lothian Council's proposals in relation to Dechmont Infant School :
 - I. Relocate school
 - II. Introduce year stages P4-P7
 - III. Revise catchment for P4-P7 from Kirkhill Primary school to new Primary School at Bangour
2. The educational benefits of the proposals and how they will make things better; and
3. Information on how you can give your views and take part in the consultation process.

West Lothian Council believes that thorough and effective consultation will support better outcomes for pupils, their families and the wider community as a whole.

Public consultations are necessary when a local authority is proposing to make a change to the school estate. To carry out a public consultation the Council requires to follow the statutory guidance outlined in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. With this in mind this document is organised into three sections:

Section 1 of this document introduces the proposals and gives background and rationale.

Section 2 contains the educational benefits statement and provides an assessment of the effects of the proposals on the children/young people and their families of the affected schools.

Section 3 details how West Lothian Council has organised the consultation process to meet the requirements of the legislation and how you can take part and give your views.

1.2. BACKGROUND

Non-denominational primary stage education provision in the Dechmont and Bangour area currently consists of an infant school in Dechmont that delivers P1-P3 education followed by progression to Kirkhill Primary School in Broxburn for P4-P7 education.

Dechmont Infant School is the only remaining P1-P3 education facility in West Lothian.

As part of the proposed development of the former Bangour Hospital site it is

proposed to construct a new non-denominational P1-P7 primary school incorporating Dechmont Infant School to cover both the existing village of Dechmont and the new development site at Bangour.

PRE-CONSULTATION

1.2.1

Pre-Consultation was undertaken in Autumn 2019 including a public meeting at Dechmont Hall on 08 October 2019. Consultees were supportive of the principles of the consultation and did not feel strongly about the alternative school site locations.

Consultees expressed a view that the site with best Educational Benefits should be chosen. Subsequent work by Education Services identified the Recreation Hall as the best option.

The Pre-Consultation was reported to Education Executive on 18 January 2022.

1.3. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The principal aim of the proposal is to address the demands of future housing developments and ensure the best use of existing and future school capacities in West Lothian non-denominational school catchment areas.

In relation to Dechmont Infant School, West Lothian Council propose to:

- I. Relocate school
- II. Introduce year stages P4-P7
- III. Revise catchment for P4-P7 from Kirkhill Primary School to new Primary School at Bangour

1.3.1 LOCATION OF THE NEW P1-P7 SCHOOL

The proposed location of the relocated school is within the consented development site at the former Bangour Hospital. It is proposed that the school will be located at the former Recreation Hall site.

The Recreation Hall site allows the reuse of some of the existing listed infrastructure as part of the new school building.

1.3.2 INTRODUCTION OF P4-P7 AT RELOCATED SCHOOL

Moving to the new school building also allows Dechmont Infant School to change from a P1-P3 Infant School to become a P1-P7 school.

Dechmont Infant School is the last remaining P1-P3 school in West Lothian. This removes an additional transition for children and provides educational benefits by allowing children to remain in one school for their entire primary education.

1.3.3 REVISED CATCHMENT FOR P4-P7 FROM KIRKHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL TO NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL AT BANGOUR

In order for the new school to become a P1-P7 Primary school it is necessary to revise the catchment of Kirkhill Primary school to remove Dechmont and Bangour from that catchment for P4-P7 aged children. This would not enter into force until the new school opens, currently planned for August 2026

1.4**1.4.1****OTHER MATTERS WHICH DO NOT FORM PART OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION****PROPOSED NAME OF THE NEW P1-P7 SCHOOL**

The name of the new school does not form part of the statutory process but consultees views on the potential names are being sought during the process.

At the Pre-Consultation in 2019 consultees were asked to consider different naming options for the school as the Infants School element of the name would need to be changed.

ASSOCIATED SECONDARY SCHOOL

It was agreed by Education Executive on 21 January 2020 that the new Primary School would be associated with the new Winchburgh Academy. Revised catchments that include Dechmont and Bangour within the Winchburgh Academy catchment were agreed at that meeting but do not come into place until the new Primary School opens, currently planned for August 2026.

SECTION TWO

This section provides information on the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) conducted by Council officers to meet statutory equality duties, to assess policies and practices and ensure compliance with all legislative requirements

INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

To meet statutory equality duties, the Council conducts an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to critically assess policies and practices and ensure compliance with all legislative requirements.

The aim of an IIA is to examine policies and practices in a structured way taking account of equality, human rights and socioeconomic disadvantage (poverty) implications when making decisions, ensuring the impact within the community is recognised and addressed accordingly.

IIA screening is completed using the Council's Integrated Impact Assessment Toolkit and allows the Authority to recognise positive steps it can take to promote fairness and equality of opportunity for all.

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As part of the consultation process the Council will consult with a wide range of stakeholders, staff, parents/carers and young people and will welcome and address comments on the IIA process.

The outcome of the Integrated Impact Assessment will inform the Final Consultation Report and the Council's consideration of the proposed changes prior to reaching a decision on whether they should be implemented.

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SECTION THREE

This section contains the educational benefits to be gained should the proposals be implemented.

3.1 EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT STATEMENT

Whilst assessing the educational benefits of the proposals, the undernoted factors were considered:

- **Curriculum For Excellence**

Curriculum for Excellence is the national curriculum of experiences and outcomes for all pupils, 3-18 years.

The national guidance from Education Scotland encourages education authorities to ensure that curricular provisions offer opportunities for learners to achieve across all curricular areas and develop skills, attributes and capabilities through courses aligned with the key principles of Curriculum for Excellence: challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance.

A key educational advantage of delivery of P1-P7 education in a single school environment is that primary stage education provision in the Dechmont/Bangour area will be fully equipped to deliver the full breadth of Curriculum for Excellence and will allow opportunity for the engagement of creative teaching and learning approaches that broaden scope for attainment and achievement.

- **Admission**

There will be no impact to pupils currently in attendance at West Lothian schools as a result of proposed relocation and introduction of additional year stages at Dechmont Infant School. All pupils will continue to attend their existing schools.

Criteria for admission to the proposed new P1-P7 school will continue to be in accordance with West Lothian Council's current admission arrangements. [West Lothian Council Primary School Admission Policy](#)

- **School Capacity**

On relocation of Dechmont Infant School and on introduction of year stages P4-P7 the proposed new provision will be a single stream capacity school accommodating 231 pupils.

- **School Management/Staff Teams**

To accommodate the introduction of additional year stages, West Lothian Council anticipate addition to the existing teaching staff compliment.

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Any amendments to current staffing will be undertaken in accordance to West Lothian Council statutory recruitment processes.

- **School Transport**

There are no anticipated amendments to existing school transport provisions as a result of the proposals.

Any requests for school transport provisions will be considered in accordance with West Lothian Council's School Transport Policy. [West Lothian Council School Transport Policy](#)

- **School Grounds/Outdoor Learning/Playground**

The school grounds and playground areas at the new relocated school will offer ample scope for development of the outdoor classroom. This will have a positive impact on the learning environment for all pupils and will support the development of good relationships and positive behaviour, not only in the classroom but also outdoors and in the wider community.

Car parking and pupil drop off / uplift areas will ensure safe and efficient traffic flow. Appropriate car park protocols and risk assessments will be maintained.

- **Breakfast / School Clubs**

Breakfast clubs will provide pupils with a healthy breakfast and offer opportunity to sample and develop preferences for healthy options. The aim of the club is to establish positive relationships at the start of the school day and improve attitude, behaviours and motivation to learn.

Pupils will be invited to take part in a wide range of extracurricular activities. Activities will be designed to offer opportunity to learn new skills and enhance experiences. Participation in these activities promotes and encourages social interaction, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

- **Parental Involvement**

At present, parents and carers at Dechmont Infant School are an integral part of the school community with their contributions and working partnerships being considered key to the success of the school.

West Lothian Council do not foresee any impact to existing opportunities for parental involvement and engagement as a result of the proposal to relocate the school and introduce year stages P4-P7.

As always, the key aim is delivery of a welcoming school that is inclusive for all parents, carers, pupils and staff.

- **Community Links**

Community interaction encourages a welcoming ethos, provides pupils with valuable life and interpersonal skills and promotes acknowledgement and respect for the local area.

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All external links that Dechmont Infant School has established will remain. The new P1-P7 school will have clear and distinct associations within the local community.

- **Benefits for Any Other School Users**

The proposed changes will have no impact on existing external school users. All existing provisions for other school users will continue as a result of the proposed catchment area review.

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SECTION FOUR

This section provides information on how West Lothian Council has organised the consultation process for the proposals contained within this document. It also provides information on how you can take part and give your views.

In terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, any proposal to alter the catchment area of a school requires a formal consultation process.

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, sets out the statutory consultation requirements.

The statutory consultees are prescribed as follows:

- the Parent Council or Combined Parent Council of any affected school
- the parents of the pupils at any affected school
- the parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend any affected school within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper
- the pupils at any affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity)
- the staff (teaching and other) at any affected school
- any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of the persons mentioned in bullet point above
- the community council (if any)
- the community planning partnership (within the meaning of section 4(5) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 for the area the local authority in which any affected school is situated.
- any other community planning partnership that the education authority considers relevant
- any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant
- any other users of any affected school that the education authority considers relevant
- in relation to any relevant proposal which affects a denominational school, the Church, Denominational Body or Scottish Hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church.

As stated in the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 statutory consultation periods should last a minimum of six weeks continuous and incorporate a minimum of 30 school days (excluding school holidays). Therefore, the consultation period for this particular proposal will run from 20 August 2022 until 07 October 2022.

The consultation paper will be made available for reference electronically and in paper format.

Public meetings will be held in respect of the proposals at the venues listed below:

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Location Dechmont Infant School	Date/Time 21 September 2022 – 19.00
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This meeting will give interested parties a formal opportunity to express their views.

Representatives of the Council will be present at the meetings to outline the proposals, facilitate discussions and answer questions.

The Council website will contain information on the consultation. The web address is: www.westlothian.gov.uk/education

During the consultation period any views on this proposal should be sent in writing to the address given below:

Catherine Campbell, Education Services, Civic Centre, Howden Road South, EH54 6FF

Responses can also be made by e-mail to Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk

All responses to be received by no later than 5.00pm 07 October 2022.

Consultation Timeline:

Following the end of the Consultation period West Lothian Council must provide Education Scotland with a report detailing all findings pertaining to the Consultation period.

All written and oral comments received during the consultation process are recorded and represented in said report, along with the Council's response to those comments.

Education Scotland will consider the Council submission and advise their response accordingly.

West Lothian Council will ensure that considerations received from Education Scotland are included in the Final Consultation Report. This Final Report will be made available and notification will be given to those individuals or groups that have made representations during the Consultation period.

West Lothian Council will not make any decisions, or put any changes into effect until the Final Consultation Report has been concluded, published and subsequently presented to the Education Executive on 17 January 2023.

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The Consultation Timeline below encompasses statutory legislative requirements detailed as per Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010.

Date	Event	Description
27 August 2019	Education PDSP Meeting	To seek Panel recommendation for submission to Education Executive on proposal to commence formal public consultation
10 September 2019	Education Executive Meeting	Meeting to discuss proposal and agree continuation to statutory consultation phase
8 October 2019	Pre-Consultation meeting	Seeking stakeholder views on the proposal
18 January 2022	Education Executive meeting	Report on pre-consultation
22 August 2022	Start of Consultation	Beginning of formal public consultation (min 6 continuous weeks consultation period including min of 30 school days)
21 September 2022	Public Meeting	Public Meeting to discuss proposal
7 October 2022	End of Consultation	End of Public Consultation
12 October 2022	Submit report to Education Scotland*Dates to be agreed in advance with Education Scotland	West Lothian Council Education Services relays report on proposal and consultation findings to Education Scotland
November 2022	Deadline for Education Scotland three week period for reporting back to Education Services	Education Scotland response to West Lothian Council submission
December 2022	Give Education Scotland at least 5 days notice prior to publishing final report	Upon receipt of response from Education Scotland Authority will prepare and publish final consultation report
December 2022	Publication of final consultation report	A minimum of three weeks after publication of consultation report Authority will make final decision
17 January 2023	Education Executive Meeting	Decision made

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West Lothian Council proposal to relocate Dechmont Infant School, introduce year stages P4-P7 and review primary to secondary school alignment.

If you would like a copy of this document please contact

Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk , giving your name, address and the language you would like the document translated in to

اقتراح مجلس لوثيران الغربية بنقل مدرسة Dechmont لمرحلة التعليم الأساسي، وإدخال المراحل الدراسية P4-P7 ومراجعة محاذاة المدارس الابتدائية إلى الثانوية.
إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على نسخة من هذا المستند ، فيرجى الاتصال بـ
Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk ، مع إعطاء اسمك وعنوانك واللغة التي ترغب في ترجمة الوثيقة إليها.

Propozycja Rady Miasta West Lothian przeniesienia szkoły Dechmont Infant School, wprowadzenia klas P4-P7 oraz dokonania przeglądu w celu wyrównania szkoły podstawowej i średniej

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać kopię tego dokumentu prosimy o kontakt z Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk , podając swoje imię i nazwisko, adres zamieszkania oraz w jakim języku chcieliby Państwo otrzymać ten dokument

ڈیچمانٹ انفانٹ سکول کے مقام کی منتقلی، پی 4 سے پی 7 سٹیج متعارف کروانے اور پرائمری سے سیکنڈری سکول کی ترتیب پر نظرثانی کرنے کے لئے ویسٹ لوٹھین کونسل کی تجویز
اگر آپ اس دستاویز کی ایک نقل چاہتے ہیں تو برائے کرم درج ذیل سے رابطہ کریں۔
Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk، برائے مہربانی اپنا نام، پتہ اور اس زبان کا نام
جس میں آپ ترجمہ شدہ دستاویز چاہتے ہیں، مہیا کریں۔

西洛锡安议会政府关于搬迁Dechmont Infant School（得启蒙幼儿学校）、引进P4-P7阶段的教育以及对小学和中学之间的一致性进行审核的建议

如果您希望获得一份该文件的翻译件，请将您的名字、住址、以及您希望将本文件翻译成的语言告诉我们：Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk

West Lothian評議會會議重新安置Dechmont嬰兒學校，介紹學年学前班第4-第7階段，並審查小學到中學的校準。

如果您需要本文檔的副本，請聯繫Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk，將你的姓名，地址和提供您希望將文檔翻譯成的語言

ডেচমন্ট ইনফ্যান্ট স্কুল (Dechmont Infant School) স্থানান্তর, ইয়ার স্টেইজ P4-P7 চালু এবং প্রাইমারী থেকে সেকেন্ডারী স্কুলে বিন্যাস তথা রূপান্তর পুনর্বিবেচনার জন্য পশ্চিম লোথিয়ান কাউন্সিলের প্রস্তাবনা।

যদি আপনি এই দলিলের একটি কপি পেতে চান, তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে

Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk-তে যোগাযোগ করুন এবং আপনার নাম, ঠিকানা দিন এবং এই দলিলটি কোন্ ভাষায় পেতে চান তা উল্লেখ করুন।

Vakaru Lodiano tarybos pasiūlymas perkelti Dečmonto pradinukų mokyklą, įvesti mokymosi etapus P4-P7 ir patikrinti pradinių bei vidurinių mokyklų programas.

Jeigu pageidautumėte gauti šio dokumento kopiją, parašykite adresu

Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk, nurodydami savo vardą, adresą ir kalbą, į kurią turėtų būti išverstas dokumentas

Vestlotianas padomes (West Lothian Council) ierosinājums pārvietot bērnodārzu Dechmont Infant School, izveidot klases P4-P7 un pārskatīt pamatskolu un vidusskolu saskaņošanu.

Ja vēlaties saņemt šī dokumenta kopiju, lūdzam sazināties ar

Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk, norādot savu vārdu, adresi un valodu, kādā vēlaties saņemt dokumenta tulkojumu

Appendix C – Education Scotland Report



Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by West Lothian Council to relocate Dechmont Infant School, introduce year stages P4-P7 to Kirkhill Primary School and revise catchment for stages P4-P7 to new primary school at Bangor.

November 2022

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/10/section/1) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of West Lothian Council's proposal to relocate Dechmont Infant School, introduce year stages P4-P7 to Kirkhill Primary School and revise catchment for stages P4-P7 to new primary school in Bangor. 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' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final 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 final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision.

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.

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

- 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; and
- visits to the site of Dechmont Infant School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 West Lothian Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/10/section/1).

2.2 The main proposal within the consultation is to relocate Dechmont Infant School, introduce year stages P4-P7 to Kirkhill Primary School and revise catchment for stages P4-P7 to a new primary school in the proposed new Bangor development site.

2.3 A pre-consultation was undertaken in Autumn 2019, including a public meeting at Dechmont Hall on 8 October 2019. Consultees were supportive of the principles of the consultation and did not feel strongly about the alternative school site locations. The formal consultation ran from 20 August 2022 until 7 October 2022. Copies of the proposal were made available electronically on the council website and in paper format via central locations within West Lothian. A public meeting was held at Dechmont Infant School on 21 September 2022. Three members of the public and four members of staff attended.

2.4 No written or email responses were received regarding the proposals and no expressions of opposition to the proposals were received during the consultation period. The seven attendees at the public meeting supported the consultation proposals. Although the number of attendees was small, it was not unexpected with the current low pupil roll at Dechmont Infant School and given there were no expressions of opposition during the pre-consultation conducted in 2019.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The council sets out a strong case to address the demands of future housing developments ensuring the best use of existing and future school capacities in West Lothian. The proposed location of the new school is within the consented development site at the former Bangour Hospital. The move to a new infant school allows Dechmont Infant School to change from a P1-P3 infant school to a P1-P7 school. This proposal removes the need for an additional transition for children who move to Kirkhill Primary School at P3. The removal of Dechmont and Bangour from the catchment areas of Kirkhill Primary School P4-P7 aged children will result in the transition of children to Winchburgh Academy. Currently, almost all children transition to Broxburn Academy. The transition to Winchburgh Academy will help support the demands on future pupil rolls in secondary schools within the proposed areas. This change will not come into effect until the new primary school is built. The estimated date for completion of the build is 2026. Based on an increased capacity from future housing developments, the new school will be able to accommodate the forecasted increase in the pupil roll. It will assist the ambitions of Curriculum for Excellence linking schools with their surrounding communities.

3.2 Headteachers of the affected schools were all supportive of the proposal. None had received any objections from members of their own school communities. To accommodate the introduction of additional year stages, West Lothian Council anticipate additions to the existing teaching staff complement. All children, school staff and one parent who engaged with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal. However, they requested continued involvement in decisions on the name for the school to ensure it reflected the community context and deep history of the area. As a result, HM Inspectors support the educational benefits statement as outlined by the council. The council have highlighted no negative impact and HM Inspectors

4. Summary

The council's proposal provides a strong case to relocate Dechmont Infant School, introduce year stages P4-P7 and revise catchment areas for P4-P7 from Kirkhill Primary School to a new primary school at Bangour. The associated educational benefits are clearly outlined. All children and school staff who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal. The council's proposal, should it proceed, should see increasing numbers of children and young people in the area benefit from a building equipped to meet the needs of 21st century learners. This will result in a much improved environment for the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence and potentially improved outcomes for learners. The proposed new site will provide enhanced outdoor play spaces and physical education facilities with the potential for wider community use. In taking forward the proposal, the council would benefit from involving the wider community, school staff, parents and pupils in the final decision on the name of the school.

**HM Inspectors
November 2022**