

## **Informal Consultation**

### **Future Options for High School Provision - Kirkliston Area**

As part of the above informal consultation a presentation outlining the future options and providing detail on the implications of each option has been arranged to be held at Kirkliston Primary School on Wednesday 15 November at 630pm. The same presentation will also be given at Queensferry High School on Thursday 16 November at 630pm. Both presentations will be followed by the opportunity for those attending to discuss the options and ask questions of the Council Officers who will be present. The meetings will be scheduled to conclude at 830pm.

As it is those in the early years of Kirkliston Primary School and those not yet at school who will potentially have to attend a High School other than Queensferry High School, officers from the Council also intend to be present in the foyer of the primary school from 2pm - 530pm on Thursday 16 November to discuss the options and answer any questions which may be forthcoming from the families who may be most directly affected by the proposed options.

The Parent Councils of Kirkliston Primary School and Queensferry High School are keen to hear the views from members of both school communities in order that a detailed response can be submitted to the Council as part of the informal consultation process. Following the presentations on 15 and 16 November, please send any comments you have to the following email address by Friday 24 November - [kpsa@ymail.com](mailto:kpsa@ymail.com)

### **Context for the informal consultation**

The outcome of a report to the City of Edinburgh Council Meeting on 24 November 2016 was that the replacement Queensferry High School should be designed to a capacity of 1200. The report highlighted that, due to the growth of Queensferry through the housing sites allocated in the Local Development Plan (LDP), a catchment review would be required in the future to reduce the number of primary schools feeding into Queensferry High School. Without a catchment review the projections for the new High Queensferry School suggest a capacity of up to 1800 would be required which is significantly more than the largest high schools in the city (which have a capacity of 1400) and would be too large a school to establish on the available school site.

The report stated the catchment review would most likely involve the transfer of the Kirkliston settlement from the current Queensferry High School catchment area to the catchment area for the new High School which is proposed in the west of Edinburgh in the LDP Action Programme. The Council also agreed that discussions should take place with West Lothian Council to determine whether an alternative option would be for Kirkliston Primary School to feed into a new non-denominational high school planned for Winchburgh.

### **Current status of delivery for a new Winchburgh High School**

Discussions with West Lothian Council have determined that they are progressing with the delivery of a new Winchburgh High School to be delivered by August 2022. If, following informal consultation with the Kirkliston community the preferred option for future High School provision was to be the Winchburgh solution, then a request would be made to the Education, Children and Families Committee in December 2017 for a statutory consultation to be progressed in partnership with West Lothian Council to establish the catchment area for the new school. The site for the new school is shown in the attached plan. If Kirkliston Primary School was to feed into Winchburgh High School in the future then the capacity of the school being constructed from the outset would be increased to accommodate the expected number of pupils coming from the Kirkliston area.

## **Current status of delivery for a new West Edinburgh High School**

In west Edinburgh, the LDP Action Programme identifies a requirement for a new West Edinburgh High School to support the significant housing development within this area. The Council's proposed Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance on Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Delivery identifies that the proposed site for this new school is within the International Business Gateway (IBG).

On 3 July 2017 the City of Edinburgh Council received a letter from the Scottish Government directing the Council not to adopt the Supplementary Guidance. The Scottish Ministers' reason for this direction relates solely to the supplementary guidance identifying the new secondary school within the IBG site. While the direction does not rule out a new high school ultimately being delivered in this location, it is a significant enough intervention that alternative options for a new high school in West Edinburgh require to be explored.

A review of potential sites in the proposed school catchment area has been carried out and a potential alternative site has been identified at Ratho Station. Further analysis of this site requires to be undertaken in relation to development suitability. However, in terms of size, location and accessibility it would be a suitable site for a High School. Both site options for the West of Edinburgh High School are shown in the attached plan. Subject to all the necessary approval processes being successful it would be possible to deliver the new school by August 2023 which is the timescale for delivery stated in the Local Development Plan Action Programme and would be a sufficient timescale in terms of when the school roll projections for Queensferry High School show that its capacity will be breached.

## **Issues to be discussed**

The events which have been arranged are an opportunity for the school communities to have an open and honest discussion with the Council about the benefits and disadvantages of each option. The key issues which will be expanded on in the presentation at the events will be:

- Infrastructure delivery certainty and timescales
- Safe transport to school
- Curriculum implications
- School holiday alignment

If you can make it we look forward to seeing you at one of the events. If you are unable to attend please still get in touch using the parent council email address - [kpsa@ymail.com](mailto:kpsa@ymail.com) - with any comments you have on the future proposals.