



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 establish a new Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Mayfield Primary School on the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus and close the Speech and Language Communication provision within Mayfield Primary School.

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

- A new Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage will be established on the Mayfield Learning Community Campus;
- The ASN stage will be under the leadership of the Head Teacher of Mayfield Primary School;
- The Speech and Language Communication provision hosted within Mayfield Primary School will close with effect from August 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- The Speech and Language Communication provision will move to an outreach service from August 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter;

The following schools are directly affected by the proposal:

- Mayfield Primary School

In accordance with the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*, Midlothian Council wants to hear your views on the proposal to establish a new additional needs provision as part of the new Mayfield Primary School on the proposed Mayfield Learning Community Campus.

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. (Appendix 3)

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 do not 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/replacement-beeslack-consultation>

A summary of the proposals will be provided to:

- The Parent Councils of the affected schools
- The parents/carers of the pupils at the affected schools
- Parents of children expected to attend an 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 the affected schools
- The teaching and ancillary staff at the affected schools
- The trade union representatives of the above staff
- Midlothian Councillors
- Community Council of Mayfield and Easthouses
- Community Planning Partnership
- Relevant users of the affected schools
- Constituency MP and MSP
- Education Scotland

A copy of this document is also available from:

- Mayfield Primary School, Stone Avenue, Mayfield, Dalkeith, EH22 5PB
- Newbattle Community Campus Library, 1 Newbattle Way, Easthouses, EH22 4SX
- 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 **2 May 2024**. These can be made electronically through the online consultation questionnaire at <https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/mayfield-asn-consultation> or emailed to EducationConsultation@midlothian.gov.uk.

Written responses can be returned to:

Mayfield ASN Consultation, Freepost SCO 622, Midlothian Council, Dalkeith EH22 1DN

The affected consultees are:

The pupils attending Mayfield Primary School

The pupils attending Mayfield Primary School

The Parent Council of Mayfield Primary School

The parents / carers of pupils and children expected to attend Mayfield Primary School within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper

The staff employed by the Council and based at Mayfield Primary School

The Trade Union and Professional Associations Representatives of the above staff

The Community Council of Mayfield and Easthouses

Community Planning Partnership

Other users of the Speech and Language Provision

Consultation with Children and Young People

Children in the 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.

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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 its 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/mayfield-asn-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/mayfield-asn-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 **6 March 2024** and will last until **2 May 2024** 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, **Wednesday 27 March 2024**, the details of which are set out below in paragraphs 18-22.

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 and drop in session. 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 St Margaret's RC Primary School.
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 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 Newbattle Community High School on 27 March 2024.
24. Virtual drop-in sessions will be held on 14 March & 19 March 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 meetings 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. A National Review of the implementation of additional support for learning in schools was carried out by Angela Morgan (2020) on behalf of the Scottish Government. It considered the implementation of additional support for learning legislation and how this applied to practice across authorities. In seeking to take

forward improvements to the education provision for learners with additional support needs, the Education Service undertook a review of Additional Support for Learning including specialist provisions within its schools ([Midlothian Council > Meetings \(cmis.uk.com\)](#))

4. 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

5. 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.
6. 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
7. 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

Current Service Provision Information

8. Mayfield Nursery School, Mayfield Primary School and St Luke's RC Primary School share a joint campus within the centre of Mayfield. The current buildings

were originally constructed in 1963 and are reflective of the design standards for schools of that time.

9. Currently, 6 children with complex additional support needs are hosted in the main school building at Mayfield Primary School in 1 class. The complex additional support needs class has the following staff:
 - One Class Teacher
 - Full time equivalent of 2 Learning Assistants
10. In addition, the school hosts the Speech and Language Communication (SLC) provision and outreach service. This provision currently has the following staff:
 - a Principal Teacher
 - 2 class teachers
 - a Senior Early Years Practitioner and a Childcare Development Worker.
11. The Head Teacher at Mayfield PS has overall responsibility for the leadership and management of the school, including the hosted ASN provision outlined above.
12. Children are based in classrooms in the main school and have specialist staffing and access to equipment and resources that meet their needs. They share facilities with the school. Classrooms were not originally designed for children with complex additional needs. Currently, there are no dedicated dining or social areas, separate enclosed garden space nor drop off area.
13. Midlothian Council decided that a replacement for Mayfield Nursery School and Mayfield and St Luke's RC Primary Schools was required. Mayfield Learning Community Campus will be created on the same site as the schools currently occupy. The existing buildings will be replaced with a new multi-functional, adaptive school campus and community facilities in the heart of Mayfield.
14. The campus buildings will bring together Mayfield Primary School and St Luke's RC Primary School, accommodating up to 701 pupils across the two schools, and a further 128 children in a new Early Learning and Childcare setting.
15. It is proposed that, as part of the development of the new Mayfield Primary School, there will be specialist provision for up to 48 primary-aged children with additional support needs. The class currently hosted at Mayfield Primary will be included in these six classes. As well as six class bases, the provision will benefit from a wide range of modern, high-quality facilities specifically designed to meet the needs of the children who attend.
16. The current Speech and Language Communication (SLC) provision in both the primary school and the early years setting will close and move to an outreach service in partnership with the NHS. There will be no children attending the speech and language provision in the primary school or the early learning and childcare setting by the time the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus opens.

17. The closure of the SLC provision at Mayfield Primary School and movement of the service to outreach has been proposed to provide a locality model. Children and young people who access the SLC service will remain within their locality and their peers, this will provide the intense support and upskill all staff in supporting children and young people with speech, language, and communication needs.

Midlothian Council Learning Estate Strategy 2017-2047 (Update):

18. The Learning Estate is a significant and valuable resource for the communities of Midlothian.

19. Education remains a key priority for the Council and The Learning Estate Strategy plays an integral role in supporting the National Strategy and informs the Council's Strategic Priorities.

20. The Strategic Plan commits to increasing skills for learning, life and work as well as enhancing life opportunities, aligning with the national aim to give every child and young person the best possible start in life.

21. The Learning Estate Strategy seeks to provide improved, flexible and adaptable learning environments to deliver 21st century education as part of a wider place making agenda. This vision is key to meet the principles of Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy and to address the three key national education and skills priorities:

- *Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)*
- *Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)*
- *Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)*

22. The following core principles are to be embedded into Midlothian Council's Learning Estate and underpin the project proposals for the new Mayfield Primary School and its proposed ASN provision.

- Promoting excellence and equity by delivering a more equitable distribution in learning opportunities by ensuring that every one of our children has the right to aim for excellence and to attain excellence in multiple ways;
- Interrupting the cycle of poverty by school hubs having a role at the heart of their community to help address the inequalities that reduce life chances;
- Getting it right for every Midlothian child by utilising the school estate to deliver early intervention strategies through, where possible, the co-location of services together with a family learning approach;
- Taking a community-based approach to building schools which meet the needs of communities and enhance the lives of all those who live in those communities.

23. In short, we aspire to create a learning estate that enhances communities and at its heart supports children and young people through their learning journey from additional support needs, primary and secondary school, college or university to the world of employment, education or training equipped with the skills for life, work and learning both they and society will need to succeed in the growing global knowledge economy of the 21st century.

Midlothian Council – Equipped for Learning Project

“Midlothian will take full advantage of the opportunities offered by technology to equip children and young people with the knowledge and skills essential for learning, life and work in the 21st century.”

24. Midlothian’s award-nominated Equipped for Learning project is the Council’s £10.5 million investment in ensuring every learner has the digital skills and knowledge they need to thrive in learning, in life and in work. Delivered outcomes include:
- Equipping every school-age pupil with a device for learning
 - Upgrading wifi networks to provide fast and reliable internet access
 - Equipping every learning space with an interactive SMART panel
 - Establishing a Google Workspace tenancy for collaborative learning and teaching
25. Supporting children and young people with additional support needs requires effective partnership working. Midlothian’s Digital Inclusion and Learning Team works closely with schools and partners to identify assistive technology that is bespoke and will meet learners’ needs. The team works closely with Digital Services to overcome technical barriers where these arise, plans for improvement and facilitates quality training for pupils, families and staff to ensure assistive technology is used to its full potential.
26. Midlothian’s partnership with Texthelp has brought accessibility tools to every learner in Midlothian through the Read&Write toolbar. 90.7% of pupils and staff now regularly use key tools such as text to speech, screen reader, translate and interactive dictionaries, direct from their device. This work, provided alongside boots-on-the-ground support in all schools and settings, has reduced referrals for assistive technology by 90.6% in the last eighteen months.
27. Midlothian has also secured a world-first Free for Families offer that will see every Midlothian family able to download the Read&Write toolbar at home on up to five devices, free of charge.
28. The core infrastructure at the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus, including Mayfield Primary School and its additional needs provision will be fully equipped and functional from day one to ensure good quality technologies and connectivity for all.
29. More about Midlothian’s Equipped for Learning project can be found at: [Equipped for Learning | Equipped for Learning \(midlothian.education\)](https://www.midlothian.education/Equipped-for-Learning)

Rights Respecting Schools (RRS)

30. Midlothian Council’s Vision seeks to put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of each and every school’s ethos and culture. Midlothian Council’s aim is to improve well-being and develop every child’s talents and abilities to their full potential.

31. Teaching children about their rights can reduce exclusions and bullying, improve teacher-pupil relationships, raise attainment and make for more mature, responsible students according to research published by UNICEF UK.
32. Within Midlothian, a number of schools are embracing this approach and embedding the Right Respecting Schools (RRS) principles in their school improvement plans, for example featuring it within the curriculum programme, promoting children's rights on a daily basis in class and displaying class charters.
33. As stated in [Included, Engaged and Involved, Part 1](#), every child has the right to grow up fully included in their learning experience and to be treated with respect. A positive school ethos and culture is essential to developing good relationships and positive behaviour in the classroom, playground and wider community.
34. These principles and their implementation will be integral to the vision and values of the Early Learning and Childcare and primary school settings in the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus.

Meeting National Outcomes

35. 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.'*
36. 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.
37. 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, 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.

38. This project incorporates the Midlothian Learning Estate Strategy and National Learning Estate Strategy Principles and sets out how they will be met through the Campus project.

The proposed permanent provision for primary-aged children with additional support needs (ASN)

39. The Mayfield Learning Community Campus, including the additional needs provision at the new Mayfield Primary School, will offer a range of 21st century facilities throughout and has been designed to provide a variety of modern learning and teaching settings. It will offer children the opportunity to learn and develop within state-of-the-art facilities which will benefit from modern design and materials. The design and layout for all aspects of the new campus will deliver education in purpose-built accommodation, including for children with additional support needs which has the ability to deliver the curriculum using latest technology. Buildings will be sustainable and energy efficient.

40. The new campus will also provide excellent facilities for children, families and other users outwith core school hours. It will provide accessible facilities that could be used to meet the learning, leisure and social needs of the community. It is envisaged that all children and young people in the area will benefit from the development of the new campus.

41. The additional needs provision, which will initially cater for learners with complex needs, will be designed to be flexible to take account of the changing range of needs in the authority in future years. The specialist provision established in the school is designed as an integral part of Mayfield Primary School. It will provide a high quality, nurturing learning environment within a fully up-to-date and purpose-built educational environment.

26. The new ASN facility will provide space for 48 ASN pupils across 6 classrooms. Classrooms are designed in clusters of two, with each two classrooms accessed from a shared cloakroom and sharing an Accessible WC and Quiet Room which can be accessed from directly within the classroom.

42. The class for children with complex needs currently hosted at Mayfield Primary School will transfer into one of these new classes as a permanent specialist provision integrated into the new school. The proposed increased capacity will ensure Midlothian meets the ongoing increase in the needs of children across the Council area.

43. Children with additional support needs will have their own entrance to their part of the school, as well as their own drop off point. They will all have access to an

enclosed and secure garden with play equipment specifically designed to meet their needs. This includes direct access into their classroom.

44. The core education provision is supported by an arrangement of two sensory rooms, two nurture rooms, a social space, dining space and dedicated movement and expressive arts space, as well as ancillary spaces such as staff offices, meeting and parents rooms, a therapy room and utility room.
45. Working with parents and partner services, including health, will be enhanced by the provision of a parents' room and a further meeting room to allow for community groups to access out of hours.
46. While the additional support needs provision will be designed to specifically cater for ASN learners, the design of the new Mayfield Primary School will also strongly support the integration of children in the provision into whole school activities and to accessing shared resources at Mayfield Primary School and the campus more widely.
47. As well as dedicated specialist spaces, children and their families will have access to the improved community facilities across the whole campus. These include flexible spaces for community use, a library and café, football and basketball pitches, a "wee forest" area and a community garden.
48. The proposed ASN provision will be led and managed overall by the Head Teacher at Mayfield Primary School.
49. A new Depute Head Teacher post and additional management time would be added to Mayfield Primary School's devolved school management budget to reflect the additional leadership roles and responsibilities associated with the ASN provision.
50. The closure of the Speech and Language Communication provision within Mayfield Primary School and establishment of a new ASN stage at Mayfield Primary School on the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus will directly affect the following schools and is considered in this Proposal Document:
 - Mayfield Primary School
51. 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 education in their area
 - The duties placed on local authorities to secure best value in the delivery of services

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

- The Speech and Language Communication provision hosted within Mayfield Primary School will close with effect from August 2024;
- The Speech and Language Communication provision will move to an outreach service from August 2024;
- A new ASN stage will be established on the Mayfield Learning Community Campus;
- The ASN stage will be under the leadership of the Headteacher of Mayfield Primary School;

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. If this proposal is implemented, the Council believes that there will be considerable educational benefits arising from this. These centre around:
- Learning and teaching;
 - Meeting learners needs;
 - Broadening the range of opportunities; and
 - A more vibrant and lively learning environment.
- D. Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) sits at the heart of what Midlothian Council is committed to achieving in terms of raising attainment and achievement and improving educational outcomes for all children. CfE is intended to nurture successful, effective, confident and responsible children, able to learn and utilise learning in a way that helps them reach their full potential and to respond to the increased variety and pace of change in today's and tomorrow's world. The principles of Curriculum for Excellence recognise the professionalism of teachers

and the importance of this in exercising the freedom and responsibility associated with broader guidance. This means that schools are able to design their curriculum to meet the specific needs of their children and community while delivering their entitlement to a broad general education.

- E. The proposed additional support needs provision for primary- aged children at the new Mayfield Primary School will offer children the opportunity to learn and develop within a state-of-the-art facility which will benefit from modern design and materials.
- F. The additional support needs provision will initially support children with complex needs, however it will be designed to ensure it can support a range of additional support needs should the need change in the future. The six classes within Mayfield Primary school will have a higher staff to child ratio than mainstream classes. Wherever appropriate and based on the needs of the children, they will be integrated into school life at Mayfield PS and benefit from further learning opportunities either in Mayfield or their catchment primary school.
- G. The inclusion of an additional needs provision at Mayfield Primary School will result in a number of educational benefits. Providing suitable high quality learning environments resourced with specialist staff to ensure the development of the personality, talents and mental and physical abilities of the learners to their fullest potential. It would increase the number of available specialist placements for learners with additional support needs living in the Newbattle locality.

Learning Environment

- H. The complex needs class that is currently hosted at Mayfield Primary School is based in a classroom in the main school building and they share facilities with the school. The classrooms were not originally designed for children with complex additional needs. Currently, there are no dedicated dining or social areas, separate enclosed garden space nor drop off area.

I. The proposed additional support needs provision will provide a nurturing high-quality learning environment designed to support the specific additional support needs of the learners through a differentiated curriculum including life skills and therapeutic approaches. The two nurture rooms, two sensory rooms, the therapy room and the ASN movement space are resources that can be used to promote high quality learning through relational and attachment-based approaches, in a safe environment for primary-aged children with additional support needs. This nurturing environment will further enhance multi-agency working to support children to achieve.

Inclusion

- J. The Midlothian education service's continued commitment to inclusion focuses on the provision of high-quality support that leads to positive outcomes for all children.
- K. The practice of inclusion within our schools and early learning and childcare provisions continues to sit alongside the principles of key national drivers. *Curriculum for Excellence* has the central purpose of ensuring that all children develop as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors and therefore must be central to an inclusive approach. *The*

Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act (2004) as amended (2009) remains the principal legal framework for driving practice.

- L. The layout of the proposed additional support needs provision at the new Mayfield Primary School is not only conducive to the creation of two specialist services but also the integration of the specialist services into whole school activities and collaborations and accessing shared resources.
- M. The new learning environment will support the removal of barriers to accessing all curricular areas as well as other learning opportunities. Where appropriate, and based on the individual needs of the child, children attending will also benefit from opportunities to access learning experiences in a mainstream provision alongside their local peers. This has the potential to improve continuity and progression in their learning and to develop their wellbeing and social and other skills.
- N. Professional collaboration for staff will be enhanced as the new specialist provision will encourage collaboration and collegiality of staff across the whole of The Mayfield Community Learning Campus. The proposed increase in specialist staff supporting the provision working closely within a mainstream building would be advantageous and could provide more effective support to the career-long aspirations of staff. Opportunities for specialist staff to deliver professional learning to the campus can be planned for and more informal professional dialogue can be planned or take place more readily.
- O. All children and young people with language and communication support needs should have a presumption of mainstream education. Through the development of a Speech, Language and Communication outreach service we will provide a more flexible, integrated range of supports across all of our schools and settings. Providing a stronger outreach service will enable our learners to remain in their mainstream classes and build stronger relationships with their community. Staff in primary and secondary schools work in partnership with educational psychologists and speech and language therapists to maximise children's language and communication skills. Where support needs have been identified, staff, parents and children are involved in developing plans which aim to address those needs and remove barriers to learning.

Learning and Teaching and Achievement

- P. Increased high-quality accommodation and resources associated with the proposed new provision are likely to have a positive impact on the motivation, aspirations and enjoyment of children, staff and the wider school community.
- Q. It is proposed that the additional support needs provision will be located on the ground floor of Mayfield Primary School within six classes each with access to a secure garden, nurture rooms, social and dining areas, sensory rooms, IT Hub and a movement space.
- R. At all stages, children would benefit from enhanced resources and pedagogy related to their additional needs in a learning environment that is specifically designed to meet their additional support needs and specialist staff who support them to achieve their best.

- S. The flexible and high-quality learning environment and resources for children with additional support needs at Mayfield Primary School will encourage the planning of learning experiences that strengthen the motivation and engagement of children in their learning and support them to achieve. Spaces, including outdoor space and the movement space, are designed to be used flexibly and will encourage the planning of a wider range of learning experiences to better meet children's additional support needs.
- T. Learning and teaching approaches will include the extensive use of modern, digital approaches to delivering high quality learning experiences for all children. Improved availability and access to up-to-date digital resources by children themselves will support them to become more independent in their learning and provide further opportunities for them to develop skills for learning, life and work.

Health and Wellbeing

- U. Experience in previous new school buildings has demonstrated that a new and flexible learning environment has inspired and motivated children and has a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of learners.
- V. Dining and social areas will be much improved as the new environment provides social and flexible spaces to promote healthy eating and positive engagement with food and with peers. This, along with the development of external areas to create stimulating and inspiring outdoor learning space and the provision of a dedicated internal movement space, will encourage children with additional needs to develop their social and motor skills and improve their health and wellbeing.

Curriculum

- W. The recruitment of a high-quality skilled leadership team, teaching and support staff would increase the expertise within our existing schools. This expertise will allow the planning and delivery of differentiated curricular pathways that meet the needs of all children with a range of additional support needs. The development of the four capacities of CfE, a key purpose of the school's curriculum, will enable each child to become as appropriately independent as possible through continuous promotion of becoming a successful learner, a confident individual, an effective contributor, and responsible citizen. Ensuring the ethos and life of the school community is structured to enable children to practise life skills as part of their daily routines. This will include eating and drinking, moving independently around the school, developing skills of personal care, personal safety, and social etiquette.

Local Community

- X. Previous experience with the Newbattle Campus in Mayfield has shown that high-quality accommodation and resources associated with the proposed new additional support needs provision at Mayfield Primary School are likely to have a positive impact on the motivation, aspirations and enjoyment of children, staff and the wider school community.
- Y. By locating the Mayfield Learning Community Campus, including the additional support needs provision at the new Mayfield Primary School, on the same site in Mayfield, a hub for learning, activities and facilities will be provided that will

contribute to improving people's health and wellbeing, adding to the strength and vibrancy of its community.

Z. Carefully designed, dedicated additional support needs spaces for families and professionals to meet together in the provision, and in Mayfield Primary School more widely, will enhance parental engagement with the work of the school and their children's progress.

AA. Across the proposed Mayfield Community Learning Campus, spaces are designed to be flexible and allow creative and multiple use by the staff, children and pupils and partner services and also by the community. This will enhance the positive impact family learning and partnership working has on the educational journey for children with additional support needs.

BB. As well as dedicated specialist spaces, children with additional support needs and their families would have access to the improved community facilities across the whole campus.

CC. The new Mayfield Primary School would continue to belong to the Newbattle High School associated school group and the Midlothian Additional Support needs network. Staff will therefore continue to benefit from the strong culture of collaboration and joint planning within this associated school group and the network.

Section D: Consideration of Alternative Options and Other Implications

1. The proposed additional support needs provision at Mayfield Primary School on the Mayfield Learning Community Campus will represent best value through the effective and efficient use of Council resources.
2. By locating the Mayfield Learning Community Campus, including Mayfield primary School and the proposed specialist provision for children with additional needs on the same site in Mayfield, a hub for learning, activities and facilities will be provided that will contribute to improving people's health and wellbeing, adding to the strength and vibrancy of its community.
3. The Midlothian review of Additional Support Needs (ASN) in November 2022 highlighted the increasing numbers of children with more complex additional support needs. Accordingly, the availability of and demand for educational places for children with ASN will continue to be subject to ongoing monitoring and review.
4. Consideration will also be given to the new housing developments and other demographic changes such as the number of families with children with additional support needs moving into the authority which may lead to discussion about the need for any relevant modifications to the educational estate.
5. If the Speech and Language Communication (SLC) provision remains open this would not align with our vision that children remain supported within their own learning community unless the nature of the additional support need requires very specialist provision.

Transition Arrangements

6. It is proposed that there will be no change to the current process for referrals and the allocation of specialist primary support spaces.
7. There will no longer be any children attending the provision when the proposal is due to take effect if approved by Council.
8. An enhanced transition to secondary education will be offered to all children attending the ASN provision based on the individual needs of each child.
9. Children will be supported to transition to their catchment area secondary school.
10. Where a child's additional support needs continue to require additional specialist support, a referral will be made to the Education Resource Group and following assessment and consultation on their needs, they may be allocated specialist support in one of our provisions.

Transport

11. Owing to the location of the new primary school there should be no significant changes to school transport setting for eligible pupils. Midlothian Council will continue to provide free school transport for pupils who attend its schools in accordance with existing policy.
12. A School Travel Plan is a strategy developed by each school, including those which have an ELC setting, to encourage and promote more active travel to school for both staff and pupils. The role of the School Travel Plan is to make alternatives to driving easier and safer, and to give parents/carers and staff plenty of information about the options.
13. School Travel Plan can help to improve the school run, reduce congestion and increase road safety, make school pupils and staff healthier, make routes to school safer and look after our environment.
14. A School Travel Plan for the new Mayfield Primary School will be developed in consultation with pupils, parents and staff.

Financial Implications

15. The financial implications of closing the Speech and Language Communication (SLC) provision at Mayfield Primary School can be found in Appendix 2.
16. The approved budget for the ASN provision is £8.3m.

Staffing Implications

17. The proposed ASN provision and associated outreach will be led and managed overall by the Head Teacher at Mayfield Primary School.

18. A new Depute Head Teacher post and additional management time would be added to Mayfield Primary School's devolved school management budget to reflect the additional leadership roles and responsibilities associated with the ASN provision.
19. The six classes within the ASN provision will be staffed according to local and national policies and agreements in place at the time, which are designed to ensure that all duties and responsibilities of meeting the needs of those children with additional support needs are carried out.
20. The staffing levels will principally be determined by the number of children. The Education Resource Group will continue to allocate places to the specialist provisions based on assessment of their needs in partnership with the Head Teacher.
21. Transfer of staff from the current Mayfield Primary School would be managed in accordance with existing agreed Council policies and procedures. Consultation will be undertaken with staff in affected schools, Trade Unions and professional associations where appropriate on an implementation plan for staffing the new ASN provision.
22. Transfer of staff from the current hosted SLC provision to outreach would be managed in accordance with existing agreed Council policies and procedures. Consultation will be undertaken with staff in affected schools, Trade Unions and professional associations where appropriate on an implementation plan for staffing the new ASN provision.
23. 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.
24. It is acknowledged that should the proposal be approved and implemented, forward planning will be required from the Education Service as a matter of good management practice in ensuring the required staffing is in place. Staffing arrangements for the new primary school, ASN provision will be consistent with Midlothian Council's recruitment policies and other local arrangements.

Integrated Impact Assessment

25. 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.
26. The result of the Integrated Impact Assessment will be included in the final Consultation Report document.

Equal Opportunities

27. The Council must also consider its duty in respect of socio-economic impact.
Having the new provision in the community means that remains accessible for those who may be economically disadvantaged.
28. As part of the consultation process the Council will consult with a wide range of stakeholders, including staff, parents/carers and children and young people and will address comments about equality during this consultation.
29. 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 new additional support needs provision will comply with accessibility requirements and therefore would positively promote equal opportunities for any child who has a disability.

Section E: Conclusion

1. The Council believes that the measures proposed in this document will enhance provision for children with additional support needs in Midlothian.
2. This proposal will ensure best value and provide children with the opportunity to access Speech and Language Communication services within their own locality.
3. This proposal will bring educational benefits to the present and future users of the new additional support needs provision and assist in ensuring that capacity pressures are managed to improve learning experiences. It will assist in ensuring that capacity pressures are planned and managed, and that children's learning experiences and achievements are improved.
4. Overall, there are strong educational arguments in favour of this proposal.

Appendix 1: Mayfield Additional Support Needs (ASN) Consultation Timeline

| | Date beginning | Date ending | Duration |
|--|----------------|-------------|----------|
| Statutory consultation period Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial consultation report • Public meetings • Drop-in sessions • Engagement with staff, pupils, and parent councils | 06/03/2024 | 02/05/2024 | 8 weeks |
| Education Scotland engagement period | 06/05/2024 | 27/05/2024 | 3 weeks |
| Publication of consultation report | 03/06/2024 | | |
| Further considerations after publication of the reports | 03/06/2024 | 24/06/2024 | 3 weeks |
| Consideration of Consultation Reports by Midlothian Council | 25/06/2024 | | |
| Scottish Minister's call in | 25/06/2024 | 23/10/2024 | 8 weeks |
| School Closure Review Panel | 23/10/2024 | 18/12/2024 | 8 weeks |
| School Closure Panel Extended | 18/12/2024 | 05/03/2025 | 8 weeks |

APPENDIX 2 – Financial Implications

| Table 1: Current revenue costs for school proposed for closure. | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Mayfield SaLT Provision (8323 + 8510) 68.5m out of usable space of 3237.5m 2.12% | Costs for full financial year (projected annual costs) | Additional financial impact | Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 3) |
| School costs | | | |
| Teaching Staff | 177,019 | 177,019 | - |
| Support Staff | 73,767 | 73,767 | - |
| Teaching Staff Training | 375 | | 375 |
| Support Staff Training | 150 | | 150 |
| | | | |
| Building costs: | | | |
| NDR | 1,140 | 1,140 | - |
| Water Charges | 501 | | 501 |
| Energy Costs | 1,776 | | 1,776 |
| Cleaning (contract or inhouse) | 1,447 | | 1,447 |
| Building Repairs and Maintenance | 108 | 108 | - |
| Other – Refuse Collection | 198 | 198 | - |
| | | | |
| School operational costs: | | | |
| Learning Materials | 1,056 | | 1,056 |
| Catering (contract or inhouse) | 2,852 | 2,366 | - |
| Other School Operational Costs (e.g. licences) | 0 | | |
| | | | |
| Transport costs: | | | |
| Home to School Transport | | | |
| | | | |
| Total Costs for School | 260,389 | 254,598 | 5,791 |
| | | | |
| Unit Cost per Pupil per Year of 12 places | 21,699 | | |

| 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 | |

| | |
|---|--|
| Water Charges | |
| Energy Costs | |
| Cleaning | |
| Repair and Maintenance | |
| | |
| Total Annual Cost until Disposal | |

APPENDIX 3 – MAYFIELD ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS (ASN) 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 the Speech and Language Communication provision within Mayfield Primary School and establish a new ASN stage at Mayfield Primary School on the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus

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/mayfield-asn-consultation>

Please note the closing date for submission of completed questionnaires is **02/05/2024**.

You can return this electronically to EducationConsultation@midlothian.gov.uk or by post to Mayfield ASN 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?

| | Mayfield PS | Other |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Parent of current pupil(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parent of future pupil(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pupil | <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) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3. If you are a parent, 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 establish an ASN stage on the Mayfield Learning Community Campus?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

No opinion

5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to place the new ASN stage under the leadership of the Head Teacher of Mayfield Primary School?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

No opinion

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close the Speech and Language Communication provision hosted within Mayfield Primary School?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

No opinion

7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to move the Speech and Language Communication provision to an outreach service?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

No opinion

8. 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

Thank you for completing this Consultation Questionnaire.