



Midlothian Council
Children, Young People and Partnerships
Directorate

Statutory Consultation Report

Report on the outcome of the consultation on the proposed relocation of Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools.

25 June 2024

This Consultation Proposal has been issued by Midlothian Council in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

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Midlothian Council

Children, Young People and Partnerships Directorate

This report has been prepared following a statutory consultation on the following proposal:

Proposed relocation of Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation:

- Beeslack Community High School will be relocated from its current site to land adjacent to Easter Bush from August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- A new additional support needs (ASN) stage will be established at Beeslack Community High School when the school opens in August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- The catchment area of Beeslack Community High School will be realigned to include the catchment areas of Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools;
- The catchment area of the closed Glencorse Primary School will be realigned to the Mauricewood Primary School catchment area;
- The catchment area of Penicuik High School will be realigned to include the catchment areas of Mauricewood and the closed Glencorse Primary Schools;
- A new ASN stage will be established at Penicuik High School.

The following schools are directly affected by this proposal:

- Beeslack Community High School
- Loanhead Primary School
- Paradykes Primary School
- Mauricewood Primary School
- Glencorse Primary School Catchment Area
- Roslin Primary School
- Penicuik High School
- Lasswade High School
- Saltersgate School

The following schools will be indirectly affected by the proposal:

- Bilston Primary School
- Cuiken Primary School
- Cornbank St James Primary School
- Strathesk Primary School
- Bonnyrigg Primary School
- Burnbrae Primary School
- Hawthornden Primary School
- Lasswade Primary School
- Rosewell Primary School
- Sacred Heart RC Primary School
- St Mary's RC Primary School
- St Matthew's RC Primary School

Having had regard (in particular) to:

- a) Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period
- b) Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the two public meetings which were held on 20 and 25 March 2024
- c) Any representations made to it by Parent Councils
- d) Oral representations made to it at the virtual public drop-in sessions on 07 and 12 March 2024
- e) Oral representations made to it by pupils
- f) Education Scotland's report on the proposal

1 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of Midlothian's Learning Estate Strategy 2017-2047, it was identified that a new/replacement secondary school would be required to address capacity pressures across the A701 corridor and Penicuik.
- 1.2 At a meeting of Midlothian Council on 15 December 2015 approval was granted for officers to consult communities on options for secondary schools to serve the A701 Corridor and Penicuik and to subsequently bring a paper to Council outlining the preferred approach.
- 1.3 Subsequently an informal consultation exercise was undertaken on the options for secondary schools to serve the A701 corridor and Penicuik. This consultation posited five options, of which the preferred option was the replacement of Beeslack Community High School, the extension of Lasswade High School and the refurbishment and extension of Penicuik High School to serve the Penicuik area, including Mauricewood.
- 1.4 At a meeting of Midlothian Council on 20 December 2016 councillors approved the recommendation for officers to move forward with identifying a potential site in Midlothian West Ward for the proposed replacement Beeslack school building. As well as the recommendation that officers would provide a further report for approval of a statutory consultation on the provision of secondary school education in the A701 corridor.
- 1.5 On 11 May 2021, full council approved recommendations to delegate authority to the Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships to undertake the statutory consultations required for the implementation of the Learning Estate Strategy with the exception of projects involving potential school closures.
- 1.6 Subsequently, on 14th December 2021, Council approved the Strategic Business Case for the replacement of Beeslack Community High School on the proposed site within the Easter Bush campus owned by the University of Edinburgh.
- 1.7 This is a Consultation Proposal prepared in compliance with the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* on the above proposal

1.8 The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide a record of the total number of written responses made during the Statutory Consultation period;
- Provide a summary of the written responses;
- Provide a summary of the oral representations made at the two public meetings held on 20 and 25 March 2024;
- Provide a statement of the Council's response to those written and oral representations;
- Provide the full text of Education Scotland's report and a statement of the Council's response to this report;
- State how the Council reviewed the above proposal following the representations received during the Statutory Consultation period and the report from Education Scotland;
- Provide details of any alleged omission from, or inaccuracy in, the Consultation Proposal Document and state how the Council acted upon it; and
- State how the Council has complied with Section 12 of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* when reviewing the above proposal.

2 Background

- 2.1 *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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 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* principal 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.”

- 2.5 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>

The following information has also been used to prepare the report:

- Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period
- Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the two public meetings held on 20 and 25 March 2024
- Any representations made to it by Parent Councils
- Oral representations made to it at the virtual public drop-in sessions on 07 and 12 March 2024
- Oral representations made to it by pupils
- Education Scotland’s report on the proposal

Midlothian’s Vision for Education

- 2.6 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, 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
- 2.7 Our outcomes for the next 5 years are:
- Individuals and communities have improved health and learning outcomes
 - No child or household living in poverty
 - Significant progress is made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030
- 2.8 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.

2.9 An update to the Learning Estate Strategy was approved at full council December 2022 and also included the Council's strategy for the provision of specialist provisions and services across its estate.

2.10 The proposed replacement Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas will alleviate capacity pressures.

2.11 In the process of creating the proposed new catchment areas the historical catchment boundary of the closed Glencorse was also identified. The Council proposes to realign the closed Glencorse area from a dual catchment area with Roslin and Mauricewood PS to solely the Mauricewood PS catchment area.

3 Considerations

3.1 The main considerations relating to the proposed relocation of Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools. These are fully explained in the Consultation Proposal Document. The main points are highlighted below:

- 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

4 The Consultation Process

4.1 The Council has met the requirements set out in the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* with regards to ensuring the views of the community were listened to and their views are included in this report. In order to further ensure compliance with the

Act, an independent consultant was engaged to chair all meetings to ensure impartiality.

The Council believes that this report accurately reflects the views of the community, which have been gathered through a range of engagement events and response mechanisms.

It is for members of Midlothian Council to decide to adopt the proposal, withdraw it or seek to consult on another proposal.

4.2 Notification of the consultation was given to all statutory consultees prior to the commencement of the consultation.

4.3 The Consultation Proposal Document was published on Midlothian Council's website and paper copies distributed on 19 February 2024 to:

- Beeslack Community High School, Edinburgh Road, Penicuik, EH26 0QF
- Loanhead Primary School, 34 Edgefield Road, Loanhead, EH20 9DY
- Paradykes Primary School, Mayburn Avenue, Loanhead, EH20 9HB
- Mauricewood Primary School, 11 Muirhead Place, Penicuik, EH26 0LE
- Roslin Primary School, 8 Pentland View Place, Roslin, EH25 9ND
- Penicuik High School, 39a Carlops Road, Penicuik, EH26 9EP
- Lasswade High School, Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg, EH19 2LA
- Saltersgate School, 3 Cousland Road, Dalkeith, EH22 2PS
- Lasswade Library, 19 Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg, EH19 2LA
- Loanhead Library, The Loanhead Centre, George Avenue, Loanhead, EH20 9LA
- Penicuik Library, Carlops Road, Penicuik, EH26 9EP
- Roslin Library, 9a Main Street, Roslin, EH25 9LD
- Midlothian House, 40 – 46 Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN

4.4 Copies of an information leaflet on the consultation were emailed to affected consultees (see list below) and schools and others on 08 February 2024.

4.5 Affected consultees:

- The pupils attending Beeslack Community, Lasswade and Penicuik High Schools and Saltersgate School
- The pupils attending Loanhead, Paradykes, Roslin and Mauricewood Primary Schools
- The Parent Councils of Beeslack Community, Lasswade and Penicuik High Schools and Saltersgate School
- The Parent Councils of Loanhead, Paradykes, Roslin and Mauricewood Primary Schools
- The parents / carers of pupils and children expected to attend Loanhead, Paradykes, Roslin and Mauricewood Primary Schools, as well as Beeslack Community, Lasswade and Penicuik High Schools and Saltersgate School within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper

- The staff employed by the Council and based at Loanhead, Paradykes, Roslin and Mauricewood Primary Schools as well as Beeslack Community, Lasswade and Penicuik High Schools and Saltersgate School
 - The Trade Union and Professional Associations Representatives of the above staff
 - The Community Councils of Bonnyrigg and District, Dalkeith and District, Damhead and District, Howgate, Loanhead and District, Penicuik and District, Rosewell and District and Roslin and Bilston.
 - Community Planning Partnership
 - Other users of Beeslack Community High School
- 4.6 The consultation period commenced on Monday 19 February 2024 and lasted until Tuesday 16 April 2024, being a period of nine weeks, which also included the statutory minimum 30 school days.
- 4.7 The proposal on which the consultation took place was:
- The proposed relocation of Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools.
- 4.8 The requirements for consulting on a relevant proposal relating to schools are set out in the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*.
- 4.9 An information leaflet setting out details about the proposal and consultation meetings was issued to the consultees listed in the Consultation Proposal Document. Advice on where the complete Consultation Proposal Document could be obtained was included and was published on Midlothian Council's Consultation Hub:
- <https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/replacement-beeslack-consultation>
- 4.10 If requested, copies of the proposal would have been made available in alternative formats or translated for readers whose first language is not English.
- 4.11 A 'Frequently Asked Questions' document was also prepared which was available at the same location on the Midlothian Council's Consultation Hub.
- <https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/replacement-beeslack-consultation>
- 4.12 In addition the consultation was publicised and received engagement in the following ways:
- There were 22 Facebook posts: Best performing reached 16,343 news feeds and 2,399 people engaged with it. We shared some of these too on the Penicuik Residents Facebook page.
 - There were 22 Twitter posts: Best performing had 2,190 impressions and 180 engagements (we made sure to tag in Twitter accounts of catchment schools too to encourage sharing)
 - We sent out two media releases about the consultation. The first was viewed 135 times and the second one 313 times.
 - An advertisement was placed in the Midlothian Advertiser week beginning Monday 04 March.

- The consultation was pushed during Council news slots on a local radio station.
- 4.13 A generic email account was set up by the Council to receive representations and enquiries on the proposal.
- 4.14 Two public meetings were held, the first at, Beeslack Community High School on 20 March 2024 at 7pm and the other in Lasswade High School on 25 March 2024 at 7pm.
- 4.15 In addition to specific meetings with statutory consultees, virtual drop-in sessions via MS Teams were held on 07 and 12 March 2024, which members of the public and staff were welcome to attend.
- 4.16 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following persons, including those indirectly affected, were consulted:
- The pupils attending Beeslack Community, Lasswade and Penicuik High Schools and Saltersgate School
 - The pupils attending Loanhead, Paradykes, Roslin and Mauricewood Primary Schools
 - The Parent Councils of Beeslack Community, Lasswade and Penicuik High Schools and Saltersgate School
 - The Parent Councils of Loanhead, Paradykes, Roslin and Mauricewood Primary Schools
 - The parents/carers of pupils and children expected to attend Loanhead, Paradykes, Roslin and Mauricewood Primary Schools, as well as Beeslack Community, Lasswade and Penicuik High Schools and Saltersgate School within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper
 - The staff employed by the Council and based at Loanhead, Paradykes, Roslin and Mauricewood Primary Schools as well as Beeslack Community, Lasswade and Penicuik High Schools and Saltersgate School
 - The Trade Union and Professional Associations Representatives of the above staff
 - The Community Councils of Bonnyrigg and District, Dalkeith and District, Damhead and District, Howgate, Loanhead and District, Penicuik and District, Rosewell and District and Roslin and Bilston.
 - Community Planning Partnership
- 4.17 The following schools are directly affected by the proposal:
- Beeslack Community High School
 - Loanhead Primary School
 - Paradykes Primary School
 - Mauricewood Primary School
 - Glencorse Primary School Catchment Area
 - Roslin Primary School
 - Penicuik High School
 - Lasswade High School
 - Saltersgate School

4.18 Representations were sought from statutory consultees and the wider public in the following ways:

- An online questionnaire on Midlothian Council's Citizen Space Consultation Page. The questionnaire asked specific questions and enabled general comments and views to be entered.
- Digital leaflets, in addition to the press advert and Council web and social media announcements linked to the Consultation Page. These detailed a specific Education Consultations email inbox, to which any queries could be submitted during the consultation period.
- The Head Teachers of Loanhead, Paradykes, Mauricewood and Roslin Primary Schools and Beeslack, Lasswade, Penicuik High Schools and Saltersgate School used established methods of communication to engage/remind parents about the consultation.
- Meetings were held with pupils from Loanhead, Paradykes, Mauricewood and Roslin Primary Schools as well as Beeslack and Penicuik High Schools. Learners from Beeslack annex and Saltersgate were also met with.
- Meetings were offered to Loanhead, Paradykes, Mauricewood and Roslin Primary Schools and Beeslack, Lasswade and Penicuik High Schools and Saltersgate School Parent Councils.

4.19 The Consultation Proposal is the Council's response to the points raised during the consultation period on the Consultation Proposal Document.

4.20 This Consultation Proposal will be published for a period of three weeks before a final decision is taken by Midlothian Council on 25 June 2024.

5 The Public Meetings

5.1 Two public meetings were held, the first at, Beeslack Community High School on 20 March 2024 at 7pm to which sixteen members of the public attended. The other took place in Lasswade High School on 25 March 2024 at 7pm to which nine members of the public attended.

6 Responses to the Consultation Exercise

6.1 As part of the consultation process, the Council sought the views of a wide range of stakeholders. The Council provided stakeholders with a short online or paper questionnaire and also made arrangements for receiving additional written responses. The Council received 388 responses to its questionnaire during the consultation period. All representations that had been made during the consultation period were submitted to Education Scotland and any issues or concerns raised are also subject to the Council's response in this Consultation Proposal.

The questionnaire responses are summarised by category in the following tables:

Table 1 – Number of respondents by type of respondent

Type of Respondent	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Organisations	3	0.8%
Individuals	383	98.7%
Not Answered	2	0.5%
Total Responses	388	100

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 2 – Number of respondents by category

Individual Respondent	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Parents	325	75.2%
Staff	12	2.7%%
Pupil	5	1.2%
Member of Local Community	77	17.8%
Other/Unknown	13	3%
Total Responses	432	100%

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

6.2 Three responses to the consultation were also received by email.

6.3 For the Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to relocate Beeslack Community High School from its current site to land adjacent to Easter Bush? The responses were as follows:

Table 3 – Number of Responses by Opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	103	26.6%
Agree	143	36.9%
No Opinion	36	9.3%
Disagree	55	14.2%
Strongly Disagree	50	12.9%
Not Answered	1	0.3%
Total Responses	388	100%

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 4 - Number of respondents by category

Respondents	Agree/Strongly Agree	Disagree/Strongly Disagree	No opinion/Not answered
Parents	221	76	28
Staff	9	2	1
Pupil	2	3	0
Member of Local Community	40	29	8
Other/Unknown	5	4	4
Total Responses	277	114	41

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.4 For the Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to realign the Beeslack Community High School catchment area to include the catchment areas of Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools? The responses were as follows:

Table 5 – Number of Responses by Opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	82	21.1%
Agree	140	36%
No Opinion	67	17.3%
Disagree	46	11.9%
Strongly Disagree	52	13.4%
Not Answered	1	0.3%
Total Responses	388	100%

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 6 - Number of respondents by category

Respondents	Agree/Strongly Agree	Disagree/Strongly Disagree	No opinion/Not answered
Parents	196	78	51
Staff	11	0	1
Pupil	4	1	0
Member of Local Community	30	24	23
Other/Unknown	5	5	3
Total Responses	246	108	78

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.5 For the Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to realign the catchment areas of the closed Glencorse Primary School and Mauricewood Primary School from the Beeslack Community High School catchment area to the Penicuik High School catchment area? The responses were as follows:

Table 7 – Number of Responses by Opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	46	11.9%
Agree	78	20.1%
No Opinion	147	37.9%
Disagree	43	11.1%
Strongly Disagree	72	18.6%
Not Answered	2	0.5%
Total Responses	388	100%

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 8 - Number of respondents by category

Respondents	Agree/Strongly Agree	Disagree/Strongly Disagree	No opinion/Not answered
Parents	99	98	128
Staff	9	1	2
Pupil	2	3	0
Member of Local Community	27	22	28
Other/Unknown	3	4	6
Total Responses	140	128	164

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.6 For the Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to realign the catchment area of the closed Glencorse Primary School to the Mauricewood Primary School catchment area? The responses were as follows:

Table 9 – Number of Responses by Opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	44	11.3%
Agree	108	27.8%
No Opinion	176	45.4%
Disagree	22	5.7%
Strongly Disagree	36	9.3%
Not Answered	2	0.5%
Total Responses	388	100%

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 10 - Number of respondents by category

Respondents	Agree/Strongly Agree	Disagree/Strongly Disagree	No opinion/Not answered
Parents	125	45	155
Staff	9	1	2
Pupil	2	3	0
Member of Local Community	30	17	30
Other/Unknown	3	3	7
Total Responses	169	69	194

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.7 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to establish a new ASN stage at Beeslack Community High School? The responses were as follows:

Table 11 – Number of Responses by Opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	120	30.9%
Agree	149	38.4%
No Opinion	92	23.7%
Disagree	12	3.1%
Strongly Disagree	12	3.1%
Not Answered	3	0.8%
Total Responses	388	100%

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 12 - Number of respondents by category

Respondents	Agree/Strongly Agree	Disagree/Strongly Disagree	No opinion/Not answered
Parents	234	18	73
Staff	9	0	3
Pupil	3	1	1
Member of Local Community	49	9	19
Other/Unknown	8	0	5
Total Responses	303	28	101

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.8 For the Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to establish a new ASN stage at Penicuik High School? The responses were as follows:

Table 13 – Number of Responses by Opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	104	26.8%
Agree	126	32.5%
No Opinion	133	34.3%
Disagree	7	1.8%
Strongly Disagree	12	3.1%
Not Answered	6	1.6%
Total Responses	388	100%

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 14 - Number of respondents by category

Respondents	Agree/Strongly Agree	Disagree/Strongly Disagree	No opinion/Not answered
Parents	198	13	114
Staff	8	1	3
Pupil	3	0	2
Member of Local Community	44	5	28
Other/Unknown	5	1	7
Total Responses	258	20	154

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.9 The comments made as part of the questionnaire submissions are included in Appendix 1, apart from submissions which consultees did not wish Midlothian Council to share publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the Education Authority's response as detailed in Section 10 of this report.

Response Analysis from Organisations

- 6.10 There were 3 responses from organisations, their responses have been included in tables 1 to 10 above. All groups did not wish their response to be shared publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the Education Authority's response as detailed in Section 10.

Public Meetings

- 6.11 Two public meetings were arranged, the first was held in Beeslack Community High School on 20 March 2024 and there were 16 members of the public in attendance. The second public meeting was held In Lasswade High School on 25 March 2024 and there were 09 members of the public in attendance.
- 6.12 Additionally, virtual drop-in sessions were arranged for 07 and 12 March 2024, enabling any member of the public and staff to ask questions and discuss the proposal, the consultation process and how they could make representations. Three members of the public attended these sessions.
- 6.13 Meetings were offered to all relevant parent councils and three of these were held on 14 March 2024 at Mauricewood Primary School, 27 March 2024 at Loanhead Primary School and 28th March 2024 at Saltersgate School.

Pupils and Staff

- 6.14 During the consultation period, Council officers facilitated meetings with pupils at Loanhead, Mauricewood, Paradykes and Roslin Primary Schools and Beeslack and

Penicuik High Schools. We also met with learners from Saltersgate and Beeslack Annex to provide good opportunities for them to discuss and share their views.

- 6.15 A copy of the information leaflet and a link to the consultation page was sent to all staff, inviting them to respond to the consultation via the online survey and highlighting the consultation mailbox for any queries.

Response to the Consultation

- 6.16 Midlothian Council received 388 responses to the consultation. The total pupil population of the affected schools is 4,237 which means the rate of response against the school population is 9.2%.
- 6.17 A high number of respondents indicated that they had no opinion on certain proposals (38.5% for question 3 and 45.9% for question 4). This means that while the percentages for support and opposition for certain questions is lower as it takes those with no opinion into account.

7 Support for the Proposal

- 7.1 63.4% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to relocate Beeslack Community High School from it's current site to land adjacent to Easter Bush.
- 7.2 57.2% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to realign the Beeslack Community High School catchment area to include the catchment areas of Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools.
- 7.3 32% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to realign the catchment area of the closed Glencorse Primary School and Mauricewood Primary School from the Beeslack Community High School catchment area to the Penicuik High School catchment area.
- 7.4 39.2% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to realign the catchment area of the closed Glencorse Primary School to the Mauricewood Primary School catchment area.
- 7.5 69.3% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to establish a new ASN stage at Beeslack Community High School.
- 7.6 59.3% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to establish a new ASN stage at Penicuik High School.

The full text of all responses received can be read in Appendix 1, apart from submissions which consultees did not wish Midlothian Council to share publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the Education Authority's response as detailed in Section 10 of this report.

- 7.7 A number of common points and questions emerged from the responses as follows:
- Transport to school and safe routes
 - Concerns around the A701 & A703 crossing and increased volume of traffic

- Changes to catchment areas
- Impact on Mauricewood PS
- How will the Council ensure that the school's community ethos is maintained and ensured?
- Perhaps ASN would be better supported in the old Glencorse PS building instead of via Beeslack or Penicuik HS's?
- Given the huge volume of new family size housing at Bilston, Roslin and Auchendinny does the council have confidence that there will be sufficient space in Bilston, Roslin and Mauricewood PS? Why was Glencorse closed?

8 Opposition to the Proposal

- 8.1 27.1% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation were not in favour of the proposal to relocate Beeslack Community High School from it's current site to land adjacent to Easter Bush.
- 8.2 25.3% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation were not in favour of the proposal to realign the Beeslack Community High School catchment area to include the catchment areas of Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools.
- 8.3 29.6% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation were not in favour of the proposal the proposal to realign the catchment area of the closed Glencorse Primary School and Mauricewood Primary School from the Beeslack Community High School catchment area to the Penicuik High School catchment area.
- 8.4 14.9% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation were not in favour of the proposal to realign the catchment area of the closed Glencorse Primary School to the Mauricewood Primary School catchment area.
- 8.5 6.2% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation were not in favour of the proposal to establish a new ASN stage at Beeslack Community High School.
- 8.6 4.9% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation were not in favour of the proposal to establish a new ASN stage at Penicuik High School.
- 8.7 The full text of all responses received can be read in Appendix 1, apart from submissions which consultees did not wish Midlothian Council to share publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the Education Authority's response as detailed in Section 10 of this report.
- 8.8 A number of common points and questions emerged from the responses as follows:
 - Transport to school and safe routes
 - Changes to catchment areas
 - Young people not being able to access the proposed offerings of the replacement Beeslack CHS.
 - Is a new school necessary with the increasing costs of the build? Would it not be better value for money to refurbish both the current Beeslack and Penicuik Schools?

9 No Opinion on the Proposal

- 9.1 9.5% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation had no opinion on the proposal to relocate Beeslack Community High School from it's current site to land adjacent to Easter Bush.
- 9.2 17.5% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation had no opinion on the proposal to realign the Beeslack Community High School catchment area to include the catchment areas of Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools.
- 9.3 38.4% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation had no opinion on the proposal to realign the catchment area of the closed Glencorse Primary School and Mauricewood Primary School from the Beeslack Community High School catchment area to the Penicuik High School catchment area.
- 9.4 45.9% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation had no opinion on the proposal to realign the catchment area of the closed Glencorse Primary School to the Mauricewood Primary School catchment area.
- 9.5 24.5% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation had no opinion on the proposal to establish a new ASN stage at Beeslack Community High School.
- 9.6 35.8% of all questionnaire respondents (388 responses) to the consultation had no opinion on the proposal to establish a new ASN stage at Penicuik High School.
- 9.7 The full text of all responses received can be read in Appendix 1, apart from submissions which consultees did not wish Midlothian Council to share publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the Education Authority's response as detailed in Section 10 of this report.
- 9.8 A number of common points and questions emerged from the responses as follows:
- Transport to school and safe routes
 - Can the council inform residents of the planned capacity for the new High School and how this was determined?
 - Can the Council advise performance on previous school build in the authority area against initial completion milestones and spend? Were these buildings delivered on time and on or under budget?
 - Have the Council considered building facilities which can be accessed and utilised by local residents outside of school hours thus improving facilities in the area for all and utilising otherwise dead time for the facilities during evenings and weekends?

10 Education Authority Response to the Main Issues Raised

10.1 Transport to school and safe routes

Traffic management and Safer Routes to Schools will be established for the new school building. Road services are undertaking works over the forthcoming years prior to the new school opening to improve active travel links from all catchment towns and, where possible, plan to install 3m wide shared use footpaths.

A new pedestrian crossing at the A703 will be installed and transport will also look to improve active travel facilities. A701 Nivens Knowe junction near the car dealer garage will be widened with crossings etc and a new junction will also be introduced with a crossing at Main Street at Nivens Knowe Road.

Midlothian Council Travel team is in discussions with Lothian Buses regarding timings as well as areas to be used, routes for regular peak times and improved provision for the new school campus and wider Bush campus.

The time taken to walk will be part of any wider consultation on a movement of agreed school walking distance and Transport will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis based on Midlothian Councils Home to school transport policy and/or safe routes to school availability at the time.

10.2 Concerns around the A701 & A703 crossing and increased volumes of traffic

Midlothian Council is exploring various large projects in the area to include creation of an active travel corridor on the A701 and a new 'A701 relief road' to further move traffic away from the area.

Midlothian in its entirety is being assessed for a move to 20mph villages, this will see 90% of urban roads become 20mph zones with arterial routes becoming 30 mph. This project will be completed prior to the replacement Beeslack CHS opening and a key factor in the assessment is facilities such as schools.

We are currently upgrading the A701 to LED lighting and new, wider footpaths will be installed where appropriate and controlled crossings will be installed as and where necessary. Barriers will be considered and a when the road safety audit suggests necessary.

10.3 Changes to catchment areas

The strategy to accommodate the growth in our non-denominational schools is to provide for a viable school roll across our secondary schools and alleviate capacity pressures. To facilitate this, the realignment of catchment areas has been proposed to maximise the potential of all three affected secondary schools, Penicuik, replacement Beeslack and Lasswade HS.

10.4 Impact on Mauricewood PS

In order to align the primary catchment of Glencorse to its proposed new secondary catchment of Penicuik HS, it is proposed that the Glencorse PS catchment area is realigned to the Mauricewood PS Catchment area. Being part of a bigger group of

Schools will bring benefits from greater opportunities for collaboration and joint working with an increased number of staff and pupils.

An extension comprising of additional classrooms and a gym hall is planned to be delivered by 2026/27. This extension is to accommodate the anticipated pupil increase. The cost of the extension is expected to be met by Developer Contributions.

10.5 How will the Council ensure that the school's community ethos is maintained and ensured?

The Head teacher at Beeslack was asked about the current school identity and sense of belonging for those attending Beeslack. She has said:

'As a school community, we see the move to a new school building as just that - a change in location with a new, improved building, but our core values and sense of identity will move with us. We have a saying that represents our identity: "Once at Beeslack, always at Beeslack."

As a school community, we are all individuals and our lives will follow many different paths, but Beeslack will always connect us. Former pupils and colleagues will always be made welcome when they walk through our door and we will continue to cheer them on from afar; we instil this in all our leavers and remind them that they will always be a part of Beeslack.

Beeslack is 40 years old this year and many former pupils and colleagues still visit us and contribute to the life of the school; to change our name would be to sever a special connection and render one of our fundamental principles ("Once at Beeslack, always at Beeslack") obsolete.

Our name is an important part of our identity and our relationship with Beeslack alumni is special, which we desperately want to retain. Location is immaterial, it's what the name represents. Beeslack represents our connection with our community in the past, present and future.'

10.6 Perhaps ASN would be better supported in the old Glencorse PS building instead of via Beeslack or Penicuik HS's?

The provision within the mainstream school will ensure the needs of learners with complex needs are met and enhanced within new learning facilities. Learners with complex additional needs will have their own entrance to their part of the school. They will all have access to a dedicated enclosed and secure garden with sensory and life skills equipment specifically designed to meet their needs. It is designed as an integral part of Beeslack CHS and will provide a high quality, nurturing learning environment with fully up to date and purpose built educational and other facilities.

While the layout of the complex needs provision will be a specialist provision, the design of the replacement Beeslack CHS will also strongly support the integration of the provision and learners into the mainstream timetable where appropriate.

This will ensure young people can remain within their local community unless the nature of their additional support need requires attendance at a more specialist provision.

10.7 Given the huge volume of new family size housing at Bilston, Roslin and Auchendinny does the council have confidence that there will be sufficient space in Bilston, Roslin and Mauricewood PS? Why was Glencorse closed?

The proposal document shows the allocated house builds in the Beeslack CHS and Penicuik catchment areas from the 2023 Housing Land Audit which has been considered when formulating these proposals:

	2023/2 4	2024/2 5	2025/2 6	2026/2 7	2027/2 8	2028/2 9	2029/3 0
Bilston PS Catchment	76	9	20	40	40	40	40
Roslin PS Catchment	113	159	90	1	0	0	0
Mauricewood PS Catchment	23	45	45	45	45	21	0
Glencorse PS Catchment	0	15	60	35	60	60	58

Allocated housebuild in the Beeslack CHS catchment area as indicated in the 2023 Housing Land Audit.

These housing figures have been considered along with other educational factors to provide roll projections which allow for management of the learning estate and have been assessed as part of this proposal.

Glencorse PS underwent a statutory consultation to close in 2020 due to a falling school roll and parental decisions to send children outwith the Glencorse catchment area for education. The decision to close Glencorse PS was taken in December 2020 with the school discontinuing education from 25th June 2021.

10.8 Young people not being able to access the proposed offerings of the replacement Beeslack CHS.

The senior phase of the curriculum will be developed in line with the new Midlothian Aligned Curriculum Offer (MACO). This will promote strong collegiate working in the senior phase curriculum planning and equity of opportunity to every Midlothian learner, wherever they learn. It is anticipated that the replacement Beeslack CHS and Penicuik HS will develop the STEAM offer in partnership to enhance the curriculum across both schools.

In addition, the refurbishment of Penicuik HS – a LEIP Phase 2 project – was also reconfirmed as part of this update. The project is to provide an extensive refurbishment to Penicuik High School on its existing site.

10.9 Is a new school necessary with the increasing costs of the build? Would it not be better value for money to refurbish both the current Beeslack and Penicuik Schools?

The existing building dates from 1984 and the accommodation is currently rated Condition B (Satisfactory) and Suitability C (Poor). As at census in September 2023 the secondary school had a roll of 751 against a capacity of 860.

This roll is due to increase further over coming years due to significant house build taking place in the current catchment area which is why part of the proposal is to change the catchment areas. Beeslack CHS has also been granted funding for a replacement from the Scottish Government Learning Estate Investment Programme.

10.10 Can the council inform residents of the planned capacity for the new High School and how this was determined?

The existing Beeslack CHS building has a registered capacity of 860. The replacement Beeslack CHS building will be able to accommodate up to 1,600 pupils.

The projected school rolls based on the proposed catchment changes can be seen in the table below and demonstrate that, in addition to relieving some capacity pressures at Beeslack CHS and Lasswade HS, they would increase the roll of Penicuik HS to a more viable roll.

	Registered Capacity	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Beeslack CHS	860	811	880	962	1076	1174	1262
Penicuik HS	945	677	683	755	818	859	915
Lasswade HS	1600	1614	1577	1532	1473	1423	1381

Projected school rolls based on proposed school catchment areas

10.15 Can the Council advise performance on previous school build in the authority area against initial completion milestones and spend? Were these buildings delivered on time and on or under budget?

Midlothian Council can confirm that previous school builds or extensions within the Authority have met programme dates and budget expectations. Over the last 5 years projects including Easthouses Primary School and Woodburn Primary School are projected to be delivered on time and within or under budget.

10.16 Have the Council considered building facilities which can be accessed and utilised by local residents outside of school hours thus improving facilities in the area for all and utilising otherwise dead time for the facilities during evenings and weekends?

Midlothian Council have planned for Community use facilities that will be available throughout the school day, during evenings, and on weekends enhancing amenities for all Midlothian residents. Public planning consultations have been conducted, and detailed information is available on Midlothian Councils planning portal. The project manager for the replacement school building has also conducted consultation with all current users of the school.

11 Education Scotland Report

- 11.1 In accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a report was produced by Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of

Midlothian Council's proposal to relocate Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools. The Education Scotland report can be read in full at Appendix 8.

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

- attendance at the public meetings held on 20 and 25 March 2024 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the site of Beeslack Community High School, Lasswade High School and Roslin, Paradykes, Loanhead, Mauricewood and Saltersgate Schools, including discussion with relevant consultees.

11.3 The Summary section of the Education Scotland report summarises their findings and conclusions as follows:

HM Inspectors agree that this proposal has clear educational benefits. The proposed catchment changes and a new school building will help to address current and future capacity issues across the school estate. The majority of stakeholders are supportive of the proposals to relocate Beeslack Community High School and establishing new ASN stages at Beeslack Community High School and Penicuik High School. There are varied views in regard to rezoning of the school catchments. Should the proposal be agreed, there will be a need to continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure that their questions and concerns are considered and addressed. This should include, providing reassurance to parents around safe routes to school. During the design phase for the new school building, the council should continue to ensure that the ASN facility takes appropriate account of the requirements of learners with severe and complex medical needs.

Midlothian Council's Response to Education Scotland's Report

11.4 Midlothian Council welcomes the report by Education Scotland which highlights the benefits of the proposal and the Education Authority accepts its findings. Officers from the Education Authority met to consider the content of the report and the action highlighted in the summary.

11.5 In response to the findings contained within the Education Scotland report Midlothian has been asked to address the following points:

Should the proposal be agreed, there will be a need to continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure that their questions and concerns are considered and addressed. This should include, providing reassurance to parents around safe routes to school.

During the design phase for the new school building, the council should continue to ensure that the ASN facility takes appropriate account of the requirements of learners with severe and complex medical needs.

- 11.6 If the proposal is approved, Midlothian Council will undertake works prior to the new school opening to improve active travel links. Traffic management and Safer Routes to Schools will be established for the new school building.
- 11.7 Midlothian Council will continue to communicate regularly with all stakeholders, including parents and carers, to keep them informed about all matters relating to the replacement Beeslack Community High School. Through various channels including monthly newsletters, Midlothian Council will provide updates on construction milestones, safe routes to school etc, and other operational matters such as open and transition days and anticipated opening dates. This method has already proved effective as shown by the new Easthouses Primary School build. Additionally, a dedicated email inbox will be established to allow queries to be directed to Midlothian Council, where they will be addressed by the relevant Council Officer. This will ensure that all stakeholders remain engaged and well-informed throughout the project's development.
- 11.8 If the proposal is approved, Midlothian Council will continue to ensure the needs of learners with severe and complex medical needs are taken into consideration by continuing to engage with a specialist architect who is already working in conjunction with Council officers.

12 Transition Arrangements

- 12.1 Subject to the decision of Midlothian Council, Pupils due to start S1 in August 2026 who are in the Bilston, Loanhead, Paradykes and Roslin PS catchment areas will form the new S1 intake at the Replacement Beeslack CHS when it opens in August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter (on the opening of the new school).
- 12.2 The new S1 intake at the effective date, i.e. August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter, living in the Bilston, Loanhead, Paradykes and Roslin PS catchment areas would transfer to the new secondary school building along with the rest of the school. If there is any delay to the new Beeslack CHS opening, no secondary pupil will be asked to change school during the academic session.
- 12.3 Children who are in the Loanhead and Paradykes PS catchment areas and are due to begin S1 in August 2026 will have the choice to attend either Beeslack CHS or Lasswade HS if the opening of the replacement Beeslack CHS is delayed. If they choose to attend Lasswade HS they forfeit their automatic place at the replacement Beeslack CHS when it opens and would have to make a placing request to attend in the future.
- 12.4 If your child is in the Loanhead and Paradykes PS catchment areas, is due to attend secondary school from August 2027 or later, and they will have a sibling still attending Lasswade HS when they are due to start, they will have the choice to attend the replacement Beeslack CHS or Lasswade HS as a catchment pupil.
- 12.5 If your child is in Primary 5 or below as of session 2023/24 and live in the current Mauricewood PS or Glencorse PS catchment areas they will attend their new secondary catchment school of Penicuik HS from August 2026 (along with children from the Cornbank St James, Cuiken and Strathesk PS catchment areas).

- 12.6 Children who are due to start school in August 2024 and live in the current Glencorse PS catchment area on or before 25th June 2024 school will attend the school they are registered for.
- 12.7 Children due to go into Primary 1 from August 2025 who live in the Glencorse PS catchment area your catchment school is Mauricewood PS.
- 12.8 If your child resides in the Glencorse PS catchment area prior to the council decision and is attending Roslin PS and has a younger sibling who is due to start within three years of the council decision, they will have the choice to apply to attend Mauricewood PS or Roslin PS. The elder sibling must still be attending Roslin PS when the younger sibling is due to start P1.
- 12.9 If your child is attending Roslin PS in August 2024 and they live in the Glencorse PS catchment area they will have the choice to attend either Beeslack CHS or Penicuik HS and be treated as a catchment pupil for their selected high school.
- 12.10 If you move into the Glencorse PS catchment area on or after 26th June 2024 your family's catchment school is Mauricewood PS.
- 12.11 If your child is in the Glencorse and Mauricewood PS catchment areas, is due to attend secondary school from August 2026 or later, and they will have a sibling still attending Beeslack CHS when they are due to start, they will have the choice to attend the replacement Beeslack CHS or Penicuik HS.
- 12.12 The pupils attending Beeslack CHS at the time of the implementation of the proposals would transfer to the new secondary school building in August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 12.13 A full transition programme will be in place for the move to the new school, to support progression in learning and in order that learners are prepared to take a full part in secondary education with their peers in the new school building.
- 12.14 No child will have to move from the school they are attending if that is not their choice or their parents' choice. For children and young people due to attend the new specialist ASN provision decisions will be made in partnership with parents and carers based on the individual child's needs.
- 12.15 Pupils with severe and complex learning needs who live across Midlothian and have been assessed by the ASN service as requiring the specialist facilities provided at the new school, will also attend the Replacement Beeslack CHS.
- 12.16 There is no change to the denominational catchment areas.
- 12.17 There are no catchment areas for early learning and childcare and these settings are not affected by the catchment changes.
- 12.18 A copy of the pupil transition tables presented at the Public Meetings held on 20 and 25 March 2024 and subsequently shared with parents can be found in Appendix 6.

13 Alleged Omissions or Inaccuracies

- 13.1 *Section (10) (3) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* also places a requirement on the Council to provide details of any inaccuracy or omission within the

Consultation Proposal Document which has either been identified by the Council or raised by consultees. This section of the 2010 Act also requires the Council to provide a statement on the action taken in respect of the inaccuracy or omission, or, if no action was taken, to state that fact and why.

- 13.2 There were no inaccuracies or omissions within the Consultation Proposal Document either identified by the Council or raised by consultees during the consultation period.

14 Compliance with Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

- 14.1 Section 9(1) of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* states that:

After the Education Authority has received Education Scotland's report, the Authority is to review the relevant proposal having regard (in particular) to:

- (i) written representations received by the Authority (from any person) during the consultation period,
- (ii) oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting,
- (iii) Education Scotland's report.

- 14.2 Following receipt of the Education Scotland report, 388 questionnaire responses received during the consultation period and consideration of oral representations made at a public meeting held during the consultation period, officers reviewed the proposal.

- 14.3 The feedback from the consultation was considered by relevant officers within the Council's Children, Young People's and Partnership Directorate. Data and factual information was checked where required and advice and input was sought from other Council Services where needed to consider the issues raised. This ensured that the Council met the requirements of sections 9(1), 12 and 13(3) (b) of the 2010 Act.

15 Legal Issues

- 15.1 The Council has complied in full with the requirements of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* throughout this statutory consultation.

- 15.2 The Council is mindful of its duties in respect of equality under the *Equality Act 2010*, the *Public Sector Equality Duty 2011*, and the *Fairer Scotland Duty* (Part one of the Equality Act).

- 15.3 Under the terms of the *Schools (Scotland) (Consultation) Act 2010*, it is a legal requirement that the Council should not reach any formal decision without having reviewed the relevant proposal having regard, in particular, to:

- a) relevant written representations received from any person during the consultation period;
- b) oral representation made to it by any person at the public meetings held on;
- c) the Education Scotland report;
- d) preparing a Consultation Proposal; and
- e) waiting until a period of three weeks starting on the day on which this Consultation Report is published in electronic and printed form has expired.

- 15.4 As it is the intention that this Consultation Proposal should be published, both electronically and in paper form, if required, on 3 June 2024, this meets the statutory requirement to publish this report for more than three weeks before consideration of the proposal by Midlothian Council.

16 Personnel Implications

- 16.1 If this proposal is implemented the staff in Beeslack CHS would transfer to the new school site when it opens in August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter. Staffing at Beeslack CHS will be in line with the Devolved School Management (DSM) formula.
- 16.2. If this proposal is implemented the complex needs classes at the current Beeslack annex will move into the complex needs base within the mainstream building at the replacement Beeslack CHS.
- 16.3 If this proposal is implemented facilities management staff at the current Beeslack Annex will be offered redeployment to the new Beeslack School or offered any other vacancies that are available subject to discussion with individuals.
- 16.4 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 HR policies and the Council's Education Leadership Team support structure.

17 Environmental Issues

- 17.1 In order to ensure that the vision, aims and objectives of the Midlothian Council Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and Climate Change strategy 2020 are being addressed a number of strategic and operational factors have been considered as part of the proposed new school building, such as:
- Reduction of operational energy consumption to be in line with the Learning Estate Investment Programme targets;
 - Strict construction embodied carbon targets to be met;
 - Low carbon and zero waste processes to be implemented during the construction phase;
 - Circular economy agenda to be promoted.

18 Conclusions

- 18.1 On the basis of the feedback received and taking account of the educational and social benefits of the proposal, it is concluded that:
- a) Beeslack Community High School is relocated and the catchment area is realigned to include Paradykes and Loanhead Primary Schools catchment areas;
 - b) The Glencorse and Mauricewood Primary School catchment areas are realigned to the Penicuik High School catchment area;
 - c) New additional support needs (ASN) stages are established at Beeslack Community High School and Penicuik High School;

- d) This proposal will bring educational benefits to the present and future users of the affected schools and assist in ensuring that capacity pressures are managed to improve learning experiences;
- e) The Council believes that the measures proposed in this document will enhance primary, secondary and ASN provision education in Midlothian;
- f) Overall there are strong educational arguments in favour of this proposal.

19 Recommendations

19.1 It is recommended that the Council approves the following:

- Beeslack Community High School is relocated and the catchment area is realigned to include Paradykes and Loanhead Primary Schools catchment areas;
- A new additional support needs (ASN) stage to be established at Beeslack Community High School when the school opens in August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- The catchment area of Beeslack Community High School to be realigned to include the catchment areas of Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools;
- The catchment area of the closed Glencorse Primary School to be realigned to the Mauricewood Primary School catchment area;
The catchment area of Penicuik High School to be realigned to include the catchment areas of Mauricewood and the closed Glencorse Primary Schools;
- A new ASN stage to be established at Penicuik High School.

Appendix 1 - Comments from Questionnaire Responses

Of the 388 questionnaire responses, 241 contained comments of which 204 declined permission to make their comments publicly available. However, their representations have been taken account of and responded to in Section 10 of the Consultation Proposal. The summary of comments below, were made from the remaining 37 responses who did not choose the option to decline permission to make their comments publicly available.

Responses from those in support of the proposals

The comments included with those responses received that were in favour of the proposal are shown below, comments are redacted to avoid the identification of individuals:

Comments
I think we really need this school and welcome the proposal. As a local community member as well as a parent who will be attending the new school, I'm really keen for you to consider safe active travel to school routes, sports facilities (that are also available to the local community outside school hours) and make the most of the strong links with Edinburgh University. Furthermore, the local community is really feeling the squeeze with a huge amount of housing development and the overhanging threat to more loss of green space from the A701 relief road so I'd urge you to build in as much green space in your plans and involve and open the school up to the local community at every opportunity
Making the proposed swimming pool as part of the new high school assessable to the public as a community pool would have lasting benefits to the surrounding area.
Strongly support proposal of new ASN stages at BOTH Penicuik High School and Beeslack Community High School, as long as schools are given funding and resources to fully support this.
<p>I have major concerns about the impact on both Mauricewood Primary School and the two High schools over the catchment realignments. Mauricewood Primary is way beyond it's useful life and is badly showing it's age which is already placing extra budgetary pressure on the school.</p> <p>I do not believe the school is going to be able to cope with the influx of additional pupils from the combination of catchment realignments and all the newly built properties. This will have a massively negative affect on children who area already suffering from postcode lottery being at an older school that should have been refurbished before the the new housing developments were allowed to commence.</p> <p>To combine this with increasing the catchment of Penicuik High School rather that increasing the capacity of Beeslack High school is not a promising prospect to current and future pupils in the Mauricewood Primary School Catchment area.</p>
<p>Relocation of the Beeslack High School to vacant land adjacent to recent developments is key to establishing and developing communities, reducing private vehicle use and working towards sustainability goals.</p> <p>Provisional of ASN schools are vital to ensure those with ASN are given the support needed as locally as possible and focusing services appropriately.</p>

We would like to express our deep concern and disappointment regarding the decision to build a new high school near our community, yet assign our catchment area, currently Beeslack, to a different school (Penicuik HS). As residents of this area, we had hoped that our children would benefit from the state-of-the-art facilities and resources that a brand new school would offer.

It is disheartening to learn that despite the proximity of the new high school, our children will be denied access to it and instead be directed to a school that is outdated and inadequate in terms of facilities and resources. This decision not only deprives our children of the opportunity to receive a quality education in a conducive learning environment but also undermines the investment made in the development of the new high school.

The disparity in educational opportunities between our catchment area and others is deeply concerning and raises questions about equity and fairness within the education system. Every child deserves access to high-quality education, regardless of their postcode or catchment area.

I urge the council to reconsider their decision and ensure that all children in our community have equal access to the new high school and its facilities. Investing in the education and future of our children should be a priority, and I hope that the council will make the right decision.

We would like to add that if the decision to change our catchment from Beeslack to Penicuik HS goes ahead, we feel would be left with no choice but to move house to find a better catchment and future, for our child.

If Loanhead is going to be going to the new Beeslack Easter Bush site, either Lothian bus routes must be adjusted to include this drop, a dedicated bus pick up service provided, or a safe, lit and monitored "bike/scooter/walking only " path must be provided to allow children to safely get to and from school in a green and environmentally friendly way.

More thought on safe cycling routes for the children to the new Beeslack CHS should be considered. Off-road cycle lanes would be best. That is my primary concern on the choice of location of the school. It's really important for the workforce of the future to be indoctrinated into using sustainable transport to get where they need to go every day (rather than the modern habit of parents taking kids in cars)

The site next to Gowkley Moss would have been a better choice.

I also think the school should be renamed as something other than Beeslack given the locality of the school is completely different from the existing Beeslack. It could lead to a lot of confusion for non-school run events where attendees have gone to the existing Beeslack site and find that it's moved. Easter Bush STEM School would be a better name.

I think it would be a better decision for Glencorse & Mauricewood kids to go to the new Beeslack replacement school rather than Loanhead and Paradykes kids (who should go to Lasswade IMO)

I don't feel I can comment on the realignment of the catchment area as I'm a relatively new resident to the area of Bilston and don't know how the realignment will impact on pupils in areas such as Loanhead and Penicuik. As long as sufficient provision is made

for all children, along with safe routes to school, I don't see an issue with the realignment.

Regarding the transport issue however serious consideration needs to be given to HOW children will either get or be safely transported to school. Particularly those coming from Loanhead, sufficient buses should be put on because children won't be able to safely walk this distance (or won't walk this distance), and to not do this will mean a potentially significant increase in transport along the Moorfoot Road. Similarly the roads to and from Loanhead will see issued around the traffic lights at the Nissan garage.

I would want assurances that parents dropping their children off at school will be discouraged from coming into the estate to do this. And that children are discouraged from leaving the school to come into the local private play park at breaks and after school.

With the area seeing an increase in traffic and associated litter, I have concerns as to how both will be managed.

Finally in relation to transport, consideration should be given to resurfacing the road between Loanhead and the school to make a safe (pothole free) cycle lane, and to reducing the speed of the road to ensure safer cycling for pupils.

Regarding the ASN base, I'm supportive in principle but also want children to receive the support they need rather than trying to fit all children into mainstream school. I wouldn't want children to be in a school which doesn't meet their needs just because it's cheaper to have them in mainstream school with a base.

I am very concerned about how pupils from Loanhead will get to the new site at Easter Bush safely. The route is in no way "walkable" or safe for large groups of children/teenagers. There is significant congestion on the main road already and it is incredibly dangerous to try and cross it. I worry about the bad weather and dark mornings and how safe this route to school is, as well as the time it will take for the kids to walk to the new school.

There is very limited capacity on Lothian buses in the morning. If school buses were to be provided this would be significantly better but I'm still not sure the roads have the capacity for even more traffic, particularly at rush hour(s).

I've no idea what an ASN stage is, might be helpful to explain on this page

I believe that glencourse children should continue to be in the catchment for Beeslack as it is closer than Penicuik high school. I also believe that glencourse children should have the choice whether to attend mauricewood, Roslin or bilston and be offered the catchment high school based on their primary school. The catchment for Beeslack should be maximised since it will be a brand new school and this is the opportunity to do so.

Responses from those who are not in favour of the proposals

The comments made in the responses that were not in favour of the proposal are shown below, comments are redacted to avoid the identification of individuals:

Comments
<p>It's madness to site a new school where no pupil will be able to comfortably walk. Every pupil will need to be transported to and from the building every day. We are meant to be using less fossil fuel, not more, and there will be huge traffic congestions. Roads to the Bush Estate are already highly dangerous for cyclists. No parent will want their child to be cycling along those roads at school start & end times.</p> <p>Finally, children don't thrive in massive institutions. Schools need to be kept at a "human" scale.</p>
<p>I think keeping Penicuik High school site open is the wrong decision. The land where Beeslack currently is would be a much more suitable and nicer setting for a campus for the whole of Penicuik. I know the staff and pupils are very fortunate to have such lovely surroundings away from the main road and I think a new campus should be built there and close Penicuik High School as the building is so old and will need a lot of refurbishment to get it up to standard.</p>
<p>I am concerned that the pupils of Mauricewood Primary are being given no choice in which secondary school they attend, infact they are being a very poor deal with this proposed realignment.</p> <p>This is not a replacement Secondary school for Penicuik, even with the thousands of homes that have just been built off Mauricewood Rd. There seems to be no consideration of this, indeed the council are happy to close a more modern school in favour of making Penicuik High the only secondary school in the town. The biggest town in Midlothian?</p> <p>We were told that Beeslack was going to be upgraded/made bigger/replaced. I believe this has led to staff leaving Beeslack as there has been no security. Penicuik are getting a very poor deal. I believe both my sons have had and will continue to have a poor deal if Mauricewood pupils are excluded from the new "replacement" school.</p>
<p>I live in a new build in Mauricewood and moved here specifically for Beeslack catchment. My oldest has now left Beeslack for University, but I assumed my youngest would also attend this school. I know Penicuik High School is not (and won't be even after renovation) equipped to manage the number of pupils from the entire Penicuik area and strongly believe that from the Mauricewood area should remain Beeslack catchment. Penicuik is far too large a town to have Penicuik high school as the only school. A line should be drawn from the new builds in Mauricewood area and those pupils should be included in the catchment for the new Beeslack.</p>
<p>The proposed remote location for the new Beeslack school is not ideal as very few of the pupils will be able to walk (or safely cycle) to the school and the school is not on any relevant bus route, Transport to and from school will be a significant issue.</p>
<p>The catchment for Glencorse should absolutely remain Beeslack. It makes no sense to have children travel extra distance to Penicuik, which is further away from both the current and new proposed Beeslack sites.</p> <p>As the new Beeslack clearly needs to meet demand from Loanhead, Bilston and Roslin areas, it should be located more accessibly to Loanhead.</p> <p>The amount of travel that will be required for a majority of pupils u fee these proposals seems to heavily contradict Midlothian council Green initiatives.</p>
<p>It's seems crazy to move a high school from Penicuik, the largest town in Midlothian with an ever growing population which then means more children have to commute further. How does that support sustainability? More cars and buses will be needed to get kids there. It's only a small minority who will be able to walk safely.</p> <p>The clue is also in the name Beeslack COMMUNITY high school. The school is very much part of the community for use and many extra curricular activities, clubs etc. again moving this</p>

<p>away from the local community.</p> <p>I think the decision to build the school where they propose is a commercial decision and not in the best interests of pupils and the community.</p> <p>As a proud former pupil of Beeslack I will be sad to see it go.</p>
<p>I answered disagree for #5 as I don't understand how you will get all the children in Roslin, bilston and Loanhead to the school. They can't walk it's not safe</p>
<p>The site of new BHS is going to cause huge implications for traffic, as it is going to be on one of the main roads heading to Edinburgh City Bypass. The traffic leaving Penicuik is already a nightmare with having only two main roads heading out.</p> <p>This will make the current traffic situation even worse.</p>
<p>The primary concern here is volume of traffic. The distance from Loanhead to the new location will be too far for most pupils willing to walk. There is the option to cycle if this was made a 100% safe route. In my experience, cycling around this area is not safe, Midlothian still has a long way to go in terms of catching up with making our roads safer for vulnerable road users. If the route is too long or unsafe/unpleasant more pupils will be reliant on cars to make that journey.</p> <p>Any new development around Midlothian must be designed with two factors. Prioritise safe active travel and to use these routes as an opportunity to connect wildlife corridors. Both these are essential if we are to seriously address climate change and improve the community connection that has been compromised as a result of current development prioritising car usage.</p> <p>It is also paramount that these routes are to feel safe all year round. We have a significant littering problem around Midlothian. The council do not have the resources to deal with this and most litter picking is dealt with very kind members of the community.</p>

Responses from those who had no opinion on the proposals

The comments made in the responses that had no opinion on the proposal are shown below, comments are redacted to avoid the identification of individuals:

Comments
<p>Questions around what measures can be taken in regards to traffic calming in the area ie along the A701 and also the A703 as area will be heavier in vehicles and also now pedestrian as access gained to the campus - concern is both these roads are very fast roads currently and not safe for children to be walking alongside - furthermore what access from the A703 to the campus will look like as access to barratt estate likely compromised due to new access road to campus will be offset to this</p>
<p>Not sure why the replacement school isn't being built on the existing site.</p> <p>Slight concerns regarding traffic/antisocial behaviour around Roslin. Otherwise quite happy that a brown field site is being utilised.</p>
<p>Please ensure pedestrian and cycle access to the site are prioritised over motor vehicles. i.e. from the whole catchment area.</p>
<p>Can the council inform residents of the planned capacity for the new High School and how this was determined? Has future residential build been taken into account given the rate of new builds in the area. Has the council looked at lessons learned from previous school sizing prior to build and how long it took until these were at capacity?</p> <p>I would also like the council to advise performance on previous school build in the authority area against initial completion milestones and spend? Were these buildings delivered on time</p>

and on or under budget? In either case are the council taking the lessons forward from these projects into this new High School.

Have the council considered building facilities which can be accessed and utilised by local residents outside of school hours thus improving facilities in the area for all and utilising otherwise dead time for the facilities during evenings and weekends.

How will the council plan to manage the additional traffic ingress and egress at the site and local area? There are already some significant choke points surrounding this area."

My concern is around a safe route to school from Loanhead and Roslin if school transport is not provided. While Loanhead and Roslin may be within two miles the existing footpaths are very narrow and on part of the road to Bilson there is only a footpath on one side of the road. This is already a problem for walkers/pushchairs/wheelers having to walk onto the road to pass someone coming the opposite way. There is no option to widen the footpaths and it will be many years before the new road is built reducing the traffic.

Appendix 2 - Pupil Questionnaire Responses

Proposed relocation of Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools.

Mauricewood Pupil Voice Session

04th March 2024.

Gail Currie (GC), Katy Johnstone (KJ) and Craig Murrin (CM) met with a selection of pupils to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the proposal to replace Beeslack CHS:

Good idea – Because of all the new houses being built.

Good idea – Current Beeslack CHS corridors are small.

Good idea – Will be better technology.

Good Idea – Pupils will be the first people to use all the new equipment.

Good idea – There will be more space.

Bad idea – May need to wait longer on the new school and then more houses will be built.

Bad idea – Worried about being late and travelling to Bilston because it is further away.

Bad Idea – Friends may be going to different schools.

In regard to the proposed new catchment areas:

Mix of responses in relation to the proposed catchment changes but all understood once explained majority agreed it was fair.

Some children asked about siblings, the sibling rule was explained.

In regard to the closed Glencorse catchment area changing and moving to Mauricewood:

Good idea – All agreed it was a good idea and makes sense.

Good idea – It covers a big area.

In regards to establishing an Additional Support Needs (ASN) Space:

Good idea – All agreed.

Good Idea - It needs to be a decent sized room with enough space.

Good Idea - It should be part of every school and not just new schools.

Additional comment: Children went into the Lighthouse on a visit and there was a loud fan in the room. It was too noisy and can't have that in the new school will not help when trying to concentrate.

Further Questions:

What if the survey vote is 50/50 for the new school to be built, who has the say?

KJ advised it will go to a council decision.

What if we have to travel to the new school will we get into trouble because of the buses being late?

GC advised that the school will be aware of the bus times, and it is all being looked into by the travel team but does not want anyone to worry about it.

Other comments from the pupils:

Will there be an astro?

GC advised that there will be another meeting which will show the proposed plans.

Forces Children raised

If the new school is further away, worried about the impact on other family members having to take the children to school.

One pupil mentioned that their dad is away, and their mum works nightshift, they have to get ready for school themselves in the morning and will need more time to travel.

Another pupil raised with forces children moving around a lot, worried that there might not be enough room in the current schools.

Proposed relocation of Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools.

Loanhead Voice Session

06th March 2024.

Gail Currie (GC), Katy Johnstone (KJ) and Craig Murrin (CM) met with a selection of pupils to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the proposal to replace Beeslack CHS:

Good idea – Easier for kids to learn in more space.

Good Idea – Gives children more of a choice to where they want to learn.

Good Idea – Enough room for everyone but might not be enough money to get supplies and pay teachers.

Bad Idea – Old Beeslack may be closer.

In regard to the proposed new catchment areas:

Bad Idea – Might be tough if they wanted to go to a different school.

Majority of the children were unsure of the changes.

In regard to the closed Glencorse catchment area changing and moving to Mauricewood:

Good Idea – Makes sense.

In regards to establishing an Additional Support Needs (ASN) Space:

Good Idea - All pupils agreed.

Good Idea – Can get help when needed.

Good Idea – Can have a quiet room and area if it gets too loud.

Further Questions:

When moving to the new school, how would you not disrupt exams?

GC/KJ advised There would be a transition period to ensure minimum impact for learning.

Will the same Head Teacher and Staff be at the new school, or will they change?

GC advised that the Head Teacher and staff currently at Beeslack will transfer over to the new school once it is built.

How many people can fit into the school?

KJ advised the replacement school can have a maximum of 1,600 pupils.

Will there be a swimming pool in the new school?

GC advised I believe so, however, there will be another meeting at night where parents/carers can attend to see what the plans of the new school will be like.

Other comments from the pupils:

What will the acoustics be like in the new school.

Can we have breakout spaces so kids can work in there.

Proposed relocation of Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools.

Paradykes Voice Session

06th March 2024.

Gail Currie (GC), Katy Johnstone (KJ) and Craig Murrin (CM) met with a selection of pupils to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the proposal to replace Beeslack CHS:

Good idea – Majority of pupils agreed this was a good idea.

Good Idea – More children will be educated.

Good Idea – Will be good to have extra space.

Bad Idea – Lots of deforestation and taking over the land.

In regard to the proposed new catchment areas:

Good Idea – Majority of pupils agreed this was a sensible idea.

Bad Idea – Worried about friends going to a different school.

Bad Idea – For people already in high school not fair as they did not get a choice.

In regard to the closed Glencorse catchment area changing and moving to Mauricewood:

Good Idea – As it means they will all go together to the same school.

Good Idea – Mauricewood seems the better choice.

Mixture of opinions with Glencorse going to Penicuik High school.

Good Idea – Understand the change as it will free up spaces in other schools.

Bad Idea – As Penicuik high school might be too busy.

In regards to establishing an Additional Support Needs (ASN) Space:

Good Idea - All pupils agreed.

Really Good Idea – Family member has autism and needs to go to a specific school and likes the idea of having the same space in a school with other people.

Good Idea – As some schools don't have it and it will help to look after the children who need it.

Good Idea – It might help them focus more and feel included rather than being in a classroom with other people who have autism.

Further Questions:

Is the new school a STEM one?

GC advised it is STEAM, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths.

Is the new school going to be at the Bush?

KJ advised Yes, it will be at Easter Bush and showed the pupils the proposed site location on the map.

What will the size difference be between Lasswade high school and the new Beeslack.

KJ advised they will be the same size as both schools will be able to accommodate up to 1,600 pupils.

Worried about brothers and sisters going, will we go to different schools.

KJ advised of the sibling rule.

Are the council limiting kids from going to other schools?

GC advised of the Parent Charter and how we try to make the process as fair as possible with different circumstances.

Will we be asked to move schools?

KJ advised if you choose to attend Lasswade and then the replacement Beeslack school opens, you cannot then automatically transfer over to the new school, an out of catchment placing request would need to be submitted.

Other comments from the pupils:

What will the spaces in the new school look like, will they be more open / contained.

Will the ASN rooms have things to help calm children down like a sensory room.

Pop sockets for the walls for ASN may help.

If the old Beeslack gets knocked down, can the Council have an open day as my parents met at that school.

Will there be a football pitch.

My sister went to Beeslack and don't know anyone and made four new friends.

The location is closer for people in Loanhead and Bilston to attend.

Proposed relocation of Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools.

Roslin Voice Session

06th March 2024.

Gail Currie (GC), Katy Johnstone (KJ) and Craig Murrin (CM) met with a selection of pupils to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the proposal to replace Beeslack CHS

Good idea – Will save money as the school will be new and have bigger learning spaces which can fit more people in.

Good Idea – Will allow more subjects.

Good Idea – Kids can get better educated.

Bad Idea – Less space for land and animals might get killed.

Bad Idea – Moving from the Old Beeslack to the new school once it is open.

In regard to the proposed new catchment areas:

Good Idea – Looks pretty good based on the map.

Good Idea – Will free up space in Lasswade High School.

In regard to the closed Glencorse catchment area changing and moving to Mauricewood:

Good Idea – Majority of the children agreed it is a good idea.

In regards to establishing an Additional Support Needs (ASN) Space:

Good Idea - All pupils agreed.

Good Idea – Pupils can't learn without having ASN help.

Good Idea – Calmer environment and having their own space.

Good Idea – Will be good to all be in school together to allow to build friendships.

Further Questions:

When moving to the new school, how would you not disrupt exams?

KJ advised There would be a transition period to ensure minimum impact for learning.

Will the same Head Teacher and Staff be at the new school, or will they change?

GC advised that the Head Teacher and staff currently at Beeslack will transfer over to the new school once it is built.

How many people can fit into the school?

KJ advised the replacement school can have a maximum of 1,600 pupils.

Will there be a swimming pool in the new school?

GC advised I believe so, however, there will be another meeting where parents/carers can attend to see what the proposed plans of the new school.

What will happen if no one agrees and the new school does not get built?

GC advised The Council will need to look at different options to ensure that all the children in Midlothian have access to education as we are one of the fastest growing Local Authorities.

However, we don't want anyone to go away from this feeling worried about what has been discussed as everything is online and your parents have been sent all this information from the school.

Other comments from the pupils:

Pupil stated they think the catchment area should be a fifteen-minute drive away from the school and no more, this is really important.

Need to make sure we will gain money from the new school before planning.

Active travel would like to see a safe route for cycling to high school.

Would like an outside space for learning.

Where will the animals go when the new school is built? We should build a special place for them to live or make a tunnel and zip lines for them to go between spaces.

What would my catchment be if I live in the Glen near the bottom.

Proposed relocation of Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools.

Beeslack CHS Voice Session

05th March 2024.

Gail Currie (GC), Katy Johnstone (KJ) and Craig Murrin (CM) met with a selection of pupils to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the proposal to replace Beeslack CHS:

Good idea – All pupils agreed.

Good Idea – Old school is tiny with small corridors.

Good Idea – Current school does not look as inviting.

Bad Idea – Losing some community spaces.

In regard to the proposed new catchment areas:

Good Idea – Makes sense for Loanhead and Parakdykes to go to the replacement Beeslack.

In regard to the closed Glencorse catchment area changing and moving to Mauricewood:

Good Idea – As it means there is more space for Beeslack.

In regards to establishing an Additional Support Needs (ASN) Space:

Good Idea - All pupils agreed that it was fair and reasonable to keep the space.

Further Questions:

There was a rumour both schools (Beeslack and Penicuik) would be put together.

GC advised that Penicuik HS would not be joining as there will be a refurbishment happening.

Penicuik HS has a lower grade boundary than Beeslack and I have to travel to Lasswade HS for some classes.

GC advised that once the refurbishment has been completed it will possibly allow more teachers and subjects to be available. Also, with the proposal of the school day alignment, if approved, will also be able to offer pupils a broader range of subject choices.

What will happen to the Beeslack building once the new school has been built?

KJ advised there are no plans yet, this will be decided in time.

Other comments from the pupils:

Would like to see better food choices for lunch and specific dietary requirements (Halal, Kosher, Vegetarian, Vegan etc).

Very important that community spaces are available internally and externally.

Would like to see more outdoor learning.

Proposed relocation of Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools.

Penicuik High School Voice Session

04th March 2024.

Gail Currie (GC), Katy Johnstone (KJ) and Craig Murrin (CM) met with a selection of pupils to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the proposal to replace Beeslack CHS:

Good idea – Five pupils thought it was reasonable.

Others did not raise hands.

In regard to the proposed new catchment areas:

All pupils agreed this was fair and understood the reasoning why the catchment changes are being proposed.

In regard to the closed Glencorse catchment area changing and moving to Mauricewood:

Again the pupils nodded that it was a sensible idea that the Glencorse catchment would also change.

One pupil stated that they went to Glencorse primary school and now attends Penicuik high school.

In regards to establishing an Additional Support Needs (ASN) Space:

Good Idea - All pupils nodded and agreed that having an ASN provision was a good idea and no one thought it was a bad idea.

Further Questions:

With Beeslack moving to the new site, will that not mean Penicuik high school will be bursting?

KJ advised on the current capacity of Penicuik High School and what the replacement Beeslack CHS will be built too.

It feels unfair that the replacement Beeslack will have links and input from the University and Penicuik high school will be left out.

GC advised that there is a separate consultation which is looking to align the school day which would see all schools start and finish at the same time. This means that young people across Midlothian would be able to choose from a wider range of subjects that other schools, colleges etc may offer and would be in relation to (Midlothian Aligned Curriculum Offer) MACO.

Will our parents be notified when the plans are in place to refurbish the building?

KJ advised Yes, and that a separate meeting will take place to show what the plans are.

Can the building be refurbished as we know it is listed, can much be done to change it?

GC advised that the front of the building outside will remain the same there will be upgrades done throughout to make it feel and look like a new school.

Will the school be Eco friendly?

CM advised we will take this question back and ask for a response from the relevant officer.

James McQuaker responded: 'The building will require to be built to the current Scottish Building Regs which has stipulations on energy performance. The SFT funding also has targets that need to be met to secure the funding.'

Other comments from the pupils:

Excited for the refurbishment.

What will happen to the courtyard.

More outdoor space required.

What will happen to the leisure centre and library during the refurbishment.

What is happening to Broomhill day centre.

Proposed relocation of Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools.

Saltersgate Voice Session

28th March 2024.

Gail Currie (GC), Katy Johnstone (KJ) and Craig Murrin (CM) met with Saltersgate Learners who all have Social and Complex Needs, some with severe Medical Needs also. Feedback was gathered from Learners with the presence of familiar staff from Saltersgate who were known to them to ensure they were comfortable and relaxed to take part. Questions posed were of an informal nature and we ensured that they understood what was being asked. 'Thumbs up, Thumbs down' was used as a physical and visual response for those who found verbal communication challenging. We began by asking all learners if they liked it at Saltersgate, to which they agreed. We discussed how great it was because it allowed learners space and smaller spaces to learn. The session lasted 15 minutes to ensure that learners were engaged for the short session without being distressed or losing focus.

We think that Saltersgate might not be big enough anymore and we need more spaces like here for people to learn. Do you think that's a good idea?

All agreed – lots of thumbs up.

Other verbal comments:

- Yes bigger.
- I like it here.
- Defo.

What do we need to make sure this new space has got?

Overwhelming response – good playground!

Other verbal comments:

- Swing for wheelchairs, a roundabout for wheelchairs, a tunnel and soft ground.
- A bigger hydro pool. This one is too small for me (larger senior pupil), and the water isn't high enough. Space for staff to come in too.
- Single changing rooms for the pools with space and seats.
- Bright lights.
- Space for me to go on my own to calm down.
- Baking/cooking area.
- Stage for us to do our concert.
- Wide corridors.
- Big seats not small ones.

This new space would be beside where we are building a new high school. That means that you might be able to use some of the space in the high school and maybe even go to do some learning there too. What do you think of that?

General agreement.

Other verbal comments:

- Good idea because I already go to the other school too (staff explained that the learner had a shared placement)
- Yes

Does anyone think it's a bad idea for us to build this new space?

Everyone said it was a good idea.

Other comments from the staff:

A bigger outdoor space is a must, has so many benefits for the kids especially if there are different areas for them to experience and explore.

What will happen to Saltersgate in the regards to upgrading etc being carried out here.

Spaces for wheelchairs must be large enough. Sometimes we are struggling with the corridors here to push and open the doors etc.

Single/private changing rooms are needed to allow privacy.

More breakout spaces would be welcomed for learners who need time for themselves or to participate with a member of staff one to one if being in a classroom is too much.

Proposed relocation of Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools.

Beeslack Annex, Voice Session.

22nd April 2024.

Gail Currie (GC) and Craig Murrin (CM) met with Learners from Beeslack Annex. All participants have Social and Complex Needs and were advised in advance of our visit to allow them to be fully prepared. Feedback was gathered from Learners with the presence of familiar staff from Beeslack Annex, who were known to them, to ensure they were comfortable and relaxed to take part. Questions posed were of an informal nature and we ensured that they understood what was being asked. Learners were able to take part fully and were largely engaged for the session. Visual aids were used to support discussion including maps of the proposed site. The young people were able to understand the maps, visualise their space and offered sensible and relevant questions. We were able to present all consultation questions to the young people in relation to the new school and its provision.

The session lasted 70 minutes and we gathered excellent and useful feedback to the proposal with Beeslack Annex learners providing helpful examples from their current setting. We assured learners that should they reflect on our discussion today their thoughts can be passed to school staff to forward to our consultation team.

Midlothian Council is looking to build a replacement Beeslack High School down near Easter Bush. Do you think this is a good idea?

Good idea – Both are old schools, and we need a new school.

Bad Idea - Will be more traffic in the area.

Other comments:

Maybe being part of the bigger school will be good.

This building looks like an old mansion.

This building is good if people are not ready to go into a bigger space. Annex would be good to be used and kept as it will help if we are anxious to move.

Transition would be better to plan and give us more time when the new school opens and give us lots of notice.

Our first visit to the new school, can we have a quiet space and then do some lessons or classes and come back to the annex.

Do not want to go back to a provision, I don't like to be locked behind secure doors.

Don't want to feel separated.

Does it make sense if we say that pupils who stay in Penicuik will go to Penicuik High School and pupils from Loanhead and Paradykes will go to the new Beeslack high school, we call these catchment changes?

Yeah, but we still need our taxi as it is a long walk.

GC advised you will still receive your transport.

What do we need to make sure the space has got, what would be on your Wish list?

The learners really engaged during this topic and stated the following.

- Accessible ramp.
- Needs a lift.
- Security cameras for vandalism to make us feel safe.
- Playground – football pitches but does not like black bits which are in the astro (*Staff member advised due to hypersensitivity*)
- Grass football pitches would be better.
- A new Climbing Wall, the other was small, bigger one would be good with a harness.
- Proper gym to be used like Lasswade.
- Fake grass not a concrete playground.
- Don't want it too noisy.
- Sensory room is a must.
- Space to relax and calm so there are different spaces.
- Changing areas have our own cubicles and doors for changing and locks would help us feel more comfortable.
- Walls for us to write on (*Staff member advised the annex has a room where the learners can write / draw on the walls and wipe off at the end of the day*)
- Football Team – Can we have a team.
- Want a bigger play area don't like being cut off.
- Library
- Bell in school – Can we remove the bell and have something different. But not a flashing light as that would be worse.
- No clocks don't like the noise or being timed but maybe a digital one with numbers.
- Games console
- Good Wi-Fi and internet access for YouTube and google maps.
- Nap spaces.
- Age is really important when being in class with others be good to be the same age.
- Quiet rooms must be really dark.
- More windows which can be opened.
- More plugs are required in quiet room and every room.

In the replacement school, there will be a Life Skills room which will help with things like, cooking, making beds, washing up and other things. What do we think of this?

Good Idea – We need a kitchen because I like to cook.

Is there any other questions or ideas you would like to share with us?

What will happen to people who are deaf and blind?

GC advised there are pupils already in schools and we manage this to ensure they receive the support needed.

Opportunity for more out of school visits on lunch breaks, like going to Tesco as others get to do it.
Too overprotective.

Pupil said Gail had really good questions and enjoyed it.

Other comments/points raised by staff:

Fire alarms – will these be considered as in noise level etc.

Positioning of release buttons and not having these next to doors. Some learners already know how the control panels work.

Appendix 3 – Public Meeting Minutes

Statutory Public Consultation Meeting

Proposed relocation of Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools.

Location: Beeslack CHS

Date: Wednesday 20 March

Attendees:

Mike Gibson, Independent Chair
Fiona Robertson, Executive Director Children, Young People & Partnerships
Michelle Strong, Education Chief Operating Officer
Katy Johnstone, Learning Estate Resource Officer
Marc Bedwell, Programme Manager
Ross Irvine, Senior Project Manager
Julie Fox, School Group Manager
Magnus Inglis, Principal Officer
Anna Walton, Quality Improvement Manager, ASN, Inclusion and Wellbeing
James McQuaker, Senior Project Manager
Gillian Bathgate, School Travel Plan Co-ordinator
Craig Murrin, Business Support Officer
Lisa McGlade, Head Teacher (Beeslack CHS)
Helen Reed, Head Teacher (Paradykes PS)
Jennifer Mouat, Head Teacher, (Mauricewood PS)
Jane Minelly, Head Teacher (Saltersgate)
Diane Burgess, Depute Head Teacher (Penicuik HS)
Ann Kivlin, Education Scotland Representative
16 members of the public were in attendance

Mike Gibson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Council Officers.

Mike Gibson introduced himself and outlined the purpose of the meeting.

Mike Gibson explained the statutory consultation process and the work that would need to be undertaken by the Council in order to adhere to the schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Fiona Robertson (FR) welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared that to date, responses centred around two aspects of the proposal, home to school transport and the impact on siblings. FR stated that as every family's circumstances are different, parents/carers are asked to contact the consultation hub directly to receive a response based on their individual circumstances. FR then outlined the proposals and spoke through the presentation slides:

Statutory Consultation Process



- The duties placed on local authorities in relation to the adequate and efficient provision of school education in their area in the *Education (Scotland) Act 1980*
- 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 duties placed on local authorities to secure best value in the delivery of services

Statutory Consultation Process and Timeline



- Proposal Paper including Educational Benefits Statement published 19th February 2024
- Statutory Consultation Period – 19th February to 16th April 2024
- Representations from interested parties are sought throughout the consultation period
- Involvement of Education Scotland (3 week period) and report sent to the Education Service

Statutory Consultation Process



- Preparation of Consultation Report – after 16th April 2024
- Consultation report published 3rd June 2024
- Decision by Midlothian Council – 25th June 2024

Proposals



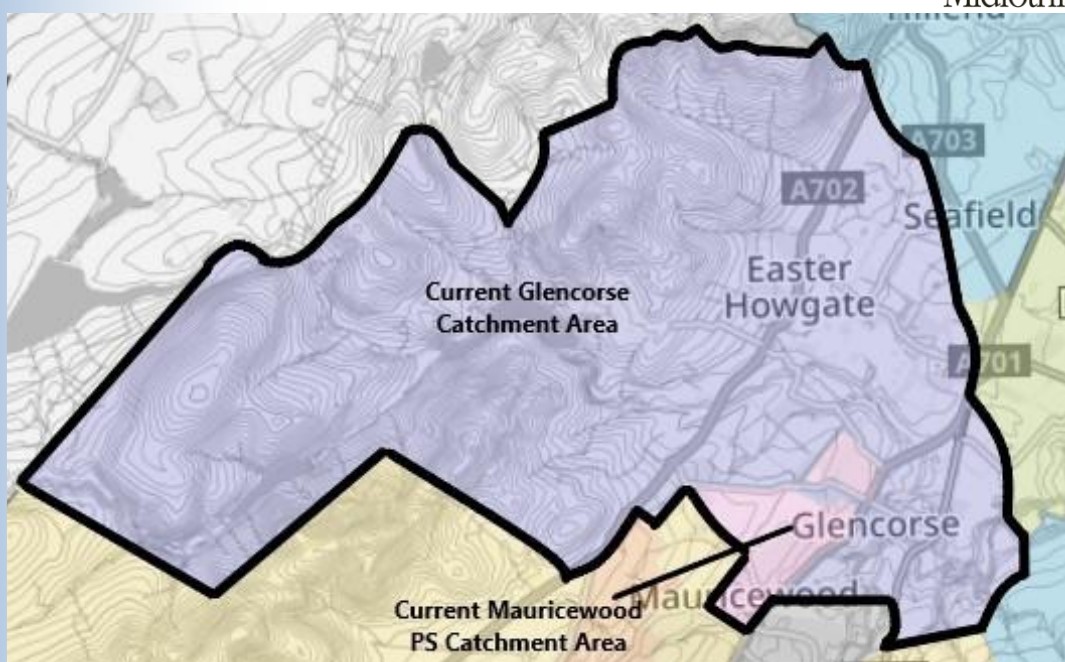
- Beeslack Community High School will be relocated from its current site to land adjacent to Easter Bush from August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- A new additional support needs (ASN) stage will be established at Beeslack Community High School when the school opens in August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- The catchment area of Beeslack Community High School will be realigned to include the catchment areas of Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools;
- The catchment area of the closed Glencorse Primary School will be realigned to the Mauricewood Primary School catchment area;
- The catchment area of Penicuik High School will be realigned to include the catchment areas of Mauricewood and the closed Glencorse Primary Schools;
- A new ASN stage will be established at Penicuik High School.

Proposed Changes to School Catchment Boundaries: Mauricewood PS

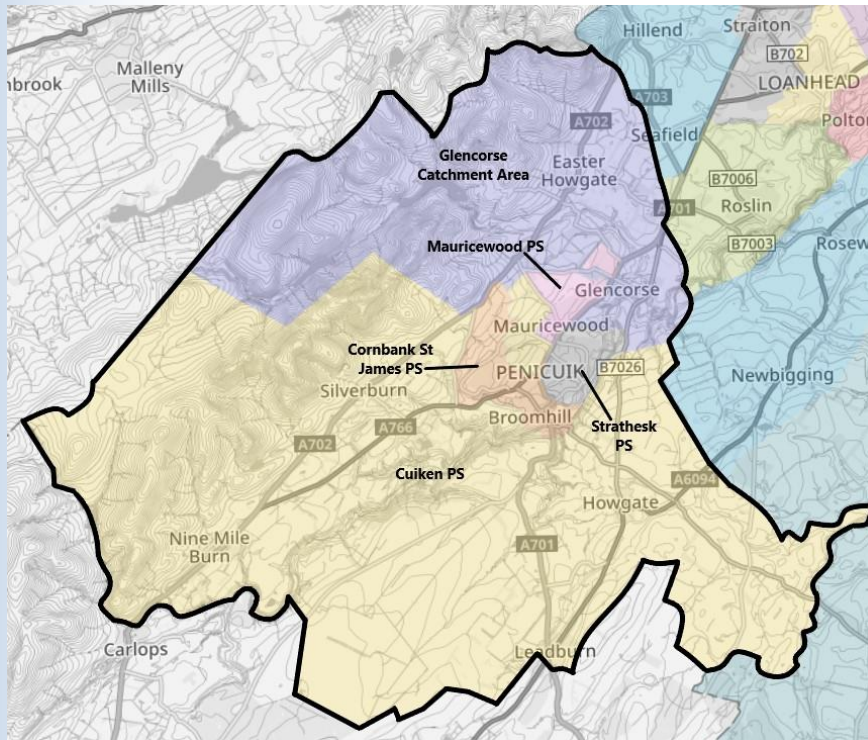


- Glencorse PS Catchment Area will be realigned to the Mauricewood PS Catchment Area from 26th June 2024 subject to Council approval
- Glencorse PS catchment area will transfer from the Beeslack CHS catchment area to Penicuik HS catchment area from August 2026
- Mauricewood Primary School will transfer from the Beeslack Community High School catchment area to Penicuik High School catchment area from August 2026
- If your child is in Primary 5 or below as of session 2023/24 and live in the current Mauricewood PS or Glencorse PS catchment areas they will attend their new secondary catchment school of Penicuik HS from August 2026 (along with children from the Cornbank St James, Cuiken and Strathesk PS catchment areas).
- If a sibling is still attending Beeslack CHS, when your child is due to start S1, they will have the choice to attend either Beeslack CHS or Penicuik HS

Proposed Mauricewood PS Catchment Area



Proposed Penicuik HS Catchment Area

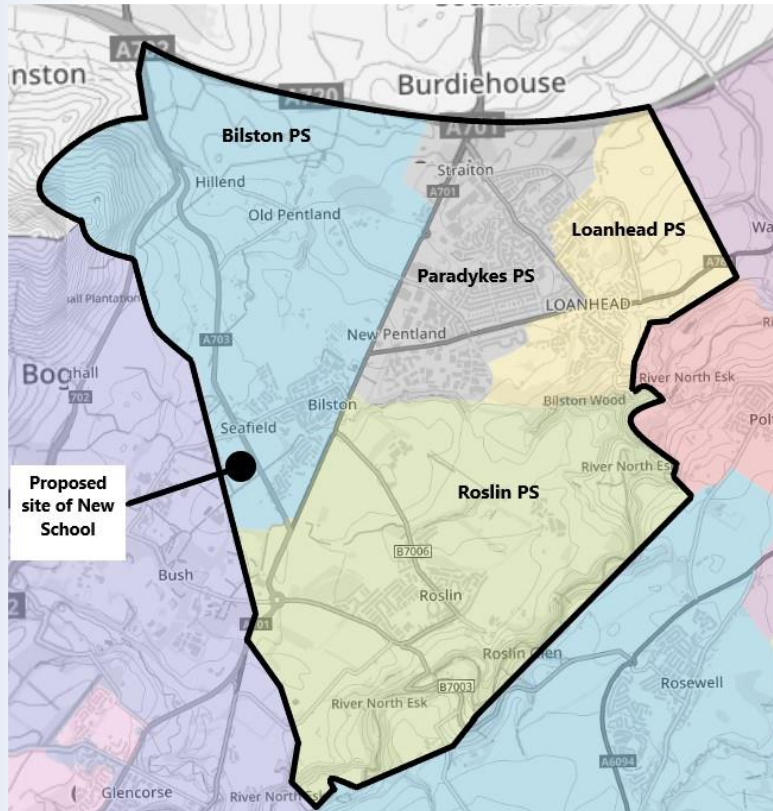


Proposed Changes to School Catchment Boundaries: Loanhead and Paradykes PS

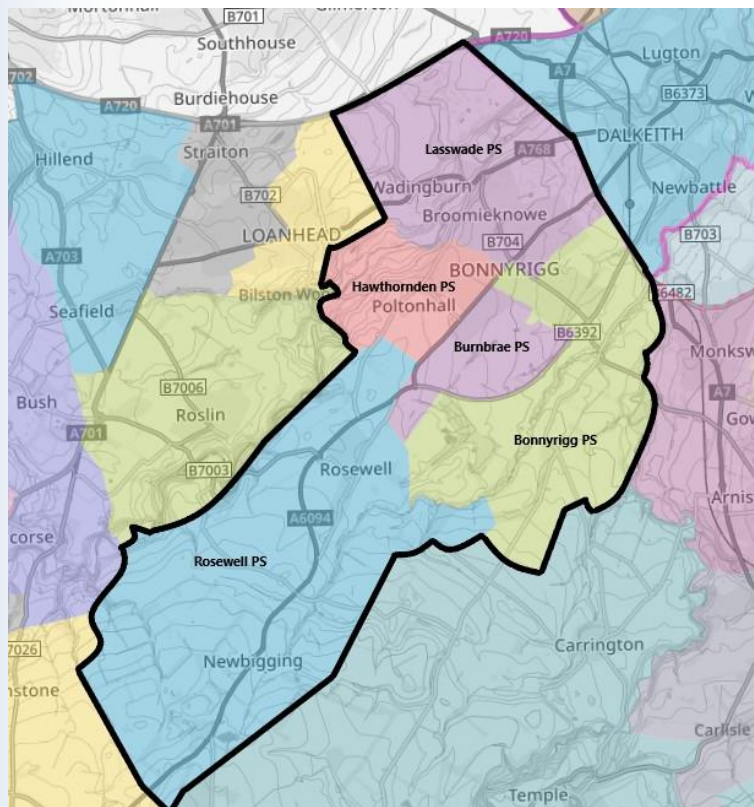


- The catchment areas of Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools will be realigned to the Beeslack CHS secondary catchment area from August 2026, with pupils eligible to attend the new school building in August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter, subject to council approval.
- Children who are in the Loanhead and Paradykes PS catchment areas and are due to begin S1 in August 2026 will have the choice to attend either Beeslack CHS or Lasswade HS if the opening of the replacement Beeslack CHS is delayed. If they choose to attend Lasswade HS they forfeit their automatic place at the replacement Beeslack CHS when it opens and would have to make a catchment placing request to attend in the future.
- If your child is in the Loanhead and Paradykes PS catchment areas, is due to attend secondary school from August 2027 or later, and they will have a sibling still attending Lasswade HS when they are due to start, they will have the choice to attend the replacement Beeslack CHS or Lasswade HS.

Proposed Beeslack CHS Catchment Area



Proposed Lasswade HS Catchment Area



Context



Midlothian's Learning Estate Strategy 2017 – 2047 (Update):

- The Learning Estate is a significant and valuable resource for the communities of Midlothian.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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:
 - 1. Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)
 - 2. Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)
 - 3. Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)

Our Vision



- 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.
- 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
- 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.

Context



- Currently, Beeslack Community High School serves the primary catchment areas of Bilston, Glencorse, Mauricewood and Roslin PS and at census in September 2023 the secondary school had a roll of 751 against a capacity of 860.
- Over the next six years there is predicted to be significant house build in the current Beeslack CHS as shown in Figure 1.
- As a result of this house build and the number of young people expected to emerge from developments, the current Beeslack CHS building would not be able to accommodate all of the pupils.

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Bilston PS Catchment	76	9	20	40	40	40	40
Roslin PS Catchment	113	159	90	1	0	0	0
Mauricewood PS Catchment	23	45	45	45	45	21	0
Glencorse PS Catchment	0	15	60	35	60	60	58

Figure 1. Allocated housebuild in the Beeslack CHS catchment area as indicated in the 2023 Housing Land Audit.

Context



- In comparison there is less allocated house build in the Penicuik HS catchment area (see Figure 2 below) and in order to more evenly distribute the pupil product across the learning estate, it is recommended that primary catchment areas be realigned.

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Corbank St James PS Catchment	0	37	38	0	0	0	0
Cuiken PS Catchment	99	50	47	11	0	0	0
Strathesk PS Catchment	0	12	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 2 Allocated house build in the Penicuik HS catchment area as indicated in the 2023 Housing Land Audit.

- If the current catchment areas remained as they are, the current Beeslack Secondary building would not be able to accommodate the number of pupils emerging, the roll of Penicuik HS would peak before decreasing and Lasswade HS would increase in size and continue to grow above capacity, as shown in Figure 3.

	Registered Capacity	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Beeslack CHS	860	811	880	927	1003	1086	1155
Penicuik HS	945	673	682	699	700	677	658
Lasswade HS	1600	1618	1640	1667	1687	1703	1729

Figure 3 Projected School rolls based on current school catchment areas

Context



- The projected school rolls based on the proposed catchment changes can be seen in Figure 4 below and demonstrate that, in addition to relieving some capacity pressures at Beeslack CHS and Lasswade HS, they would increase the roll of Penicuik HS.

	Registered Capacity	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Beeslack CHS	860	811	880	962	1076	1174	1262
Penicuik HS	945	677	683	755	818	859	915
Lasswade HS	1600	1614	1577	1532	1473	1423	1381

Figure 4 Projected school rolls based on proposed school catchment areas

- In addition to the building of a replacement Beeslack School building, the Penicuik HS building will undergo a refurbishment that will improve facilities and opportunities for learning for those pupils attending.
- An extension comprising of additional classrooms and a gym hall is planned to be delivered by 2026/27 to Mauricewood PS. This extension is to accommodate the anticipated pupil increase. The cost of the extension is expected to be met by Developer Contributions.

Replacement Beeslack CHS Building



- The site massing focuses on responding to the mature row of trees that line the site boundary to the A703. The east elevation of the mainstream school aligns to the tree row to form an Arrival Plaza in between.
- The teaching block pivots from this axis to allow the building to enclose the School Garden to the west of the site. The First Opinion Veterinary Practice (FOP) sits on the northern site boundary; the Service Yard and majority of car-parking are located discretely on the north-western corner. The east field provides an additional three grass pitches for both teaching and community use.



ASN Provision



- The Replacement Beeslack CHS includes an ASN Facility which is a separate building located in proximity, west of the mainstream school. The ASN Facility is designed for a maximum of 40 pupils with SCMN (Severe and Complex Medical Needs).
- The provision will have 5 class bases, soft play rebound therapy, a life skills classroom, a hydrotherapy pool and a secure garden with sensory play, magnetic track for automated chair path and a wide range of play equipment. The ASN Facility will also include a hydrotherapy pool which will be available for community use out of school hours.
- The Additional Support Needs provision will not only serve as a place of learning and development but also as a hub for community activities to promote healthcare development. The design of this provision should foster a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment that supports the development of young minds and encourages creativity and innovation.
- It is proposed that a new stage of ASN will be established at Penicuik High School which will be further developed in collaboration with the school as plans progress for the school's refurbishment. This will ensure young people can remain within their local community unless the nature of their additional support need requires attendance at a more specialist provision.
- The Education Resource Group will continue to allocate places to the specialist provisions based on assessment of needs.

Educational Benefits



In summary there will be educational benefits as a result of the new school and catchment changes that will enhance:

- Learning and Teaching
- Meeting Learners Needs
- Broadening The Range of Opportunities

Educational Benefits: Learning and Teaching



- Learning and teaching approaches within the replacement school campus will include the use of modern, digital approaches to enhance learning experiences. Digital technologies will be used to support and extend learning. The provision of high-quality technology will provide the potential to ensure transformational learning for all pupils
- A new and flexible learning environment can inspire pupils and have a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of learners, increase aspirations, attainment, achievement and positive destinations beyond school
- The shared learning and teaching spaces in the replacement school campus will enable staff to work together in a collaborative manner and provide more opportunities for cooperative working between pupils.
- The curriculum will provide the opportunity for learners to achieve across all curricular areas and develop skills, attributes and capacities through courses aligned to a broad general education as part of the Curriculum for Excellence. The senior phase of the curriculum will be developed in line with the new Midlothian Aligned Curriculum Offer (MACO). This will promote strong collegiate working in the senior phase curriculum planning and equity of opportunity to every Midlothian learner wherever they learn.

Educational Benefits: Meeting Learners Needs



The replacement school campus will:

- Benefit from design practices which support the varied range of teaching environments that best deliver learning. Spaces for learning will be designed in such a way as to allow a range of teaching styles and approaches including: active learning, interdisciplinary learning and outdoor learning.
- Build on current, and facilitate replacement, opportunities for effective integrated working with other services and partner agencies and will provide necessary support to children and families in the replacement school catchment area.
- Support the delivery of vocational learning and promote skills for learning, life and work and deliver positive outcomes for young people in a modern well-equipped environment
- Ensure that accessibility for learners with disabilities complies with the Equality Act (2010). The replacement school campus will be designed in such a way as to promote accessible, inclusive learning which will meet the needs of all learners including those with Additional Support Needs.

Educational Benefits: Broadening The Range of Opportunities



- The replacement school campus will:
- Ensure provision of a high-quality learning environment and create a centre of excellence for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) which will support the Midlothian Science Triangle. This will create opportunities for pupils from across Midlothian to secure high value and resilient employment in the science sector.
- Provide strong links with the University of Edinburgh, in terms of research, knowledge sharing and delivery, to school and wider community and also an opportunity to connect learning pathways with the First Opinion Vet Clinic which will be built adjacent to the school.
- Be a specialist learning facility operated by Midlothian Council in partnership with Edinburgh University and be a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) centre of excellence. This facility would not only support education delivery in the local area but act as a knowledge centre and training campus to support and improve education delivery across Scotland. Our partnership with Edinburgh University will look to develop a knowledge base across curriculum design and teaching methods that could be used to influence the wider programme and teaching content / delivery across Scotland.

Educational Benefits: Broadening The Range of Opportunities (2)



- The educational benefit to pupils attending the proposed replacement school campus will be that they will experience a modern, state-of-the-art learning environment designed to be accessible to all, creating a sense of pride in the pupils and staff alike and helping to build a positive ethos. The new environment will promote creative and engaging teaching approaches.
- Penicuik High School will build on current and facilitate new opportunities for effective integrated working with other services and partner agencies and will provide necessary support to children and families in the new school catchment area.
- With the realignment of catchment areas in relation to the replacement Beeslack Community High School, Penicuik High School will benefit from a significant refurbishment. This will greatly enhance all learning and teaching areas with well-equipped new classroom spaces allowing flexible use, modern science labs, updated music and sports facilities. This will reinvigorate the school and motivate and inspire learners and staff.

Transition Arrangements: Secondary



- Pupils due to start S1 in August 2026 who are in the Bilston, Loanhead, Paradykes and Roslin PS catchment areas will form the new S1 intake at the Replacement Beeslack CHS when it opens in August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter (on the opening of the new school).
- The new S1 intake at the effective date, i.e. August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter, living in the Bilston, Loanhead, Paradykes and Roslin PS catchment areas would transfer to the new secondary school building. If there is any delay to the new Beeslack CHS opening, no secondary pupil will be asked to change school during the academic session.
- If your child is in the Loanhead and Paradykes PS catchment areas, is due to attend secondary school from August 2027 or later, and they will have a sibling still attending Lasswade HS when they are due to start, they will have the choice to attend the replacement Beeslack CHS or Lasswade HS.
- If your child is in Primary 5 or below as of session 2023/24 and live in the current Mauricewood PS or Glencorse PS catchment areas they will attend their new secondary catchment school of Penicuik HS from August 2026 (along with children from the Cornbank St James, Cuiken and Strathesk PS catchment areas).
- If your child is in the Glencorse and Mauricewood PS catchment areas, is due to attend secondary school from August 2026 or later, and they will have a sibling still attending Beeslack CHS when they are due to start, they will have the choice to attend the replacement Beeslack CHS or Penicuik HS.

Transition Arrangements: Glencorse PS Catchment Area



- Children who are due to start school in August 2024 and live in the current Glencorse PS catchment area on or before 25th June 2024 will attend the school they are registered for.
- Children due to go into Primary 1 from August 2025 who live in the Glencorse PS catchment area your catchment school is Mauricewood PS.
- If you live in the Glencorse PS catchment area prior to the council decision and you are attending Roslin PS and you have a younger sibling who is due to start within three years of the council decision, they will have the choice to apply to attend Mauricewood PS or Roslin PS.
- If your child is attending Roslin PS in August 2024 and they live in the Glencorse PS catchment area they will have the choice to attend either Beeslack CHS or Penicuik HS.
- If you move into the Glencorse PS catchment area on or after 26th June 2024 your catchment school is Mauricewood PS.

Transition Arrangements: Replacement Beeslack CHS



- The pupils attending Beeslack CHS at the time of the implementation of the proposals would transfer to the new secondary school building in August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter.
- A full transition programme will be in place to support progression in learning and in order that learners are prepared to take a full part in secondary education with their peers in the new school building.
- No child will have to move from the school they are attending if that is not their choice or their parents' choice. For children and young people due to attend the new specialist ASN provision decisions will be made in partnership with parents and carers based on the individual child's needs.
- Pupils with severe and complex learning needs who live across Midlothian and have been assessed by the ASN service as requiring the specialist facilities provided at the new school, will also attend the Replacement Beeslack CHS.

Transition Table



Current Year Group			
2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
P1	P1	P1	P1
P2	P2	P2	P2
P3	P3	P3	P3
P4	P4	P4	P4
P5	P5	P5	P5
P6	P6	P6	P6
P7	P7	P7	P7

Children will not be affected by the catchment changes

Children will attend their new catchment school but can make a placing request for their former catchment secondary school.

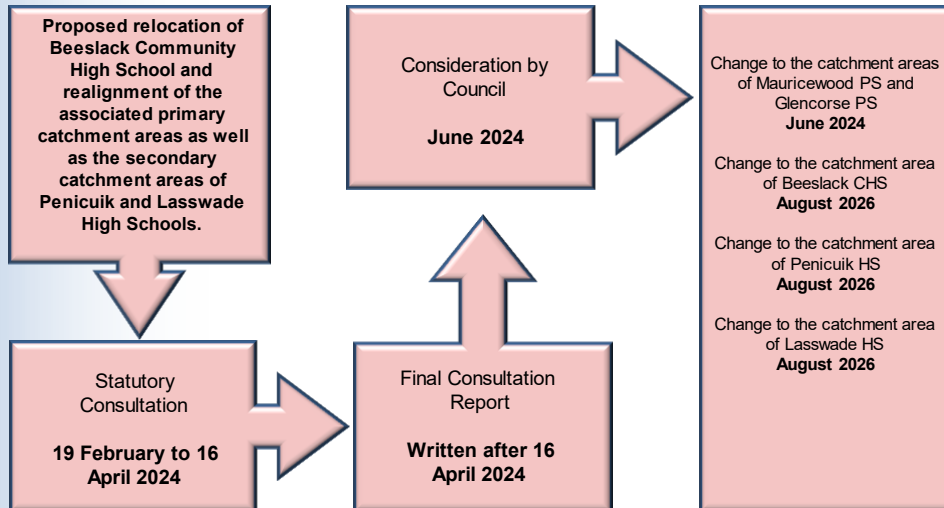
If your child is in Primary 5 or below as of session 2023/24 and live in the current **Mauricewood PS** or **Glencorse PS** catchment area they will attend their new secondary catchment school of **Penicuik High School** from **August 2026** unless they are subject to a sibling concession.

If your child is in Primary 5 or below as of session 2023/24 and live in the **Loanhead PS** or **Paradykes PS** catchment area they will attend their new secondary catchment school of **Beeslack Community High School** from **August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter (on the opening of the new school)**.

No child will have to move from the school they are attending if that is not their choice.

If there is any delay to the replacement Beeslack Community High School building opening, no secondary pupil will be asked to change school during the academic session.

Project Timeline



Questions?

For any further or more specific questions
please email
educationconsultation@midlothian.gov.uk

Mike Gibson (MG) then invited questions from the public.

What happens if the proposal does not go ahead? What is Plan B?

Fiona Robertson (FR) advised – This at the moment is a proposal for the replacement Beeslack CHS and a change to the catchment areas which is subject to Council decision in June. It is for elected members to decide whether or not to go ahead with the proposal. If this proposal does not go ahead, we will lose the Scottish Government funding.

FR advised – We would need to look at accommodating the growth and providing capacity in a different way. For example, modular units may need to be added to schools etc, however, it is up to the elected members to decide which parts of the proposal to agree.

I am a resident in the grounds of the current Beeslack, what will happen to the grounds?

FR advised - The pitches will remain, and Sport and Leisure will be taking them over. The land will be a separate decision for the Council to take, there is no plan to repurpose the building for education.

Have heard various things that the grounds maybe developed for housing, but these were left to the people of Penicuik as far as they are aware.

FR advised - Education have no plans for the building and no intent to repurpose. This will go back to Council to make a decision.

James McQuaker (JMC) mentioned - Once the Education catchment consultation is done, we will look at another consultation regarding what will happen to the building.

Katy Johnstone (KJ) advised - To use the email address stated on the presentation board and we can send any questions or queries to the relevant officer.

A representative of Loanhead and District Community Council asked: How will the kids be transported to the new school as we have concerns about this and will there be private buses.

Gillian Bathgate (GB) advised - The Roads department are looking at walking routes, changes to the A701 road, guidance for children who will be entitled to transport and safer routes to schools. For private transport, this depends on the numbers and who qualifies, and all this is being looked into and taken into consideration.

I currently live next door to Roslynlee Hospital in the new estate. How will the children get to school from here?

GB advised - Routes will be assessed as will safer routes to schools. This will be based on the catchment area for your address with regards to school transport.

What is the planning decisions/process?

JMC advised - A separate planning consultation will happen after this one. These will take place at Bilston Primary School & Beeslack Community High School. There will be two sessions which include the first initial planning consultation and then another after.

What is the timeframe on the school build. Will the money run out in August 2026 if the build has not happened?

FR advised - The majority of funding is coming from Midlothian Council, Scottish Government and developer contributions. If Midlothian Council decides not to go ahead and build the new school, then yes, we will lose the Scottish Government funding. The plans would have been much further ahead than they are now due to the pandemic, however, as we have demonstrated that the projects are moving forward, we are showing collective commitment, and the risk of losing is mitigated. We are aiming to complete within the timeframe in the proposal but is why we state as soon as possible thereafter.

What is the as soon as possible thereafter?

FR advised and reiterated the consultation process and the decisions to be made by Council in June regarding the proposal. FR also mentioned that the build for Easthouses Primary School a large primary school was brought in within one year.

Councillor William McEwan asked about the community facilities and if these will be kept in the school or be moved to Sport and Leisure?

FR advised - Beeslack CHS will not be here to manage this, as the replacement school will have their own facilities at the new site, and that Sports and Leisure will take over the grounds.

Councillor William McEwan asked, will the facilities be sufficient for the new school?

FR advised - Questions were asked whether the facilities were going to be kept at the current Beeslack CHS site or move to the new school and invited James McQuaker (JMC) to contribute.

JMC advised - After a consultation and feedback received, they all wanted the facilities to move as it would be a more competitive site. The main difference between existing and planned pitches is that at the new site there is a competition sized pitch, whereas the ones at the current site are only suitable for training.

Councillor Russell Imrie added, Sport and Leisure do not want the stuff at Beeslack and to use the facilities. It will have to be part of the community and elected members will decide on it.

FR advised - It was confirmed by e-mail with Derek Oliver the Chief Officer of Place, that Sport and Leisure were keen to take them on and will double check that the community groups wish to move to the new facilities. Sport and Leisure support the operations of the pitches which will stay here.

A representative of Loanhead District Community Council asked, Will the sport facilities at the new high school be open to the community to use as we are short of sports facilities. Also, what will the new high school be named?

FR advised - We will ensure the community has access to these and with what is at the current Beeslack CHS, will balance out what is available, and a larger pitch will be at the replacement school. The name will not change as it is a replacement school and will be known as Beeslack CHS.

Mike Gibson closed the public meeting, thanked attendees, and reiterated the email address for any questions to be answered by Council Officers.

Fiona Robertson also thanked the attendees and advised if people wish us to come and speak to community council groups we will do so.

Statutory Public Consultation Meeting

Proposed relocation of Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools.

Location: Lasswade HS

Date: Monday 25 March

Attendees:

Mike Gibson, Independent Chair

Michelle Strong, Education Chief Operating Officer

Colin Mclean, Quality Improvement Manager Professional Learning and Digital Inclusion & Learning

Anna Walton, Quality Improvement Manager, ASN, Inclusion and Wellbeing

Magnus Inglis, Principal Officer

James McQuaker, Senior Project Manager

Jill McLaren, Depute Head Teacher – Curriculum Innovation and Improvement

Gillian Bathgate, School Travel Plan Co-ordinator

Andrew Hill, Administrative Assistant

Craig Murrin, Business Support Officer

Ann Kivlin, Education Scotland Representative

9 members of the public were in attendance

Mike Gibson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Council Officers and put in apologies for Fiona Robertson, Executive Director Children, Young People & Partnerships.

Mike Gibson introduced himself and outlined the purpose of the meeting.

Mike Gibson explained the statutory consultation process and the work that would need to be undertaken by the Council in order to adhere to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Michelle Strong then outlined the proposals and spoke through the presentation slides:

Statutory Consultation Process



- The duties placed on local authorities in relation to the adequate and efficient provision of school education in their area in the *Education (Scotland) Act 1980*
- 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 duties placed on local authorities to secure best value in the delivery of services

Statutory Consultation Process and Timeline



- Proposal Paper including Educational Benefits Statement published 19th February 2024
- Statutory Consultation Period – 19th February to 16th April 2024
- Representations from interested parties are sought throughout the consultation period
- Involvement of Education Scotland (3 week period) and report sent to the Education Service

Statutory Consultation Process



- Preparation of Consultation Report – after 16th April 2024
- Consultation report published 3rd June 2024
- Decision by Midlothian Council – 25th June 2024

Proposals



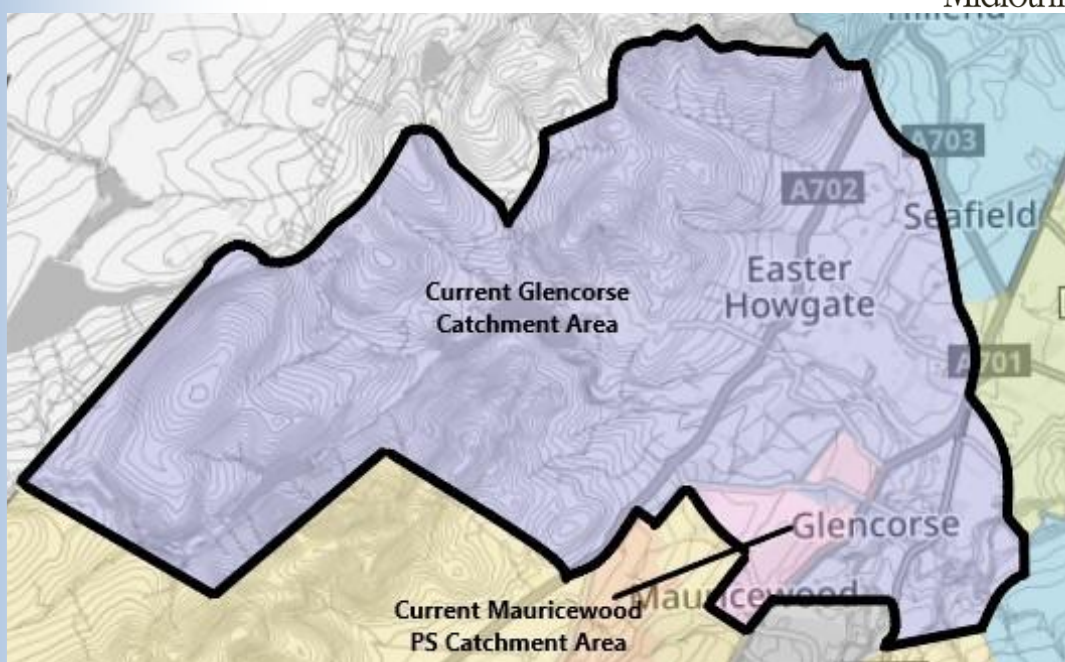
- Beeslack Community High School will be relocated from its current site to land adjacent to Easter Bush from August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- A new additional support needs (ASN) stage will be established at Beeslack Community High School when the school opens in August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- The catchment area of Beeslack Community High School will be realigned to include the catchment areas of Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools;
- The catchment area of the closed Glencorse Primary School will be realigned to the Mauricewood Primary School catchment area;
- The catchment area of Penicuik High School will be realigned to include the catchment areas of Mauricewood and the closed Glencorse Primary Schools;
- A new ASN stage will be established at Penicuik High School.

Proposed Changes to School Catchment Boundaries: Mauricewood PS

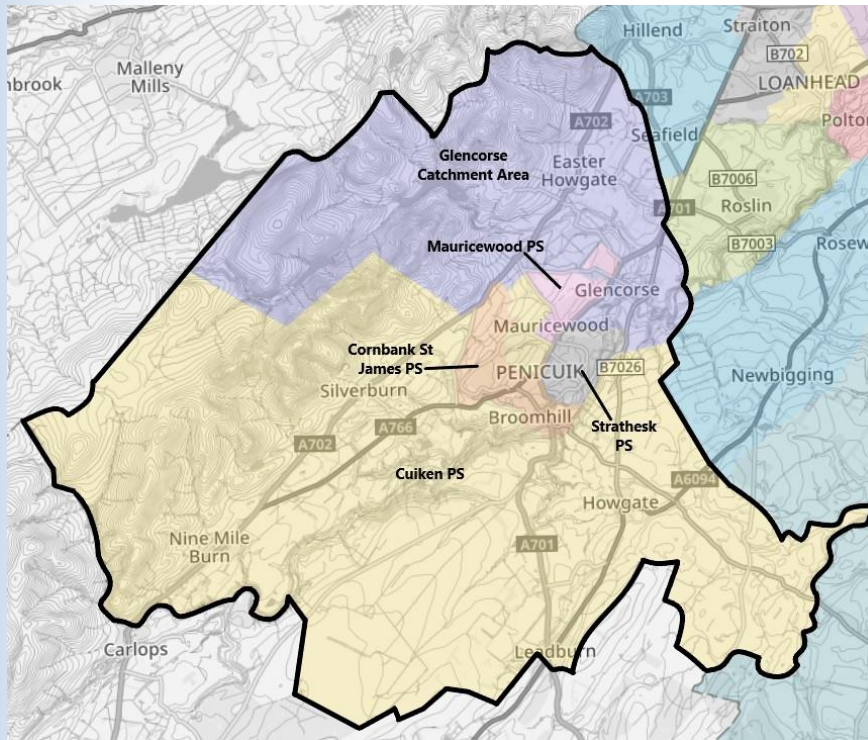


- Glencorse PS Catchment Area will be realigned to the Mauricewood PS Catchment Area from 26th June 2024 subject to Council approval
- Glencorse PS catchment area will transfer from the Beeslack CHS catchment area to Penicuik HS catchment area from August 2026
- Mauricewood Primary School will transfer from the Beeslack Community High School catchment area to Penicuik High School catchment area from August 2026
- If your child is in Primary 5 or below as of session 2023/24 and live in the current Mauricewood PS or Glencorse PS catchment areas they will attend their new secondary catchment school of Penicuik HS from August 2026 (along with children from the Cornbank St James, Cuiken and Strathesk PS catchment areas).
- If a sibling is still attending Beeslack CHS, when your child is due to start S1, they will have the choice to attend either Beeslack CHS or Penicuik HS

Proposed Mauricewood PS Catchment Area



Proposed Penicuik HS Catchment Area

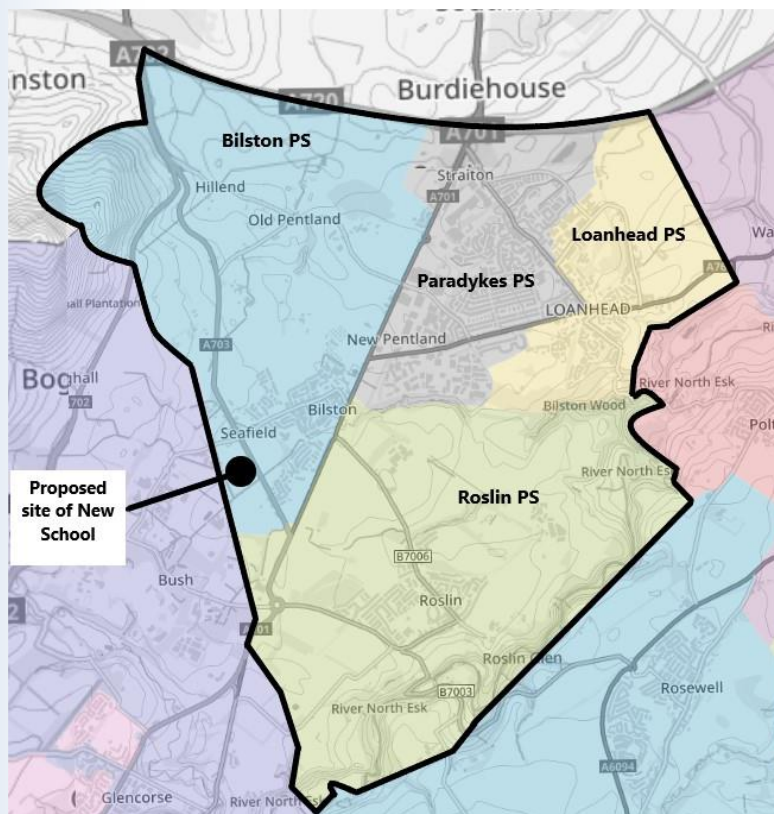


Proposed Changes to School Catchment Boundaries: Loanhead and Paradykes PS

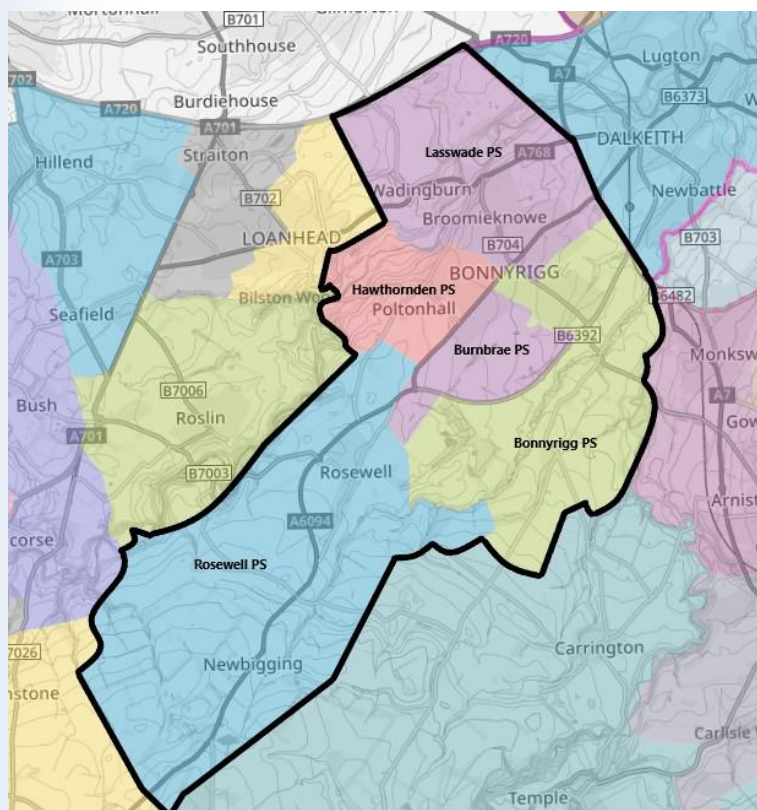


- The catchment areas of Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools will be realigned to the Beeslack CHS secondary catchment area from August 2026, with pupils eligible to attend the new school building in August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter, subject to council approval.
- Children who are in the Loanhead and Paradykes PS catchment areas and are due to begin S1 in August 2026 will have the choice to attend either Beeslack CHS or Lasswade HS if the opening of the replacement Beeslack CHS is delayed. If they choose to attend Lasswade HS they forfeit their automatic place at the replacement Beeslack CHS when it opens and would have to make a catchment placing request to attend in the future.
- If your child is in the Loanhead and Paradykes PS catchment areas, is due to attend secondary school from August 2027 or later, and they will have a sibling still attending Lasswade HS when they are due to start, they will have the choice to attend the replacement Beeslack CHS or Lasswade HS.

Proposed Beeslack CHS Catchment Area



Proposed Lasswade HS Catchment Area



Context



Midlothian's Learning Estate Strategy 2017 – 2047 (Update):

- The Learning Estate is a significant and valuable resource for the communities of Midlothian.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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:
 - 1. Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)
 - 2. Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)
 - 3. Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)

Our Vision



- 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.
- 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
- 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.

Context



- Currently, Beeslack Community High School serves the primary catchment areas of Bilston, Glencorse, Mauricewood and Roslin PS and at census in September 2023 the secondary school had a roll of 751 against a capacity of 860.
- Over the next six years there is predicted to be significant house build in the current Beeslack CHS as shown in Figure 1.
- As a result of this house build and the number of young people expected to emerge from developments, the current Beeslack CHS building would not be able to accommodate all of the pupils.

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Bilston PS Catchment	76	9	20	40	40	40	40
Roslin PS Catchment	113	159	90	1	0	0	0
Mauricewood PS Catchment	23	45	45	45	45	21	0
Glencorse PS Catchment	0	15	60	35	60	60	58

Figure 1. Allocated housebuild in the Beeslack CHS catchment area as indicated in the 2023 Housing Land Audit.

Context



- In comparison there is less allocated house build in the Penicuik HS catchment area (see Figure 2 below) and in order to more evenly distribute the pupil product across the learning estate, it is recommended that primary catchment areas be realigned.

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Corbank St James PS Catchment	0	37	38	0	0	0	0
Cuiken PS Catchment	99	50	47	11	0	0	0
Strathesk PS Catchment	0	12	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 2 Allocated house build in the Penicuik HS catchment area as indicated in the 2023 Housing Land Audit.

- If the current catchment areas remained as they are, the current Beeslack Secondary building would not be able to accommodate the number of pupils emerging, the roll of Penicuik HS would peak before decreasing and Lasswade HS would increase in size and continue to grow above capacity, as shown in Figure 3.

	Registered Capacity	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Beeslack CHS	860	811	880	927	1003	1086	1155
Penicuik HS	945	673	682	699	700	677	658
Lasswade HS	1600	1618	1640	1667	1687	1703	1729

Figure 3 Projected School rolls based on current school catchment areas

Context



- The projected school rolls based on the proposed catchment changes can be seen in Figure 4 below and demonstrate that, in addition to relieving some capacity pressures at Beeslack CHS and Lasswade HS, they would increase the roll of Penicuik HS.

	Registered Capacity	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Beeslack CHS	860	811	880	962	1076	1174	1262
Penicuik HS	945	677	683	755	818	859	915
Lasswade HS	1600	1614	1577	1532	1473	1423	1381

Figure 4 Projected school rolls based on proposed school catchment areas

- In addition to the building of a replacement Beeslack School building, the Penicuik HS building will undergo a refurbishment that will improve facilities and opportunities for learning for those pupils attending.
- An extension comprising of additional classrooms and a gym hall is planned to be delivered by 2026/27 to Mauricewood PS. This extension is to accommodate the anticipated pupil increase. The cost of the extension is expected to be met by Developer Contributions.

Replacement Beeslack CHS Building



- The site massing focuses on responding to the mature row of trees that line the site boundary to the A703. The east elevation of the mainstream school aligns to the tree row to form an Arrival Plaza in between.
- The teaching block pivots from this axis to allow the building to enclose the School Garden to the west of the site. The First Opinion Veterinary Practice (FOP) sits on the northern site boundary; the Service Yard and majority of car-parking are located discretely on the north-western corner. The east field provides an additional three grass pitches for both teaching and community use.



ASN Provision



- The Replacement Beeslack CHS includes an ASN Facility which is a separate building located in proximity, west of the mainstream school. The ASN Facility is designed for a maximum of 40 pupils with SCMN (Severe and Complex Medical Needs).
- The provision will have 5 class bases, soft play rebound therapy, a life skills classroom, a hydrotherapy pool and a secure garden with sensory play, magnetic track for automated chair path and a wide range of play equipment. The ASN Facility will also include a hydrotherapy pool which will be available for community use out of school hours.
- The Additional Support Needs provision will not only serve as a place of learning and development but also as a hub for community activities to promote healthcare development. The design of this provision should foster a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment that supports the development of young minds and encourages creativity and innovation.
- It is proposed that a new stage of ASN will be established at Penicuik High School which will be further developed in collaboration with the school as plans progress for the school's refurbishment. This will ensure young people can remain within their local community unless the nature of their additional support need requires attendance at a more specialist provision.
- The Education Resource Group will continue to allocate places to the specialist provisions based on assessment of needs.

Educational Benefits



In summary there will be educational benefits as a result of the new school and catchment changes that will enhance:

- Learning and Teaching
- Meeting Learners Needs
- Broadening The Range of Opportunities

Educational Benefits: Learning and Teaching



- Learning and teaching approaches within the replacement school campus will include the use of modern, digital approaches to enhance learning experiences. Digital technologies will be used to support and extend learning. The provision of high-quality technology will provide the potential to ensure transformational learning for all pupils
- A new and flexible learning environment can inspire pupils and have a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of learners, increase aspirations, attainment, achievement and positive destinations beyond school
- The shared learning and teaching spaces in the replacement school campus will enable staff to work together in a collaborative manner and provide more opportunities for cooperative working between pupils.
- The curriculum will provide the opportunity for learners to achieve across all curricular areas and develop skills, attributes and capacities through courses aligned to a broad general education as part of the Curriculum for Excellence. The senior phase of the curriculum will be developed in line with the new Midlothian Aligned Curriculum Offer (MACO). This will promote strong collegiate working in the senior phase curriculum planning and equity of opportunity to every Midlothian learner wherever they learn.

Educational Benefits: Meeting Learners Needs



The replacement school campus will:

- Benefit from design practices which support the varied range of teaching environments that best deliver learning. Spaces for learning will be designed in such a way as to allow a range of teaching styles and approaches including: active learning, interdisciplinary learning and outdoor learning.
- Build on current, and facilitate replacement, opportunities for effective integrated working with other services and partner agencies and will provide necessary support to children and families in the replacement school catchment area.
- Support the delivery of vocational learning and promote skills for learning, life and work and deliver positive outcomes for young people in a modern well-equipped environment
- Ensure that accessibility for learners with disabilities complies with the Equality Act (2010). The replacement school campus will be designed in such a way as to promote accessible, inclusive learning which will meet the needs of all learners including those with Additional Support Needs.

Educational Benefits: Broadening The Range of Opportunities



- The replacement school campus will:
- Ensure provision of a high-quality learning environment and create a centre of excellence for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) which will support the Midlothian Science Triangle. This will create opportunities for pupils from across Midlothian to secure high value and resilient employment in the science sector.
- Provide strong links with the University of Edinburgh, in terms of research, knowledge sharing and delivery, to school and wider community and also an opportunity to connect learning pathways with the First Opinion Vet Clinic which will be built adjacent to the school.
- Be a specialist learning facility operated by Midlothian Council in partnership with Edinburgh University and be a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) centre of excellence. This facility would not only support education delivery in the local area but act as a knowledge centre and training campus to support and improve education delivery across Scotland. Our partnership with Edinburgh University will look to develop a knowledge base across curriculum design and teaching methods that could be used to influence the wider programme and teaching content / delivery across Scotland.

Educational Benefits: Broadening The Range of Opportunities (2)



- The educational benefit to pupils attending the proposed replacement school campus will be that they will experience a modern, state-of-the-art learning environment designed to be accessible to all, creating a sense of pride in the pupils and staff alike and helping to build a positive ethos. The new environment will promote creative and engaging teaching approaches.
- Penicuik High School will build on current and facilitate new opportunities for effective integrated working with other services and partner agencies and will provide necessary support to children and families in the new school catchment area.
- With the realignment of catchment areas in relation to the replacement Beeslack Community High School, Penicuik High School will benefit from a significant refurbishment. This will greatly enhance all learning and teaching areas with well-equipped new classroom spaces allowing flexible use, modern science labs, updated music and sports facilities. This will reinvigorate the school and motivate and inspire learners and staff.

Transition Arrangements: Secondary



- Pupils due to start S1 in August 2026 who are in the Bilston, Loanhead, Paradykes and Roslin PS catchment areas will form the new S1 intake at the Replacement Beeslack CHS when it opens in August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter (on the opening of the new school).
- The new S1 intake at the effective date, i.e. August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter, living in the Bilston, Loanhead, Paradykes and Roslin PS catchment areas would transfer to the new secondary school building. If there is any delay to the new Beeslack CHS opening, no secondary pupil will be asked to change school during the academic session.
- If your child is in the Loanhead and Paradykes PS catchment areas, is due to attend secondary school from August 2027 or later, and they will have a sibling still attending Lasswade HS when they are due to start, they will have the choice to attend the replacement Beeslack CHS or Lasswade HS.
- If your child is in Primary 5 or below as of session 2023/24 and live in the current Mauricewood PS or Glencorse PS catchment areas they will attend their new secondary catchment school of Penicuik HS from August 2026 (along with children from the Cornbank St James, Cuiken and Strathesk PS catchment areas).
- If your child is in the Glencorse and Mauricewood PS catchment areas, is due to attend secondary school from August 2026 or later, and they will have a sibling still attending Beeslack CHS when they are due to start, they will have the choice to attend the replacement Beeslack CHS or Penicuik HS.

Transition Arrangements: Glencorse PS Catchment Area



- Children who are due to start school in August 2024 and live in the current Glencorse PS catchment area on or before 25th June 2024 will attend the school they are registered for.
- Children due to go into Primary 1 from August 2025 who live in the Glencorse PS catchment area your catchment school is Mauricewood PS.
- If you live in the Glencorse PS catchment area prior to the council decision and you are attending Roslin PS and you have a younger sibling who is due to start within three years of the council decision, they will have the choice to apply to attend Mauricewood PS or Roslin PS.
- If your child is attending Roslin PS in August 2024 and they live in the Glencorse PS catchment area they will have the choice to attend either Beeslack CHS or Penicuik HS.
- If you move into the Glencorse PS catchment area on or after 26th June 2024 your catchment school is Mauricewood PS.

Transition Arrangements: Replacement Beeslack CHS



- The pupils attending Beeslack CHS at the time of the implementation of the proposals would transfer to the new secondary school building in August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter.
- A full transition programme will be in place to support progression in learning and in order that learners are prepared to take a full part in secondary education with their peers in the new school building.
- No child will have to move from the school they are attending if that is not their choice or their parents' choice. For children and young people due to attend the new specialist ASN provision decisions will be made in partnership with parents and carers based on the individual child's needs.
- Pupils with severe and complex learning needs who live across Midlothian and have been assessed by the ASN service as requiring the specialist facilities provided at the new school, will also attend the Replacement Beeslack CHS.

Transition Table



Current Year Group			
2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
P1	P1	P1	P1
P2	P2	P2	P2
P3	P3	P3	P3
P4	P4	P4	P4
P5	P5	P5	P5
P6	P6	P6	P6
P7	P7	P7	P7

Children will not be affected by the catchment changes

Children will attend their new catchment school but can make a placing request for their former catchment secondary school.

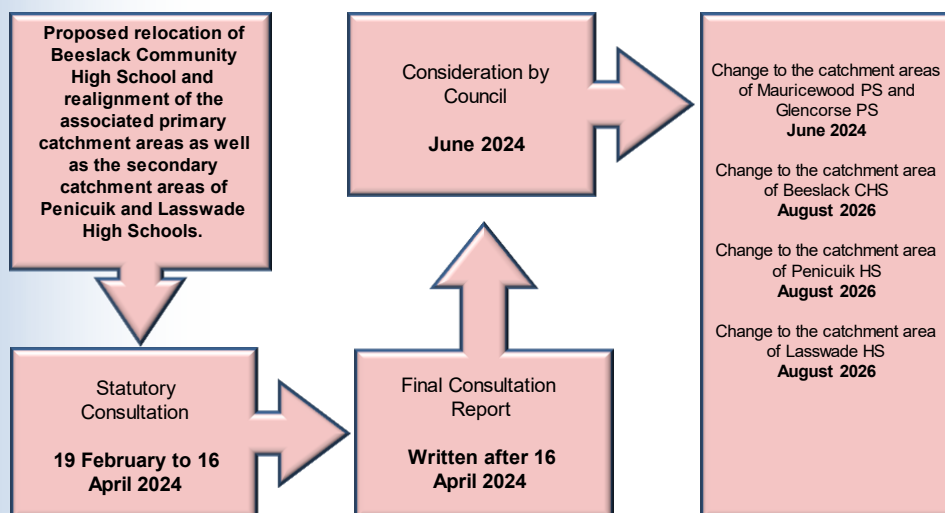
If your child is in Primary 5 or below as of session 2023/24 and live in the current **Mauricewood PS** or **Glencorse PS** catchment area they will attend their new secondary catchment school of **Penicuik High School** from **August 2026** unless they are subject to a sibling concession.

If your child is in Primary 5 or below as of session 2023/24 and live in the **Loanhead PS** or **Paradykes PS** catchment area they will attend their new secondary catchment school of **Beeslack Community High School** from **August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter (on the opening of the new school)**.

No child will have to move from the school they are attending if that is not their choice.

If there is any delay to the replacement Beeslack Community High School building opening, no secondary pupil will be asked to change school during the academic session.

Project Timeline



Questions?

For any further or more specific questions
please email
educationconsultation@midlothian.gov.uk

Mike Gibson (MG) then invited questions from the public.

The slides show zero housebuilding from 2027 onwards, is that because there will be none or because Midlothian Council don't know?

Michelle Strong (MS) advised - The Information is not there yet, there are opportunities for more new housing within the Penicuik High School catchment area.

Will the current Beeslack High School become over enrolled before 2026 completion date of the new building? Presentation slide shows 927 vs 860 capacity.

MS advised - There are potential breaches and temporary accommodation may be required but we are pulling out all the stops to make sure the replacement Beeslack High School building is delivered on time.

Magnus Inglis (MI) also mentioned – The figures on the slides are pupil projections which are estimated totals. Currently we are predicting rapid growth for Beeslack High School, and high numbers at Lasswade High School.

MS also stated - We are looking at a £39M refurbishment and reconfiguration of Penicuik High School. By realigning the catchment areas, we are trying to reduce pressure on schools.

There are a number of independent schools in Edinburgh – are you anticipating any pupils re-entering mainstream schools in Midlothian as costs increase, including possible fee increases at independent schools?

MS advised - We are already seeing some privately educated children re-entering the state education system. Pupils joining from independent schools are already factored in, but it is not an exact science. The risk has been addressed similarly, as houses are released, we respond to the new information.

Will individual circumstances be taken into account when deciding placing requests? I am a parent of a pupil who will be enrolling to Lasswade High School in 2025, with a sibling currently at Beeslack.

MI advised - Siblings take priority in placing requests, but we will look at individual circumstances where appropriate.

Is this a collaboration with Edinburgh university?

Jill McLaren (JM) advised - We have engaged with the University of Edinburgh about how to support our learners to access the First Opinion Vet Clinic. We have had a meeting about supporting higher and Nat 5s' across Midlothian, for example delivering online lectures for all Midlothian students to benefit from. By the time the new school is built, although Beeslack will be in the best location, all schools in Midlothian will benefit from collaboration with The University of Edinburgh.

Are Midlothian council building and paying for anything for the University of Edinburgh?

Jim McQuaker (JMC) advised – No, Midlothian Council is not.

If the building is not ready on time, will pupils be asked to change during the school session?

MS advised - If the building isn't ready, we will look at the best time for pupils to transition. We do recognise that it can be very disruptive for students to move during an academic year. There are examples from across Scotland of phased introduction to new schools.

How will this sit with a paper going to council tomorrow re capping school rolls?

MI advised - We are applying caps on school rolls at Dalkeith High School, Newbattle High School and Lasswade High School. Some schools are under a lot of pressure, we are trying to keep balance with existing pressure and new build housing coming through.

Where can I go to find more information on plans for the new school building?

JMC Advised - We didn't want to hold two consultations at the same time and so there will a separate consultation regarding plans of the new school building. There is some information currently available on the Council planning website, but we are still working on the interior layout.

Will it be a community centre/campus like Newbattle High School?

JM advised - The replacement Beeslack High School will retain the current school's model of community being run in house, this is slightly different to the models that Lasswade High School and Newbattle High School are currently operating.

Will the council provide school transport as the new school is further away than the current school.

Gillian Bathgate (GB) advised - This depends on distance and safe walking routes. We will be improving pedestrian crossings and looking at addresses to see qualifying distances. We are speaking to bus operators to increase frequency of public busses.

What is the mileage that pupils would be expected to walk to get to school?

GB advised - Currently 2 miles. In other local authorities in Scotland the distance is 3 miles. There is a proposal for Midlothian to change to 3 miles, but this is not confirmed. This is the distance 'as the crow flies' and not the walking distance.

Will traffic congestion be considered?

GB advised - Traffic modelling is happening at the moment on the A701 and A703.

Will the speed limit be reduced?

Yes. Looking at 20mph outside of the school and 30mph in the area around.

What will be the proposed walking route for Roslin children?

GB advised - We don't have one at the moment, we are still in the early stages of development. We are currently speaking to bus operators. We are also keen to create a walking route, if possible, but it depends on factors such as land ownership etc. We are looking to include cycle routes and cycle storage to encourage active travel.

Why are the sports fields located on the opposite side of the A702? This is causing concern in the community around children crossing the road, could there be a bridge or underpass built?

JMC advised - An underpass is not possible as it would be built on a flood plain and would be susceptible to flooding. For a bridge to reach the required height to allow a double decker bus underneath but also meet the required gradient to allow a wheelchair user to cross, the span would be enormous and not feasible.

GB also mentioned - The speed limit will be reduced, and traffic calming imposed. Crossings will have altered timing to allow an entire class to cross the road safely. There is a similar situation at Penicuik High School.

Will you be taking into account that the school will be built into the University estate including the equine hospital and farm hospital, so narrowing the road will restrict access to the estate?

GB advised - Yes. We are planning in conjunction with the university.

Allocated ASN for 40, will these children be taken out of Saltersgate? As it also seems to be a lot to cover Midlothian?

Anna Walton (AW) advised – There will be a standalone building that will be for children and young people with severe and complex medical needs and will be Midlothian wide. There will also be 4 classes for enhanced support for children that need additional support in school, like the provision in the current Beeslack High School. It will have its own outside space.

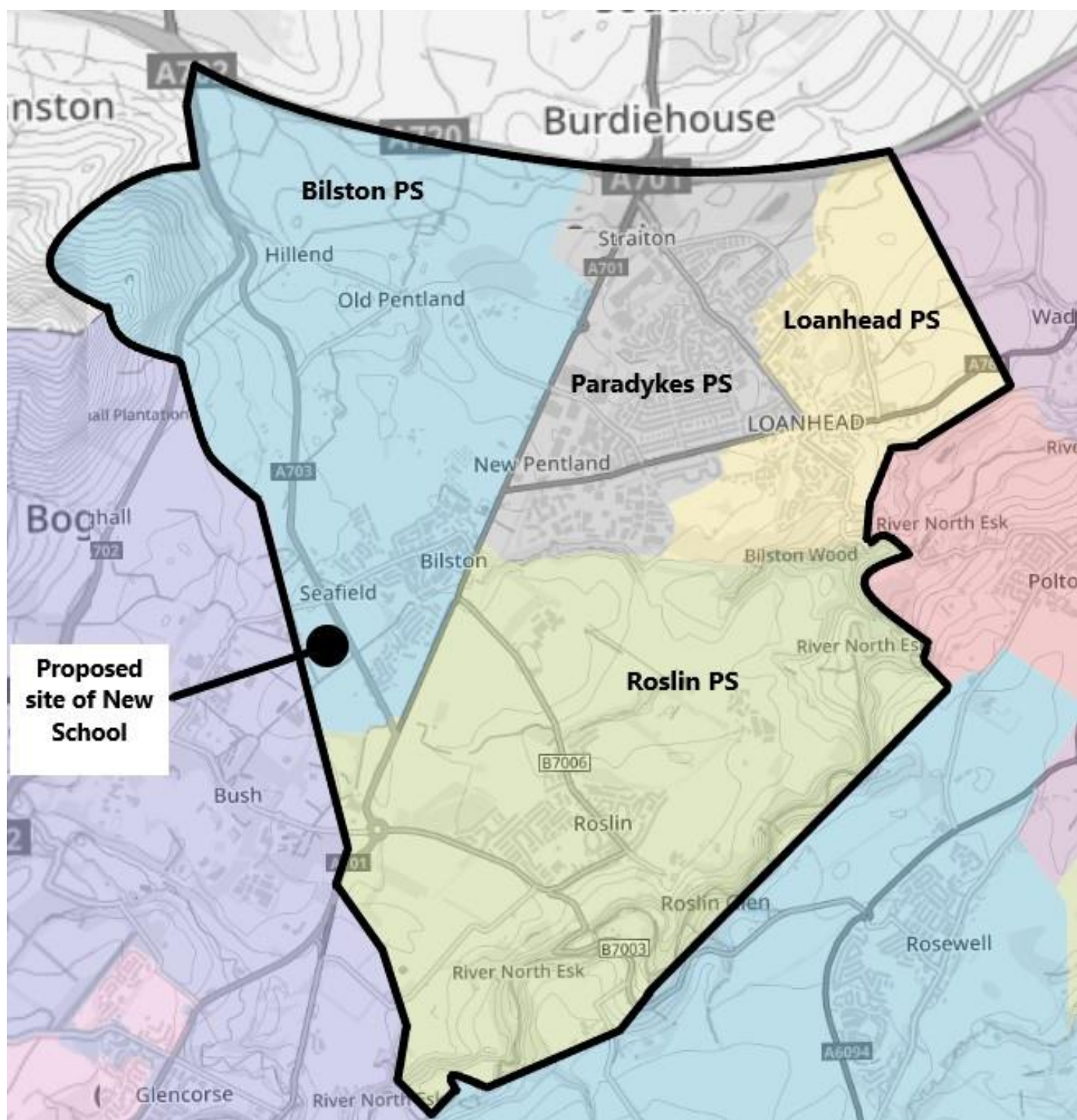
When Penicuik High School is taken over, will you use Glencorse Primary building as part of ASN?

AW advised – Future plans are not there yet.

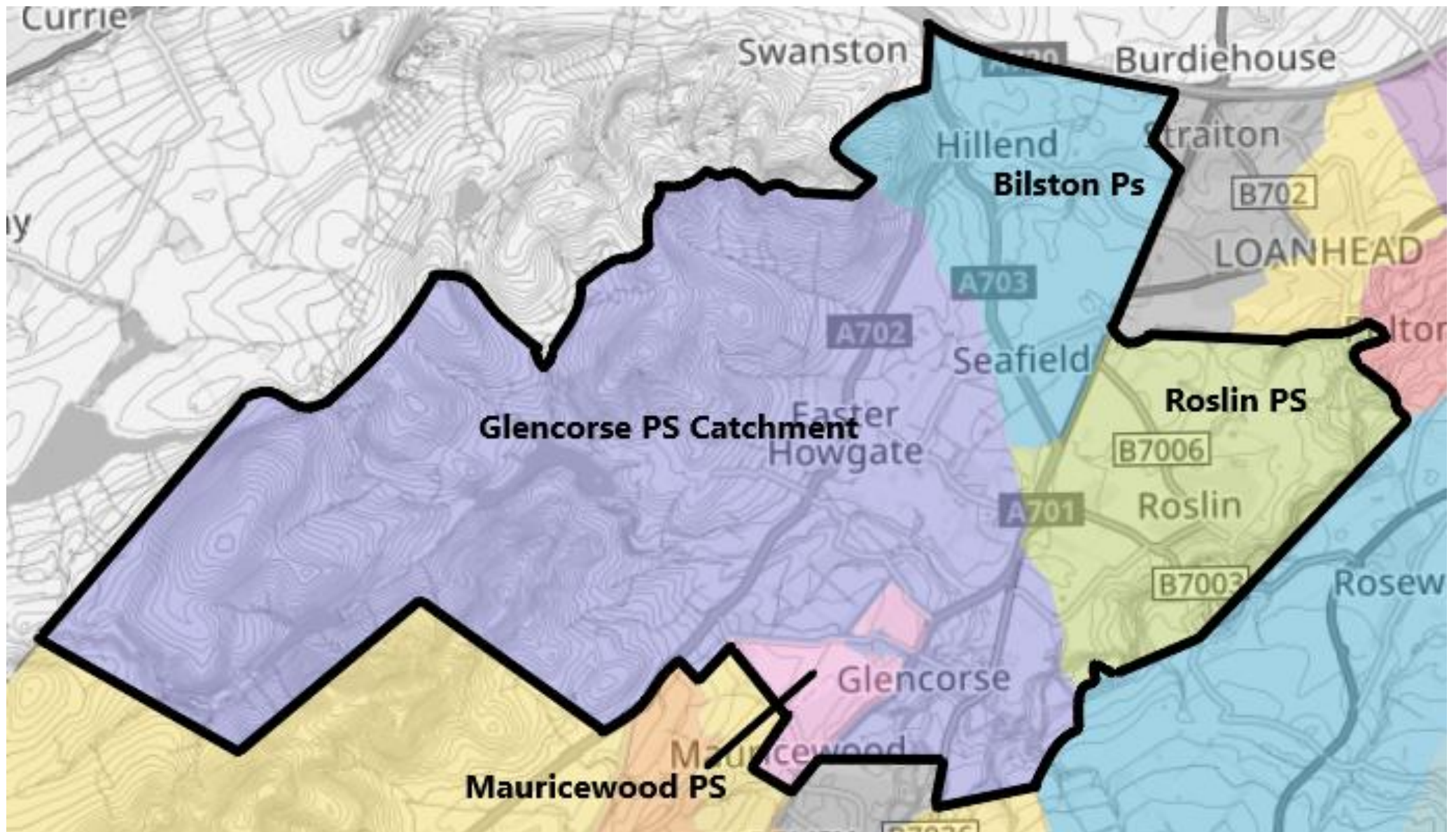
Mike Gibson closed the public meeting, thanked attendees, and reiterated the email address for any questions to be answered by Council Officers.

Michelle Strong also thanked the attendees.

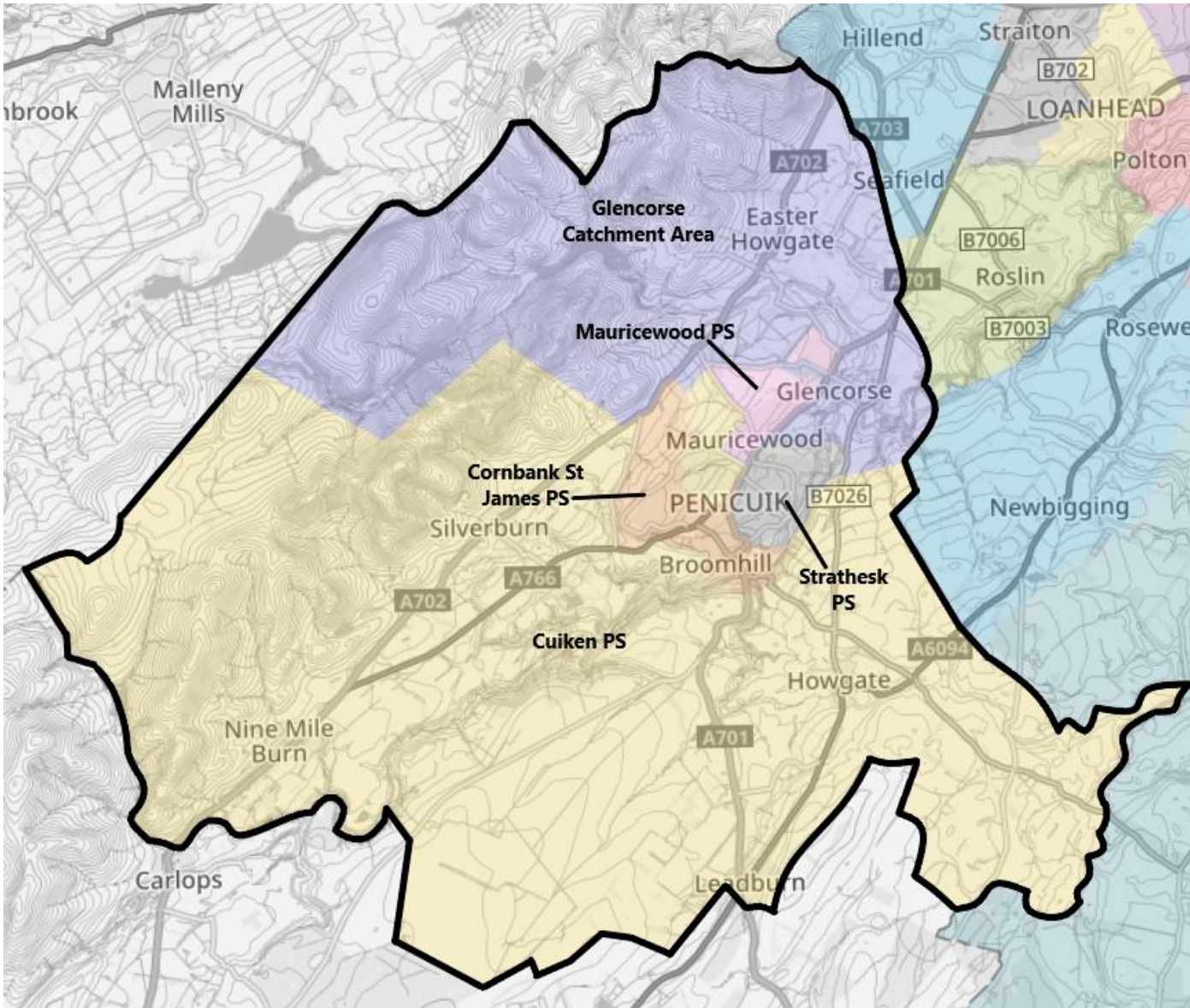
Appendix 4 – Proposed Beeslack CHS Catchment Area



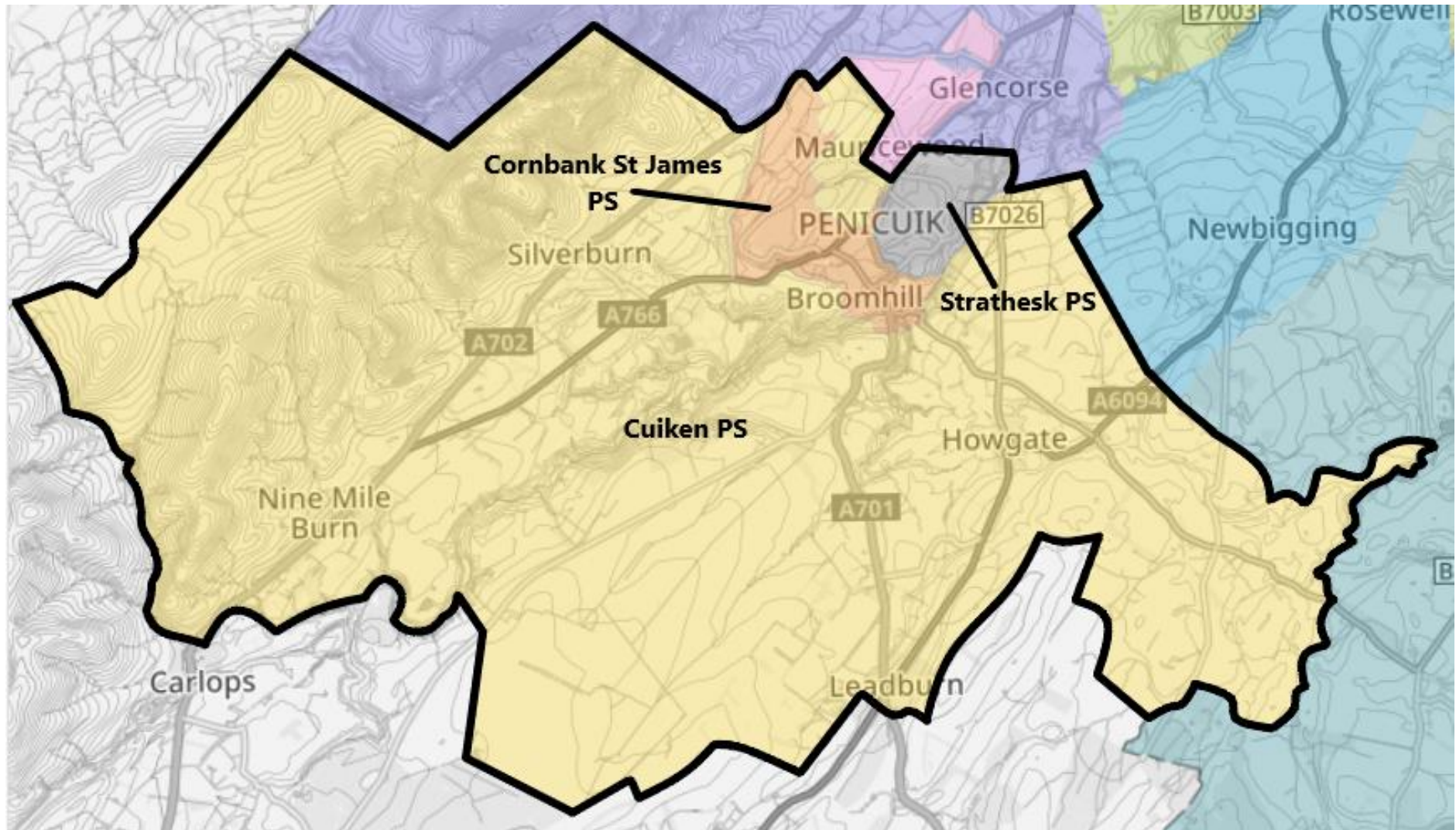
Current Beeslack CHS Catchment Area



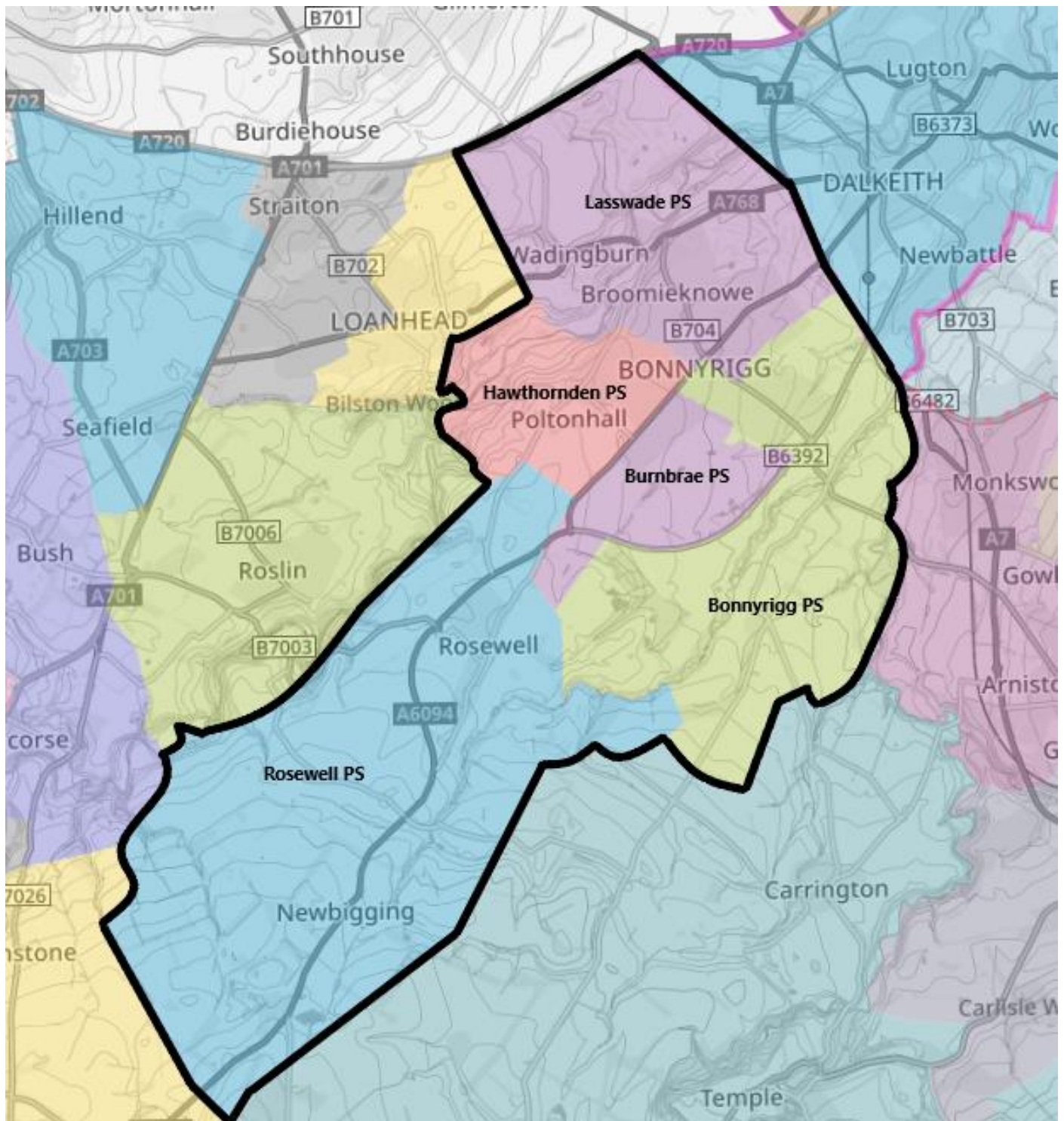
Proposed Penicuik HS Catchment Area



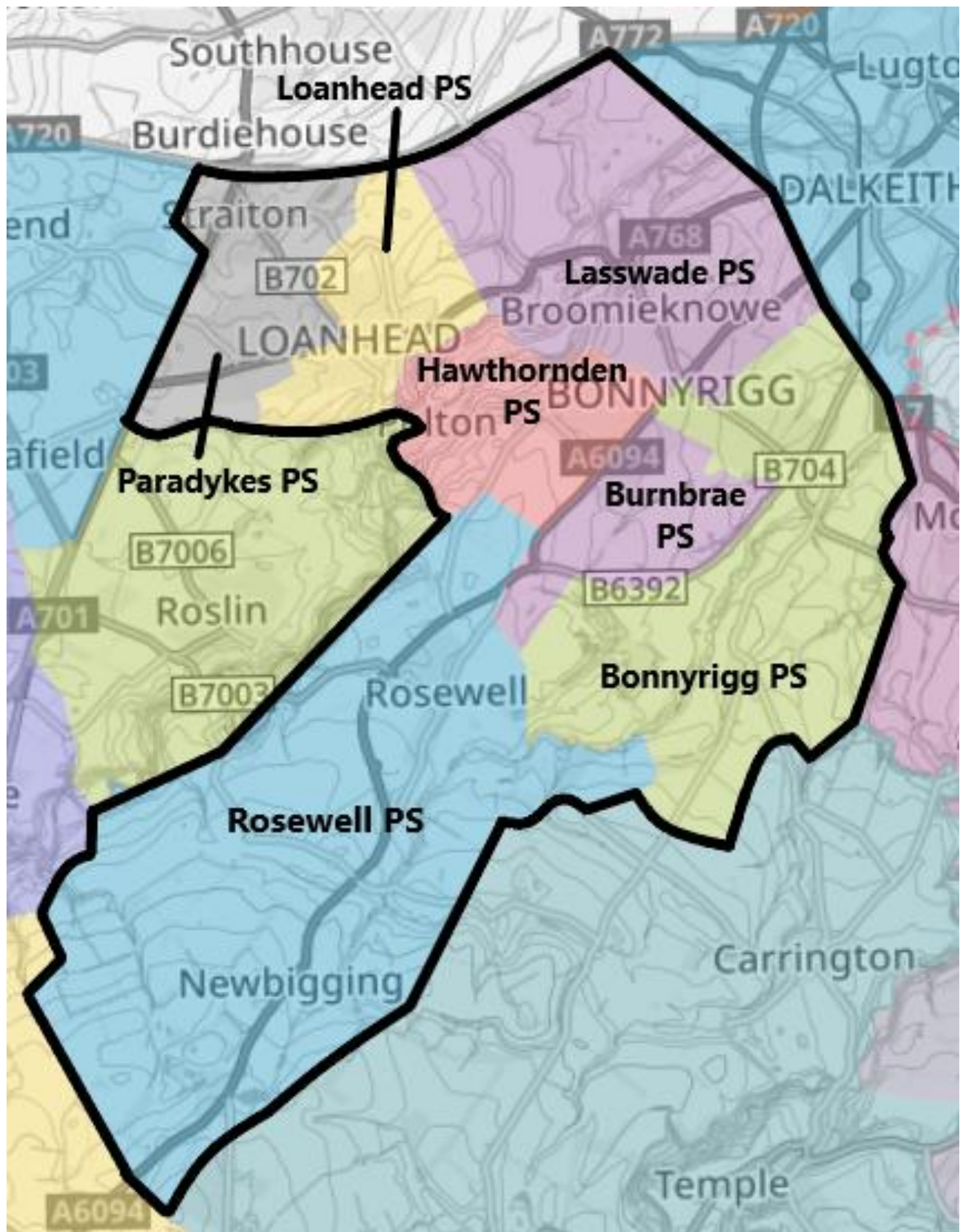
Current Penicuik HS Catchment Area



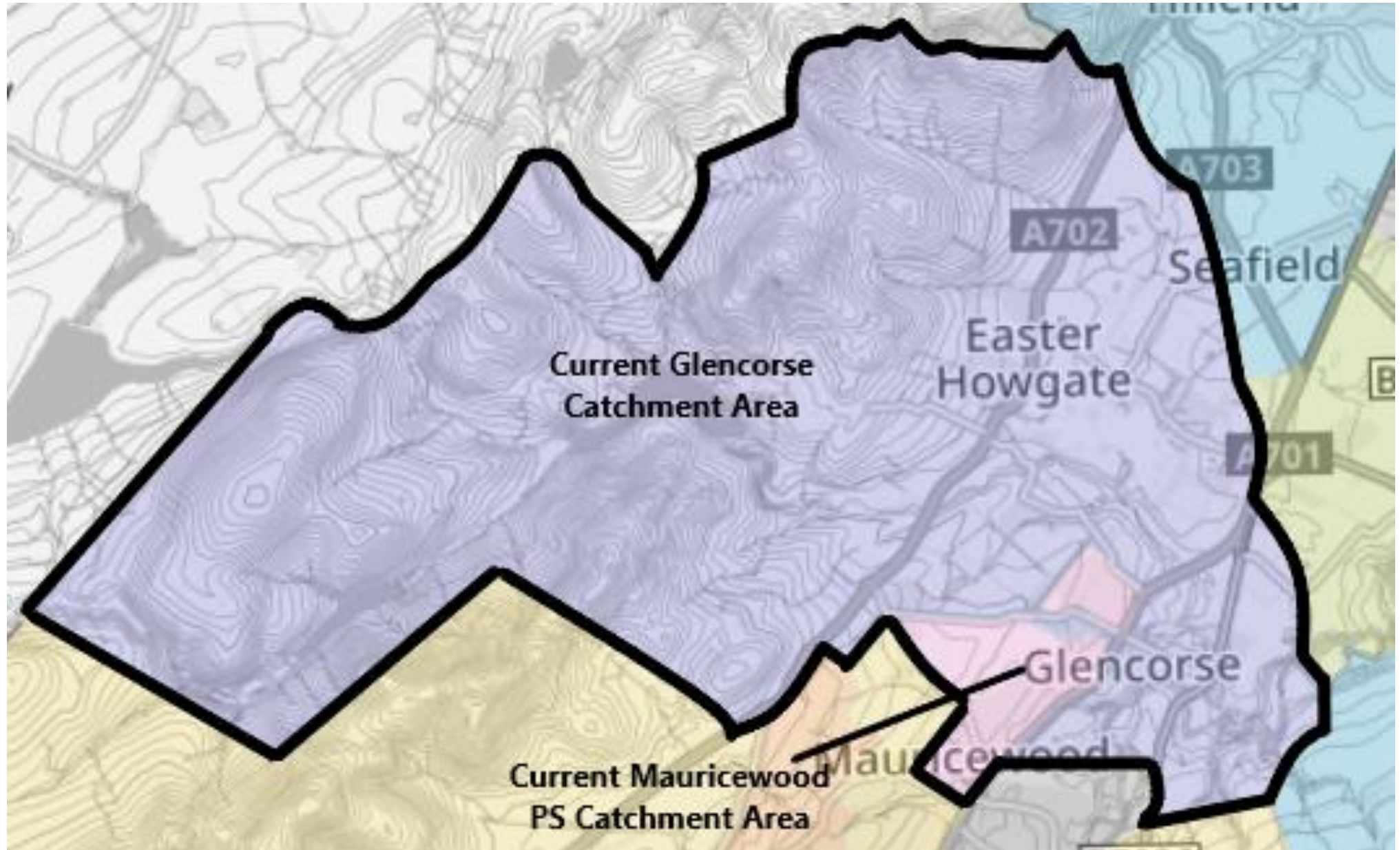
Proposed Lasswade HS Catchment Area



Current Lasswade HS Catchment Area



Proposed Mauricewood PS Catchment Area




Appendix 5 – Site of the proposed replacement Beeslack Community High School with current school catchment areas.



Appendix 6 – Pupil Transition Table

Current Year Group			
2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
P1	P1	P1	P1
P2	P2	P2	P2
P3	P3	P3	P3
P4	P4	P4	P4
P5	P5	P5	P5
P6	P6	P6	P6
P7	P7	P7	P7

 Children will not be affected by the catchment changes

 Children will attend their new catchment school but can make a placing request for their former catchment secondary school.

If your child is in Primary 5 or below as of session 2023/24 and live in the current **Mauricewood PS** or **Glencorse PS** catchment area they will attend their new secondary catchment school of **Penicuik High School** from **August 2026** unless they are subject to a sibling concession.

If your child is in Primary 5 or below as of session 2023/24 and live in the **Loanhead PS** or **Paradykes PS** catchment area they will attend their new secondary catchment school of **Beeslack Community High School** from **August 2026** or as **soon as possible thereafter (on the opening of the new school)**.

No child will have to move from the school they are attending if that is not their choice.

If there is any delay to the replacement Beeslack Community High School building opening, no secondary pupil will be asked to change school during the academic session.

Appendix 7 - Frequently Asked Questions

Replacement Beeslack Consultation

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What will be done to ensure there are safer routes to schools for the new Beeslack CHS and for children going to Penicuik HS?

A. Traffic management and Safer Routes to Schools will be established for the new school building. A new pedestrian crossing at the A703 will be installed and transport will also look to improve active travel facilities. A701 Nivens Knowe junction near the Nissan Garage will be widened with crossings etc and a new junction will also be introduced with a crossing at Main Street at Nivens Knowe Road.

Q. What will happen in terms of public transport. Will LRT be consulted for additional buses during peak times?

A. Midlothian Council will have discussions with Lothian Buses regarding timings and areas to be used as well as routes for regular peak times.

Q. Will there be a speed limit review in the surrounding areas/ roads of both Beeslack CHS and Penicuik HS?

A. Midlothian in its entirety is being assessed for a move to 20mph villages, this will see 90% of urban roads become 20mph zones with arterial routes becoming 30 mph. This project will be completed prior to the replacement Beeslack CHS opening and a key factor in the assessment is facilities such as schools.

Q. Will school transport be provided for children?

A. Transport will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis based on Midlothian Councils Home to school transport policy and/or safe routes to school availability at the time.

Q. Housing developments in the area have increased with many more planned, have these been taken into consideration?

A. The proposal document shows the allocated house builds in the Beeslack CHS and Penicuik catchment areas from the 2023 Housing Land Audit which has been considered when formulating these proposals:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Bilston PS Catchment	76	9	20	40	40	40	40
Roslin PS Catchment	113	159	90	1	0	0	0
Mauricewood PS Catchment	23	45	45	45	45	21	0
Glencorse PS Catchment	0	15	60	35	60	60	58

Allocated housebuild in the Beeslack CHS catchment area as indicated in the 2023 Housing Land Audit.

	2023/2 4	2024/2 5	2025/2 6	2026/2 7	2027/2 8	2028/2 9	2029/3 0
Cornbank St James PS Catchment	0	37	38	0	0	0	0
Cuiken PS Catchment	99	50	47	11	0	0	0
Strathesk PS Catchment	0	12	0	0	0	0	0

Allocated house build in the Penicuik HS catchment area as indicated in the 2023 Housing Land Audit.

Q. How far in advance are pupil roll projection numbers forecast until?

A. The proposal document has a table which shows the projected school rolls based on the current school catchment areas.

	Registered Capacity	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Beeslack CHS	860	811	880	927	1003	1086	1155
Penicuik HS	945	673	682	699	700	677	658
Lasswade HS	1600	1618	1640	1667	1687	1703	1729

Q. Capacity breakdown of the existing Beeslack CHS compared to the replacement Beeslack CHS?

A. The existing Beeslack CHS building has a registered capacity of 860. The replacement Beeslack CHS building will be able to accommodate up to 1,600 pupils.

Q. Is there enough space for all children to attend Penicuik HS once the catchment changes come into effect?

A. The projected school rolls based on the proposed catchment changes can be seen in the table below and demonstrate that, in addition to relieving some capacity pressures at Beeslack CHS and Lasswade HS, they would increase the roll of Penicuik HS to a more viable roll.

	Registered Capacity	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Beeslack CHS	860	811	880	962	1076	1174	1262
Penicuik HS	945	677	683	755	818	859	915
Lasswade HS	1600	1614	1577	1532	1473	1423	1381

Projected school rolls based on proposed school catchment areas

Q. Why is Beeslack CHS being replaced?

A. The existing building dates from 1984 and the accommodation is currently rated Condition B (Satisfactory) and Suitability C (Poor). As at census in September 2023 the secondary school had a roll of 751 against a capacity of 860. This roll is due to increase further over coming years due to significant house build taking place in the current catchment area which is why part of the proposal is to change the catchment areas.

Appendix 8 - Education Scotland Report

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of a proposal by Midlothian Council to relocate Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary catchment areas as well as the secondary catchment areas of Penicuik and Lasswade High Schools. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' view. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it alongside any relevant considerations the council received and then prepare its consultation report. The council's consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its consultation report at least three weeks before it takes its final decision. With all proposals the council needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools; any other users; children and young people likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

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

- attendance at the public meetings held on 20 and 25 March 2024 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the site of Beeslack Community High School, Lasswade High School and Roslin, Paradykes, Loanhead, Mauricewood and Saltergate Schools, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

- 2.1 Midlothian Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 2.2 The council undertook the consultation from 19 February to 16 April 2024. The council published the proposal paper on their website. Paper and electronic copies of the proposal paper were made available to stakeholders. Midlothian Council held a public meeting at Beeslack Community High School and Lasswade High School, which 25 stakeholders attended.
- 2.3 The council received 388 responses to their online consultation and three written responses, the majority of which were from parents. Of these, the majority are in favour of the proposal to relocate Beeslack Community High School to the land adjacent to Easter Bush. The majority are also in favour of realigning Beeslack Community High Schools catchment areas to include Loanhead and Paradykes Primary Schools. In relation to realigning the catchment areas of the former Glencorse Primary School and Mauricewood Primary School from Beeslack Community High School to Penicuik High School, 32% agreed, 30% of respondents disagreed and 38% of respondents had no opinion on the proposal. The majority of respondents who gave an opinion on the proposal to realign the catchment area of the former Glencorse Primary to Mauricewood Primary support the proposal. The majority of respondents support the proposal to establish a new additional support needs (ASN) stage at Beeslack Community High School and Penicuik High School. A few stakeholders expressed concerns over the lack of safe, active travel routes, limited public transport, increased congestion and increased travel time to the school. A few parents highlighted the need to consider the potential impact due to any delays to the build phase of the project. They also noted concerns about the future capacity of Roslin Primary School and the lack of local amenities at the new site of Easter Bush.
- 2.4 The council facilitated consultation sessions with children and young people from all of the schools affected by this proposal. Most children and young people are supportive of the proposal to replace Beeslack Community High School. All support the need to establish space for pupils with ASN in Beeslack Community High School and Penicuik High School. Most children and young people are supportive of the proposal to realign the catchment of the former Glencorse Primary School. A few children and young people have worries about friends going to different schools and the impact the proposal may have on families transporting their children to school.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

- 3.1 The council's proposal sets out a number of educational benefits for those directly affected. Local authority projections indicate growing school rolls and that the current secondary school estate will not be able to accommodate this increase. All stakeholders that met with HM Inspectors were positive about the proposed replacement Beeslack Community High School and realignment of the associated primary and secondary school catchment areas. HM Inspectors agree that the proposed catchment changes and a new school building will help to address current and future capacity issues across the school estate. HM Inspectors also agree that building a new school should improve the learning environment. Children, young people and staff will benefit from a modern school building that has potential to enhance learning and teaching experiences with improved access to digital resources. The new building and grounds should provide more flexibility for outdoor learning and multiuse community areas. If the relocation is agreed, the new facilities

should help to strengthen the school's partnership with Edinburgh University in developing a centre of excellence for science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM). HM Inspectors suggest the council work with stakeholders to provide more information on how young people across Midlothian will benefit from the STEAM centre of excellence and the partnership with the proposed veterinary school.

- 3.2 The proposed new stage of ASN will include a specialist complex needs provision and a separate provision for children and young people with severe and complex medical needs. The stage of ASN will have a capacity of 40 learners across five classrooms. Should the proposal be approved, there is potential for children and young people to benefit from a purpose-built provision designed to meet their severe and complex medical needs. They will have access to educational and other facilities, such as sensory and life skills equipment. There is also increased opportunities for ASN learners to access mainstream classes with no additional travel. All stakeholders that met with HM Inspectors were positive about the facility for learners with complex needs being included in the new school campus. HM Inspectors agree that this is an educational benefit. HM Inspectors suggest that the council continue to work with schools to ensure that there is a shared understanding of ASN placement criteria.
- 3.3 A few stakeholders, that spoke to HM Inspectors, had some questions and concerns. Stakeholders raised the need to improve safe active travel routes to school. They would like more information on how the council intend to ensure effective traffic management and parking at the new school. Stakeholders would also appreciate the council providing more information on what school transport arrangements will be put in place if this proposal is agreed. Stakeholders also raised queries about how transitions to the new school will be managed, the availability of community learning opportunities and whether the Glencorse ASN provision will remain. HM Inspectors recommend that the council work with stakeholders to address these concerns. HM Inspectors suggest that there are benefits to the council working with stakeholders during the design phase. This includes those stakeholders who work with learners who have ASN. Such engagement will help to ensure spaces in the proposed new school best reflect the needs of learners.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree that this proposal has clear educational benefits. The proposed catchment changes and a new school building will help to address current and future capacity issues across the school estate. The majority of stakeholders are supportive of the proposals to relocate Beeslack Community High School and establishing new ASN stages at Beeslack Community High School and Penicuik High School. There are varied views in regard to rezoning of the school catchments. Should the proposal be agreed, there will be a need to continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure that their questions and concerns are considered and addressed. This should include, providing reassurance to parents around safe routes to school. During the design phase for the new school building, the council should continue to ensure that the ASN facility takes appropriate account of the requirements of learners with severe and complex medical needs.

HM Inspectors
April 2024