



Midlothian Council
Children, Young People and Partnerships Directorate
Statutory School Consultation
THIS IS A PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

This consultation is on the following proposal:

Proposal to close Lasswade High School Childcare Service.

Subject to the outcome of this consultation exercise, Midlothian Council proposes that:

- Lasswade High School Childcare Service will close in September 2025.

The following school is **directly** affected by the proposal:

- Lasswade High School.

In accordance with the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*, Midlothian Council wants to hear your views on the proposal to close Lasswade High School Childcare Service.

Within this consultation paper you will find information about the proposal, the reasons behind it, its likely impact and how you can tell us what you think about it. A short questionnaire is included within the proposal.

Midlothian Council hopes that as many of you as possible will complete the questionnaire and would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to share your views as they are extremely important to us.

We would like to be as open as possible with the results of this consultation so please note that your response will be anonymised and made public at the end of the consultation period. You may wish to ensure that you do not give any identifying details in your response. If you don't wish your response to be made public, you can specify this in the questionnaire and within any written response.

Distribution

A copy of this document is available on the Midlothian Council website:

<https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/lasswade-hscs-consultation>

A summary of the proposals will be provided to:

- The Parent Council of the affected school;
- The parents/carers of the children at the affected school;
- Parents/carers of children expected to attend the affected school within 2 years of the date of publication of this Proposal document;

- The pupils, deemed to be of suitable age and maturity to be able to communicate a view on the proposal, at an affected school;
- The teaching and ancillary staff at the affected school;
- The trade unions and professional association representatives of the above staff;
- Midlothian Councillors;
- Community Council of Bonnyrigg and District,
- Community Planning Partnership;
- Relevant users of the affected school;
- Constituency MP and MSP;
- Education Scotland.

A copy of this document is also available from:

- Lasswade High School, Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg, EH19 2LA
- Lasswade Library, 19 Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg, EH19 2LA
- Midlothian House, 40 – 46 Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN

This document can be made available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English. If you would like this document in another language or format, or if you require the services of an interpreter, please call 0131 270 7500 or email: enquiries@midlothian.gov.uk

To be taken into consideration, responses to the consultation must be received by **24 January 2025**. These can be made electronically through the online consultation questionnaire at <https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/lasswade-hscs-consultation> or emailed to EducationConsultation@midlothian.gov.uk.

Written responses can be returned to:

Lasswade High School Childcare Service Consultation, Freepost SCO 622, Midlothian Council, Dalkeith EH22 1DN

The affected consultees are:

- The children attending Lasswade High School.
- The parents / carers of pupils and children expected to attend Lasswade High School.
- The staff employed by the Council and based at Lasswade High School.
- The Trade Union and Professional Associations Representatives of the above staff.
- The Community Councils of Bonnyrigg and District.
- Community Planning Partnership.

Consultation with Children and Young People

Children in a directly affected schools will be consulted on this proposal in accordance with the Children's Commissioner Guidance and further information will be provided to parents/carers via their child's school/setting.

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Section A: Summary of Process for this Proposal Document

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

1. The Council has a number of statutory duties relating to the provision of education in its area including the statutory consultation that must be undertaken when proposing a permanent change to any of their schools, including Nursery Schools, such as closure, relocation or change of catchment area. The *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* principle purpose is:

“to provide strong, accountable statutory consultation practices and procedures that local authorities must apply to their handling of all proposals for school closures and other major changes to schools.”

2. This Proposal Document has been prepared in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, having regard to the statutory guidance published by the Scottish Government on 14 May 2015 and the complementary guidance published by Education Scotland (revised July 2023), which are available for reference at the following websites:

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2010/2/contents>

Statutory Guidance (14 May 2015):
<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/05/4615>

Education Consultation Guidance for Local Authorities (revised July 2023)
<https://education.gov.scot/media/rh0jzhvo/external-schools-consultation-education-scotland-guide-for-local-authorities-july-2023.pdf>

3. The process for consultation, summarised in this section, details how the Council is undertaking this consultation.

Consideration by Council

4. The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 places a legislative duty on the Council to ensure the adequate and efficient provision of school education in their area. This duty applies in respect of both the current school population and anticipated pattern of demand. In addition, Councils have a statutory duty to secure best value in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.
5. This Proposal Document has been issued to seek views on the proposals in this paper and report back to Midlothian Council on the outcome of the consultation in order that the Council can make a decision on any proposed changes.

Proposal Document issued to consultees and published on Midlothian’s website

6. An information leaflet setting out details about the proposal and consultation meetings will be issued to the consultees listed on page 3. Advice on where the complete Proposal Document can be obtained will be included and published on <https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/lasswade-hscs-consultation>

7. If requested, copies of the Proposal Document will also be made available in alternative formats or translated for readers whose first language is not English.
8. A “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) document has also been prepared which is also available on <https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/lasswade-hscs-consultation>

Publication of advertisement

9. An announcement will be made on the Council’s website and social media platforms.

Length of Consultation Period

10. The consultation period will commence on **29 November 2024** and will last until **24 January 2025** being a period of 8 weeks, which also includes the minimum 30 school days.

Format of Public Meetings

11. A Public meeting will be held on, **Thursday 16 January 2025** the details of which are set out below in paragraph 23.

Involvement of Education Scotland

12. When the Proposal Document is published, a copy will be sent to Education Scotland by Midlothian Council. Education Scotland will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council from any person during the consultation period, or if Education Scotland agree, a summary of them. Additionally, Education Scotland will receive a summary of any oral representations made to the Council at the public meetings and drop-in sessions that will be held and, as available, a copy of any other relevant documentation.
13. Education Scotland require three weeks within which to prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal after the Council has sent them all the representations and documents as mentioned above. The three-week period will not start until after the consultation period has ended. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may visit the affected schools and make such reasonable enquiries of such people there as they consider appropriate.

Preparation of the Consultation Report

14. The Council will review the proposal having regard to the Education Scotland report, written representations that it has received and oral representations made to it by any person at the public meeting, drop in sessions and consultation activities with key stakeholders. It will then prepare a Final Consultation Report. The report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be advertised in the local newspaper. It will be available on the Council website, from the affected schools and by request from Council Headquarters, Midlothian House, Dalkeith. Anyone who has made written representations during the consultation period will also be informed about the report. The Consultation Report will include a record of the total number of written representations made at the public meetings and drop-in sessions, the

Council's response to the Education Scotland report as well as any written or oral representations it has received, together with the Education Scotland report and other relevant information. It will also set out the actions the Council has taken to address any alleged inaccuracies and omissions notified to it. The Consultation Report will also contain a statement explaining how it complied with the requirement to review the proposal in light of the Education Scotland Report and representations (both written and oral) that it received. The Consultation Report will be published and be available for further consideration for a period of 3 weeks.

Decision

15. The Consultation Report, together with any other documentation, will be considered after the end of the 3-week period by the Council who will come to a final decision on this matter.

Scottish Ministers Call-in

16. At the end of the consultation process, Section 15 of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* enables ministers to call-in a decision to implement the proposed closure of Lasswade High School Childcare Service.
17. Beginning on the day the final decision is taken, the Council has a period of six working days to notify Scottish Ministers of the decision. Scottish Ministers then have a period of up to eight weeks from and including the date of the Council's decision to decide if they will call-in the proposal. The Council must publish the fact that the Scottish Ministers have been notified and that representations can be made to the Scottish Ministers within the first three weeks of the eight week period. The Scottish Ministers will take into account any relevant representations made to them by any person within the first three weeks. The Council may not proceed with the implementation of the proposal during the call-in period.
18. If the Scottish Ministers decide to call-in a closure proposal, it is then referred to the Convener of the School Closure Review Panels who has a period of seven days after a call-in notice is issued, to constitute a School Closure Review Panel. The Panel may decide to refuse consent to the proposal, refuse consent and remit it to the education authority for a fresh decision or grant consent to the proposal, either subject to conditions, or unconditionally. The Panel must notify the education authority of its decision within eight weeks from when the Panel was constituted or within sixteen weeks if the Panel has issued a notice to the education authority that a decision has been delayed. The Council may not proceed with the implementation of the proposal until the outcome of the call-in has been notified to the Council.
19. Appendix 1 sets out the timeline for both the Consultation and Scottish Ministers Call-in periods.

Note on Corrections

20. If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this Proposal Document either by the Council or any person, the Council will determine if relevant information has been omitted or there has been an inaccuracy. It may then take appropriate action which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of a Proposal Paper or the

revision of the timescale for the consultation period if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised. The person, or persons who have raised concerns will receive an individual response to their submission.

Public Meeting and Drop-In Session

21. A formal in person public meeting and virtual public drop-in sessions will be held to discuss the proposal. The public meeting, which will be convened by Midlothian Council, will be addressed by the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Partnerships Directorate and other senior officers of the Council, and chaired by an independent person.
22. The public meeting will be an opportunity to:
 - Hear more about the proposal
 - Ask questions about the proposal
 - Have your views minuted so that they can be taken into account as part of the consultation process
23. The public meeting will be held in person at **6:30pm** in **Lasswade High School** on **Thursday 16 January 2025**.
24. Virtual drop-in sessions will be held on **10 December & 12 December 2024**, there will be 20-minute time slots available from **2pm to 4pm** and **5pm to 7pm** please contact EducationConsultation@midlothian.gov.uk to book a time.
25. A minute will be taken at the public meeting of comments, questions and officer responses. A summary of the points raised and responded to will be added to the FAQs published on the Council website. The minute will be forwarded to Education Scotland along with all other submissions and comments that are received by the Council during the consultation process as explained above.

Section B: Proposal for Consultation Introduction

Introduction

1. The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 places a legislative duty on the Council to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across its area. This duty applies in respect of both the current school population and anticipated pattern of demand.
2. Section 3D of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 (as inserted by Section 2 of the Education (Scotland) Act 2016) introduces a requirement on education authorities to carry out their duty to ensure the delivery of improvement in the quality of school education which is provided in the schools they manage, with a view to achieving the strategic priorities of the National Improvement Framework. It is, therefore, the duty of the education authority to ensure that the education it provides is directed to the development of the personality, talents and the mental and physical abilities of the children to their fullest potential.

3. In addition, Councils have a statutory duty to secure best value in terms of the *Local Government in Scotland Act 2003* by continuous improvement in performance of the local authority's functions, while maintaining an appropriate balance between quality and cost and having regard to economy, efficiency, effectiveness, equal opportunities and the achievement of sustainable development. To achieve best value and optimum efficiency, the organisation of the school estate is therefore kept under regular review, including the need for school provision and other factors, such as altering catchment areas.

Midlothian's Vision for Education

4. The Council is ambitious for the future of Midlothian. By working together as a Community Planning Partnership, individuals and communities will be able to lead healthier, safer and greener and successful lives by 2030. No child or household need live in poverty. Midlothian will be a Great Green Place to Grow by achieving our net zero carbon ambitions and supporting local people to strengthen the skills they need for learning, life and work.
5. Our outcomes for the next 4 years are:
 - Individuals and communities have improved health and skills for learning, life and work
 - No child or household living in poverty
 - Significant progress is made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030
6. We continue to aspire to deliver a world-class education system through equity and excellence. Our vision is to provide the highest quality inclusive education, learning and employability service for all individuals and families in Midlothian. To realise this vision we will support the priorities set out in the Single Midlothian Plan, Getting it Right for Every Child and will:
 - give all our children the best possible start in life, providing an inclusive learning environment that builds resilience;
 - ensure that every young person has the opportunity to be a successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen and an effective contributor who is healthy and happy, especially those who are care experienced;
 - work with our communities to promote high expectations which deliver the best educational outcomes for all learners; and
 - celebrate diversity, reduce inequalities and remove barriers to learning.

Background and context

7. At a meeting of Midlothian Council on 25 June 2024, approval was granted for officers to undertake a statutory consultation on the proposal to close Lasswade High School Childcare Service and for a report on the outcome of the consultation exercises to be brought back to council for consideration and a decision.

8. Lasswade High School Childcare Service is located within the Lasswade High School Centre in Bonnyrigg. The Childcare service is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a service to a maximum of 15 children aged 0 to those not yet attending primary school. As of November 2024, there were 10 children attending the setting.
9. Lasswade High School has had a childcare setting registered with the Care Inspectorate since 2007. In 2013 this setting transferred to the new high school building with the rest of the school.
10. A review of the service was undertaken by setting management in late 2013 and this was then changed to a childcare setting operating full time places as a funded provider. This change did not require a statutory consultation as the legislative duty to consult on establishing new nurseries and nursery classes was suspended at the time to facilitate the move from 475 to 600 hours of funded early learning and childcare.
11. Childcare service is staffed appropriately as per the Care Inspectorate's regulation for child staff ratios in group based ELC settings. They are supported by the Depute Head Teacher (DHT) of Lasswade High School and in terms of quality an Early Years Principal Teacher (PT).
12. The childcare setting comprises of a main playroom with small kitchen area, children's nappy changing and toilet. There is also direct access to the outdoor play area from the playroom. Children also use other parts of Lasswade High School such as art rooms and the library for additional activities.
13. Midlothian Council officers have carried out an exercise inviting external organisations to note interest in the space to deliver an ELC of Childcare. This and any other potential options will continue to be considered.

Meeting National Outcomes

14. The National strategy recognises the importance of the learning estate in supporting outcomes that are necessary for a more successful Scotland. This vision is for: '*A learning estate which supports excellence and equity for all*'.
15. The National Learning Estate Strategy is aligned to the education policy aims set out in the *National Improvement Framework* (NIF) of achieving excellence and equity for all children and young people and closing the poverty related attainment gap.
16. The National strategy sets out ten guiding principles which are:
 - Learning environments should support and facilitate excellent joined up learning and teaching to meet the needs of all learners;
 - Learning environments should support the wellbeing of all learners, meet varying needs to support inclusion and support transitions for all learners;
 - The learning estate should be well-managed and maintained, making the best of existing resources, maximising occupancy and representing and delivering best value;

- The condition and suitability of learning environments should support and enhance their function;
- Learning environments should serve the wider community and where appropriate be integrated with the delivery of other public services in line with the place principle;
- Learning environments should be greener, more sustainable, allow safe and accessible routes for walking, cycling and wheeling and be digitally enabled;
- Outdoor learning and the use of outdoor learning environments should be maximised;
- Good consultation about learning environments, direct engagement with learners and communities about their needs and experiences, and an involvement in decision making processes should lead to better outcomes for all;
- Collaboration across the learning estate, and collaboration with partners in localities, should support maximising its full potential; and finally,
- Investment in Scotland's learning estate should contribute towards improving learning outcomes and support sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

The proposed closure of Lasswade High School Childcare Service

17. Lasswade High School Childcare Service (HSCS) will close in September 2025.
18. Although Midlothian Council is moving for a proposed closure of the setting, Council officers will continue to explore the potential usage options for the space.
19. The proposal to close Lasswade High School Childcare Service should not affect future eligible children, as there are a number of other Early Learning and Childcare settings in the Bonnyrigg and Lasswade area. The space currently occupied may also be utilised by an external provider in the future and could provide spaces. A list of alternative options from Council run settings, as well as partner providers can be found in Appendix 3.
20. Early Years staff and Council officers will work with affected families to explore opportunities at other settings in the local area. Any parent/carer looking to register a child must contact the setting first to enquire about available spaces and a potential place.
21. If this proposal is approved, the redeployment of staff currently in Lasswade High School Childcare Service would be managed in accordance with the Policy for Managing Change (LGWs). A mix of group and individual consultations will be undertaken with recognised Trade Unions and all affected staff in the setting.
22. The proposal to close Lasswade High School Childcare Service will directly affect the following schools and is considered in this Proposal Document:

- Lasswade High School

23. There are no schools indirectly affected by the proposal.

24. The factors which have been considered in the development of this Proposal Document are:

- The responsibilities associated with the National Improvement Framework and the new duties imposed on Education Authorities by the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 as amended by the 2016 Act.
- The agreed principles underpinning the development of an empowered school led system set out in the 'Education Bill Policy Ambition- Joint Agreement', June 2018
<https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/06/8745/downloads>
- The duties placed on local authorities in relation to the adequate and efficient provision of school/ELC education in their area
- The duties placed on local authorities to secure best value in the delivery of services

25. If approved, implementation of the proposal will mean:

- Lasswade High School Childcare Service will close in September 2025.

Section C: Educational Benefits Statement

Assessment of Likely Educational Benefits on Pupils

A. The Educational Benefits Statement for this proposal has been prepared having regard to the guidance and explanatory notes published by the Scottish Government in association with the schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and which are available for reference at the following websites respectively:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/91982/0097130.doc

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2010/2/contents>

'An education authority shall endeavour to secure improvement in the quality of school education which is provided in the schools managed by them; and they shall exercise their functions in relation to such provision with a view to raising standards of education.'

B. As required by the schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 this Educational Benefits Statement is written from the perspective of benefits, should the proposal be implemented. Additionally, the self-evaluation tool provided by Education Scotland is used to ensure compliance with the amended procedures now in place from the Act.

C. Midlothian Council's delivery model reflects the Local Authority commitment to offer an 1140 hour flexible, high quality early learning and childcare provision and meet the criteria with the National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare Providers including Childminders. The Local Authority is committed to offering a range of

delivery models through local authority and partner provider settings. This provides parents flexibility and choice to fully meet their and their children's needs.

- D. The current learning environment at Lasswade High School Childcare Service creates barriers to learning, as being attached to a secondary school reduces the ability for children and staff to benefit from the learning and resources available to settings that are attached to primary schools. This environment would be more suited to a unique standalone setting in line with Midlothian Council's vision and values for Education and Early Learning & Childcare. If the space was to continue as a local authority setting it would require enhancement to fully meet best practice guidelines contained within Realising the Ambition: Being Me, Curriculum for Excellence and Space to Grow and Thrive.
- E. Access to the outdoor space is limited and would require further development in line with My World Outdoors. Local authority ELC settings are almost all based on a primary school campus which provides a range of outdoor space and curriculum facilities that are appropriate to the age group. The opening of the new Easthouses PS in August 2024 is an example of Midlothian Council's continual improvement and expansion of ELC settings and their outdoor facilities in line with the Learning Estate Strategy.
- F. Midlothian Council have a wide range of high-quality settings offering early learning and childcare for all funded children. These include five settings within the local Bonnyrigg area; a fully outdoor setting at Vogrie Country Park; and a standalone setting at Scots Corner offering places for eligible two-year-olds.
- G. Our modern learning environments fully support the guidelines contained within Realising the Ambition: Positive Outcomes for Scotland's Children and Families, Curriculum for Excellence and Space to Grow.

Inclusion

- H. Collaboration between staff to deliver developmentally appropriate experiences for all children is more challenging due to being based within a secondary school setting. The restrictions of the current learning environment restrict the opportunities for children to interact with children within the same curriculum for excellence level. Opportunities for staff to develop their skills and knowledge to enable inclusion is limited due to the isolation of an Early Learning and Childcare setting based within a secondary school.

Learning, teaching, achievement and attainment

- I. The noted restrictions of the learning environment and resources can restrict the planning of appropriate learning experiences to strengthen the motivation and engagement of children in their learning. Access to digital learning experiences is limited and children do not have the opportunities to develop digital skills of lifelong learning. All local authority settings have a range of digital devices for children with learning and teaching approaches including the use of modern, digital technologies to enhance high- quality learning experiences for all children. However, these are restricted by the attachment of this setting to a secondary school rather than a primary school.

- J. The flexible and high-quality learning environment and enhanced resources available within other learning environments will further support planning learning experiences that strengthen the motivation and engagement of children in their learning. The significant gap in ages on this Lasswade High School Campus make this harder for those attending the childcare setting.
- K. Learning and teaching approaches will include the extensive use of modern, digital technologies to enhance high- quality learning experiences for all children. In addition, improved availability and access to extensive up- to- date digital resources by children themselves will promote independence in learning and provide opportunities for them to develop skills for learning, life and work from the earliest stages.

Health and well-being

- L. Children would benefit from a varied environment and social engagement from all children at early level. Local authority settings attached to primary schools have the opportunity to participate in the wider school community with peers who can support and mentor both from within early level and the levels immediately above. Lasswade HSCS cannot engage in this due to the restrictions that come with being on a secondary school campus.
- M. The current learning environment limits the early level curriculum experiences of the children in the childcare setting. As use of the facilities at the secondary school is limited – both through capacity and age appropriateness – children are unable to participate in activities which contribute to meeting their milestones.

Collaboration and partnership working

- N. If the decision is taken by Council on the recommendation to close Lasswade High School Childcare Service, it will be essential to support current staff, and the children and families affected by proposed closure into other ELC provisions and roles.
- O. Midlothian Council will support current staff to transition to new roles within the local authority. This will enable their skills and experience to be fully utilised in supporting children across the authority.
- P. Should the proposal go ahead, a commitment will be undertaken to ensure the full range of children's needs are addressed and that any disruption to their early learning and childcare is minimised.
- Q. Currently, as setting is based within a secondary school, the families have experienced disruption when there has been no staffing flexibility due to absence. Scottish Government Early Learning and Childcare Guidance states:

“The aim of flexibility is to provide options for families which are in the best interests of the child whilst also meeting the needs of the parents. Being able to access funded and discretionary early learning and childcare, where they are required, at the same location can provide consistency for the child and their Parent/Carer.”

- R. Care will be taken to ensure that all children, parents/carers and staff are familiar with their new environment.
- S. A table detailing other Early Learning and Childcare settings, and their contact details can be found in Appendix 3.

Local Community

- T. Previous experiences have indicated that settings which have an increased high-quality accommodation and resources associated are likely to have a positive impact on the motivation, aspirations and enjoyment of children, staff and the wider school community.
- U. The current space within Lasswade High School may be offered as a flexible area to allow creative and multiple use by the staff, children and pupils and partner services and by the community. Council officers will continue to explore potential options for the space.

Section D: Consideration of Alternative Options and Other Implications

1. With the proposed closure of Lasswade High School Childcare Service, Midlothian Council will ensure that it represents best value through the effective and efficient use of Council resources and services, whilst continuing to explore potential options for the space. In addition to the preferred option three, which has been put forward in this proposal, the alternative following options were considered:
 - **Option 1**
The Lasswade High School Childcare Service to continue and remain under the headship of Lasswade High School with a view to increase the fees to align with other ELC settings.
 - **Option 2**
Midlothian Council to manage the setting as a standalone and not under the headship of Lasswade High School which is not in line with the Council's vision and values for Education and Early Learning & Childcare.
 - **Option 3**
Close Lasswade High School Childcare Service and for the children to be offered places at other settings in the local area. Staff will be redeployed in accordance with the Policy for Managing Change (LGWs). Council officers will continue to explore potential options for the use of the space, to which it may be that the space is leased externally, or it is returned to Lasswade High School as additional space/room for curriculum areas.
2. Option three was selected as the preferred option as it is in line with the Council's vision and values for Education and Early Learning & Childcare.

Transition Arrangements

1. Subject to the conclusion of the Scottish Ministers eight-week call-in period or the notification of the outcome of a call-in, as appropriate, if approved, the closure of Lasswade High School Childcare Service will take effect from September 2025.
2. Children currently attending Lasswade High School Childcare Service will be supported by Early Years staff and Council officers effectively to explore opportunities at other settings in the local area to ensure that continuity and progression in their learning is sustained.
3. There are no catchment areas for Early Learning and Childcare.

Staffing Implications

4. If this proposal is approved, the redeployment of staff currently in Lasswade High School Childcare Service would be managed in accordance with the Policy for Managing Change (LGWs). A mix of group and individual consultations will be undertaken with recognised Trade Unions and all affected staff in the setting.
5. Staff in Lasswade High School Childcare Service will be redeployed and offered suitable alternative posts in other ELC settings. Staff will be supported through the Council's Education Leadership Team structure.
6. Consultation will be undertaken with staff in affected schools, Trade Unions and professional associations where appropriate on an implementation plan. If this proposal is implemented, the Council does not envisage any adverse effects from the proposal in respect of staffing. Should issues arise however, these will be mitigated through the Council's Education Leadership Team support structure.

Financial Implications

7. The financial implications of closing Lasswade High School Childcare Service can be found in Appendix 2.

Integrated Impact Assessment

8. The Council as a public authority has a duty under the Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equality Duty 2011, and the Fairer Scotland Duty (Part one of the Equality Act) to have due regard to their provisions when making strategic financial decisions. This is done through assessing the potential impact of the decision on equality through an Equality Impact Assessment. The Council will undertake the process of assessment during the consultation process in respect of this proposal to ensure that due regard is given to such matters in the decision-making process.
9. The result of the Integrated Impact Assessment will be included in the final Consultation Report document.

Equal Opportunities

26. Having regard to the proposed closure of Lasswade High School Childcare Service setting, it is not believed that this will have a negative impact on any equality target groups.
27. The Council must also consider its duty in respect of socio-economic impact and as part of the consultation process the Council will consult with a wide range of stakeholders, including staff, parents/carers and children and will address comments about equality during this consultation.
28. Under *the Equality Act 2010*, education providers must not treat disabled pupils less favourably and should take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage. The proposed closure of Lasswade High School Childcare Service will comply with accessibility requirements and therefore would positively promote equal opportunities for any child who has a disability.

Section E: Conclusion

1. It is proposed that the childcare service at Lasswade High School be discontinued with effect from September 2025 and any returning children be offered places at other providers with the assistance of Early Years staff and Council Officers.
2. As part of the Council's Learning Estate Strategy 2017-2047, the future use of the space would require to be assessed. Midlothian Council officers will continue to explore potential options for the use of the space. All potential options will be considered.
3. Overall, there are no environmental impacts as a result of this proposal.
4. Overall, there are educational arguments in favour of this proposal.

Appendix 1: Lasswade High School Childcare Service Consultation Timeline

	Date Beginning	Date Ending	Duration
Statutory Consultation Period Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public meetings • Drop in sessions • Engagement with staff, pupils and parent councils 	29/11/2024	24/01/2025	8 weeks
Education Scotland Engagement Period	03/02/2025	28/02/2025	3 weeks
Publication of Consultation Report	03/03/2025		
Further Consideration after publication of report	03/03/2025	24/03/2025	3 weeks
Consideration of Consultation Report by Midlothian Council	01/04/2025	01/04/2025	1 day
Scottish Minister's call in	01/04/2025	27/05/2025	8 weeks
School Closure Review Panel	27/05/2025	22/07/2025	8 weeks
School Closure Panel Extended	22/07/2025	16/09/2025	8 weeks

Appendix 2: Financial Implications

Table 1: Current revenue costs for school proposed for closure.			
Lasswade HS ELC (8406)	Costs for full financial year (budgeted annual costs)	Additional financial impact	Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 3)
School costs:			
Teaching Staff			
Support Staff	121,254	0	121,254
Teaching Staff Training			
Support Staff Training			
Building costs:			
NDR	1,257	1,257	0
Water Charges	139	139	0
Energy Costs	600	600	0
Cleaning (contract or inhouse)	1,665	1,665	0
Building Repairs and Maintenance	298	298	0
Other – Refuse Collection	88	88	0
School operational costs:			
Learning Materials			
Catering (contract or inhouse)	5,029	5,029	0
Other School Operational Costs (e.g. licences)			
Transport costs:			
Home to School Transport			
Income:			
Fees	(50,000)	0	(50,000)
Total Costs for School	80,330	9,076	71,254
Unit Cost per Place per Year of 10FTE places	8,033		

Table 2: Capital Life Cycle Costs	
	Average Annual Cost
Capital Life Cycle Costs	0

Table 3: Annual Property costs to be incurred until disposal	
NDR	1257
Water Charges	139
Energy Costs	600
Cleaning	1,665
Repair and Maintenance	298
Total Annual Cost until Disposal	3,959

Table 4: Impact on Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) Allocation	
The Primary Indicator determining the GAE allocation for ELC is based on the number of ELC pupils with the Secondary indicators based on weighted deprivation numbers and centres in areas of high SIMD and the percentage of pupils in rural settings. The pupils from LHS NS are designated to attend a setting within the same geographic location and as such would not affect these indicators.	nil

Appendix 3: Early Learning and Childcare settings in the Bonnyrigg and Lasswade area

ELC Providers	Area	Email/Telephone
Bonnyrigg Primary School	Bonnyrigg	Bonnyrigg.PS@midlothian.gov.uk 0131 271 4570
Burnbrae Primary School	Bonnyrigg	Burnbrae.PS@midlothian.gov.uk 0131 271 4605
Hopefield Castle Nursery	Bonnyrigg	hopefieldcastle@busybees.com 0131 629 3363
Lasswade Primary School	Bonnyrigg	Lasswade.PS@midlothian.gov.uk 0131 271 4615
St Mary's Primary School	Bonnyrigg	StMarys.PS@midlothian.gov.uk 0131 271 4690
Mount Esk Family Learning Centre	Bonnyrigg	admin@midlothiansurestart.org.uk 0131 660 1749
Mount Esk Nursery School	Bonnyrigg	Mountesk.NS@midlothian.gov.uk 0131 271 4725
Pinocchio's Nursery Lasswade	Lasswade, Bonnyrigg	lasswade@pinocchiosnursery.co.uk 0131 654 2914

Start Bright Nursery	Bonnyrigg	manager.bon@startbrightnursery.co.uk 0131 629 1060
Polton Green Nursery	Bonnyrigg	poltongreennursery@gmail.com 0131 660 4926

A full list of other Early Learning and Childcare Settings in Midlothian can be found on our website: www.midlothian.gov.uk/directory/53/early_learning_and_childcare

Appendix 4: LASSWADE HIGH SCHOOL CHILDCARE SERVICE CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to Elected Members and Council Officers of Midlothian Council.

Proposal to close Lasswade High School Childcare Service.

Further detailed information about the proposal, which you are encouraged to read to help inform your response, can be found at

<https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/lasswade-hscs-consultation>

Please note the closing date for submission of completed questionnaires is **24/01/2025**

You can return this electronically to EducationConsultation@midlothian.gov.uk or by post to Lasswade High School Childcare Service Consultation, Freepost SCO 622, Midlothian Council, Dalkeith EH22 1DN

About You

1. Are you responding to this questionnaire as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Individual

Organisation (please give details below)

2. Which category best describes you?

	Lasswade High School Childcare Service	Other
Parent/carer of current child(ren)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent/carer of future child(ren)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of the community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please give details)

3. If you are a parent/carer, please indicate which stage of education your child/ children currently attend (please tick all that apply)

- Not yet in education
- Pre-school education
- P1-P3
- P4-P7
- S1-S6
- No longer in school education

4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Lasswade High School Childcare Service?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No opinion

5. Please use this box if you wish to give a reason(s) for your view or if you wish to make any further comment on the proposal (if you need to continue on a separate sheet, please attach.)

Thank you for completing this Consultation Questionnaire.