



Midlothian Council

Children, Young People and Partnerships Directorate

Statutory School Consultation

THIS IS A PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

Proposal to establish a new all through school and its associated catchment areas within the land at Shawfair and to realign the catchment areas of Danderhall Primary School and Dalkeith High School.

Proposals:

- New primary and secondary school catchment areas will be established for the proposed Shawfair 2-18 Education Campus, and the catchment areas of Danderhall Primary School, and Dalkeith High School will be realigned;
- A new all through school with early learning, primary and secondary learning, and specialist additional support needs (ASN) provision will be established for the proposed Shawfair 2-18 education campus catchment area;
- The new all through school will open on its permanent site on the completion of the new building in August 2028 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- A realignment of the Danderhall Primary School Catchment Area and Dalkeith High School Catchment Area from August 2027.

Affected Schools

The establishment of Shawfair all through School and its associated catchment area will directly affect the following schools and is considered in this Proposal Document:

- Danderhall Primary School
- Dalkeith High School

The following schools will be indirectly affected by the proposal:

- King's Park Primary School
- Woodburn Primary School
- Tynewater Primary School

The affected consultees are:

- The pupils attending Danderhall Primary School
- The pupils attending Dalkeith High School

- The Parent Councils and parents/carers of Danderhall Primary School
- The Parent Councils and parents/carers of Dalkeith High School
- The parents / carers of pupils and children expected to attend Danderhall Primary School, and Dalkeith High Schools within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper
- The staff employed by the Council and based at Danderhall Primary School
- The staff employed by the Council and based at Dalkeith High School
- The Trade Union and Professional Associations Representatives of the above staff
- The Community Councils of Dalkeith and Danderhall and District.
- The Community Planning Partnership

The purpose of this document is to introduce the proposals outlined above, the anticipated educational benefits of the proposals, and to explain the consultation process and how you can have your say.

Contents

Section 1: Consultation Process and How to Have Your Say	3
Section 2: The Proposals for Consultation	7
Section 3: Educational Benefit Statement	12
Section 4: Other Implications	15
Section 5: Conclusion	18

Appendix 1: Statutory Consultation Timeline: Shawfair new non-denominational all through school

Appendix 2: Proposed New Primary School Catchment Areas

Appendix 2: Proposed New Secondary School Catchment Area

Appendix 4: Consultation Questionnaire

SECTION 1: Consultation Process and How to Have Your Say

This section outlines how Midlothian Council has organised the consultation process for the proposal contained in this document, and how you can take part and give your views.

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

1. The Council has a number of statutory duties relating to the provision of education within its area. These include carrying out a statutory consultation when proposing any permanent change to one of its schools, including Nursery Schools, such as a closure, relocation, or change to a catchment area.

The principal purpose of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* is:

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

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

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

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

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

3. The process for consultation, summarised in this section, details how the Council is undertaking this consultation.
4. This Proposal Document has been issued to seek views on the proposals in this paper and report back to Midlothian Council on the outcome of the consultation in order that the Council can make a decision on any proposed changes.

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

5. An information leaflet setting out details about the proposal and consultation meetings will be issued to the consultees listed on pages 1-2. Advice on where the complete Proposal Document can be obtained will be included and published on <https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/shawfair-education-consultation>
6. An announcement will be made on the Council’s website and social media platforms.
7. A “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) document will be available on XXX

Distribution

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

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

A summary of the proposals will be provided to:

- The Parent Councils of the affected schools
- The parents of the pupils at the affected schools
- Parents of children expected to attend an affected school within 2 years of the date of publication of this Proposal Document
- The pupils, deemed to be of suitable age and maturity to be able to communicate a view on the proposal, at the affected schools
- The teaching and ancillary staff at the affected schools
- The trade unions and professional association representatives of the above staff
- Midlothian Councillors
- Community Councils of Dalkeith and District and Danderhall and District
- Community Planning Partnership
- Relevant users of the affected schools
- Constituency MP and MSP
- His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education Scotland

A copy of this document is also available from:

- Dalkeith High School, 2 Cousland Road, Dalkeith, EH22 2PS
- Danderhall Primary School, 59 Edmonstone Rd, Danderhall, Dalkeith EH22 1QL
- Dalkeith Library and Arts Centre, 2 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE
- Danderhall Library, 59 Edmonstone Rd, Danderhall, Dalkeith EH22 1QL
- Fairfield House, 8 Lothian Road, Dalkeith, EH22 3ZG

This document can be made available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English.

If you would like this document in another language or format, or if you require the services of an interpreter, please call 0131 270 7500 or email: enquiries@midlothian.gov.uk

To be taken into consideration, responses to the consultation must be received by Wednesday 27 May 2026. These can be made electronically through the online consultation questionnaire at or emailed to EducationConsultation@midlothian.gov.uk.

Written responses can be returned to:

Shawfair Education Consultation, Freepost SCO 622, Midlothian Council, Dalkeith EH22 1DN

Length of Consultation Period

8. The consultation period will commence on 26th March 2026 and will last until 27th May 2026 being a period of 9 weeks, which also includes the minimum 30 school days.

Public Meeting and Drop-In Session

9. A formal in-person public meeting and virtual public drop-in sessions will be held to discuss the proposal. The public meeting will be convened by Midlothian Council and addressed by the Chief

Education Officer, Children, Young People and Partnerships Directorate, and other senior officers of the Council, and chaired by an independent person.

10. The public meeting will be an opportunity to:

- Hear more about the proposal
- Ask questions about the proposal
- Have your views minuted so that they can be taken into account as part of the consultation process

11. The public meeting will be held in person on Thursday, 21st May at 7pm at Danderhall Primary School.

12. Virtual drop-in sessions will be held on Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th May 2026, there will be 20 minute time slots available from 2pm to 4pm and 5pm to 7pm please contact EducationConsultation@midlothian.gov.uk to book a time.

13. A minute will be taken at the public meeting of comments, questions and officer responses. A summary of the points raised and responded to will be added to the FAQs published on the Council website.

Consultation with Children and Young People

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

Involvement of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education Scotland

15. Midlothian Council will send the Proposal Document to His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education Scotland (HMIES), and they will receive a copy of all relevant written and oral representations and any other relevant documentation received during the consultation period.

16. HMIES will consider the Council submissions and prepare an independent report on their findings. HMIES have three weeks to undertake this, and this period will not start until after the consultation period has ended. In preparing their report, HMIES may visit the affected schools and make such reasonable enquiries of such people there as they consider appropriate.

Preparation of the Consultation Report

17. The Council will review the proposal having regard to the HMIES report, and all oral and written representations received. It will then prepare a Final Consultation Report. The report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be available on the Council website.

18. The Consultation Report will set out the total number of oral and written representations received in relation to the proposal. It will also include the Council's response to HMIE, the HMIE Report itself, and any other relevant information. In addition, the Report will describe the actions taken by the Council to address any alleged inaccuracies or omissions that were notified during the consultation process. It will explain how Midlothian Council has met the requirement to review the proposal considering the HMIE Report and all representations received.

19. Once completed, the Consultation Report will be published and made available for further consideration for a period of three weeks.

Decision

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

Scottish Ministers Call-in

21. This proposal does not concern a school closure and as such does not require the Council to notify Scottish Ministers after the Council takes its final decision.

Note on Corrections

22. If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this Proposal Document, whether by the Council or any person, the Council will consider whether relevant information has been omitted or whether an inaccuracy exists. Where necessary, the Council may take appropriate action, which could include issuing a correction, reissuing the Proposal Document, or revising the consultation period timescale. If such action is taken, all relevant consultees and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) will be informed. Anyone who has raised the concern will also receive an individual response to their submission.

SECTION 2: The Proposals for Consultation

- A new all through school catchment area will be established for the proposed Shawfair 3-18 Education Campus, and the catchment areas of Danderhall Primary School, and Dalkeith High School will be realigned;
- A new all through school with early learning, primary and secondary learning, and specialist ASN provision will be established for the proposed Shawfair 3-18 education campus catchment area;
- The new all through school will open on its permanent site on the completion of the new building in August 2028 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- A realignment of the Danderhall Primary School Catchment Area and Dalkeith High School Catchment Area from August 2028;

Introduction

1. An update to the Midlothian Council Learning Estate Strategy was approved at a meeting of full Council in December 2022 and also included the Council's strategy for the provision of specialist provisions and services across its estate.
2. The Learning Estate Strategy seeks to provide improved, flexible and adaptable learning environments to deliver 21st century education as part of a wider place making agenda. This vision is key to meet the principles of Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy and to address the three key national education and skills priorities:
 - Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)
 - Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)
 - Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)
3. The following core principles underpin the project proposals for the new Shawfair all through school:
 - Promoting excellence and equity by delivering a more equitable distribution in learning opportunities by ensuring that every one of our children has the right to aim for excellence and to attain excellence in multiple ways
 - Interrupting the cycle of poverty by school hubs having a role at the heart of their community to help address the inequalities that reduce life chances;
 - Getting it right for every Midlothian child by utilising the school estate to deliver early intervention strategies through, where possible, the co-location of services together with a family learning approach;
 - Taking a community-based approach to building schools which meet the needs of communities and enhance the lives of all those who live in those communities.
4. In short, we aspire to create a learning estate that enhances communities and at its heart supports children and young people through their learning journey from early years, primary and secondary school, college or university to the world of employment, education or training equipped with the skills for life, work and learning both they and society will need to succeed in the growing global knowledge economy of the 21st century.

5. Midlothian Council's Strategy for Digital Learning, 'Learning in the Digital Age' (2016) is a commitment to equip children and young people with the knowledge and digital skills essential for learning, life and work.
6. Midlothian Council aims to put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child's ethos at the heart of each of its schools. A number of Midlothian schools have embedded the Right Respecting Schools (RRS) principles in their school improvement plans. Children's rights are continually promoted and are featured in the curriculum, and class charters.
7. The National Learning Estate Strategy is aligned to the education policy aims set out in the National Improvement Framework (NIF) of achieving excellence and equity for all children and young people and closing the poverty related attainment gap.

Background and Context

8. The requirement for a new all through school to address capacity pressures across the Dalkeith High School associated school group was identified in the Midlothian Learning Estate Strategy 2017 – 2047 and reaffirmed in the 2022 update.
9. At a meeting of Midlothian Council on 25 February 2025 the Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships was instructed to undertake a consultation on the establishment of a new all through (2 to 18 years) school and catchment area at Shawfair.
10. Following review of the possible sites for this new school it was proposed that Shawfair town centre be used as a suitable location. An initial feasibility drawing was developed to demonstrate that the site could accommodate a new 2-18 Education Campus.
11. The proposed establishment of a new all through school and catchment area are required to ensure future housing developments in Shawfair have appropriate catchment school places and that Midlothian Council complies with statutory educational requirements.
12. Shawfair is in the North of the Midlothian Council area and is separated from the rest of the region by the Edinburgh City Bypass, A720.
13. Children currently living in the Shawfair area receive non-denominational education at Danderhall Primary School and Dalkeith High School.
14. The proposed site of the Shawfair school is located in the planned Shawfair Town centre on land to the East and North of Shawfair train station.
15. Danderhall Primary School is a non-denominational school situated in the centre of Danderhall. As 16 February 2026 the school had a roll of 540 pupils. The catchment area covers the Danderhall, Newton Village and Millerhill settlements to the north of The City of Edinburgh Bypass.
16. Danderhall Primary School catchment area includes all allocated sites across the Shawfair area with significant housing numbers, which are projected to increase pupil numbers at the school.
17. The catchment area of every Midlothian school entitles any child living at an address in that area to attend their designated school as an entitled pupil.

18. Parents who make successful placing requests for their children to attend other schools of their choice are responsible for arranging and funding their own transport.

Accommodation

19. A new Shawfair 2-18 education campus will offer a range of high-quality facilities, and modern teaching, learning and nurturing environments which meet the needs of every child.

20. Midlothian Council values high quality educational environments that improve learning outcomes and enhance the health and well-being of children and young people, and the wider community. The proposed Shawfair all through school supports these values.

21. The school will be delivered as part of the Council's commitment to improve the infrastructure and public buildings across Midlothian, to enhance the economy and make the area a destination of choice to live, work and visit. Shawfair school will be a vital community asset to serve and provide spaces for our community to use.

22. The proposed design approach for the school is based on the '10 Learning Estate Principles' set out in Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy.

23. 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 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 will be promoted.

24. The pedagogy, design and layout for the new school will deliver education in purpose-built accommodation which can deliver the curriculum using latest technology. Experience in previous new school buildings has demonstrated that a new and flexible learning environment has inspired and motivated pupils and has a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of learners.

25. Shawfair Community Campus is a community building first and foremost, with a school at its heart. The campus will cater for up to 1,434 pupils, split into 20 places for entitled 2-year-olds, 80 places for 3–5-year-olds, 434 places for primary school pupils and 900 spaces for secondary school students.

26. Central to the design is the provision of flexible, adaptable spaces that can be used in different ways both during and after the school day. Active spaces such as the library information plaza, cafe, multipurpose hall and the games hall have been clustered around the central node of the building, creating a shared space.

27. This area has been carefully developed to allow the shared use of facilities, whilst also providing a secure boundary that ensures the safety of school pupils. This space will be a bustling core of

activity that is public-facing, active and welcoming and will allow for the operation of community facilities beyond regular school opening times.

28. The proposal features a range of amenities in addition to those typically associated with an education project, including:

- 3 sports pitches: 2 grass, 1 3G all weather pitch
- Basketball courts / multi-use games areas (MUGAs)
- 6-lane running and athletics track
- Outdoor learning areas (maker's yard, growing space, art terrace)
- Woodland area to rear of primary school
- Community park and landscaped public plaza
- Bicycle and scooter parking spaces

ASN Provision

29. The proposed Shawfair school will contain an ASN provision, designed to support 5-18 years aged learners with complex additional support needs.

30. The new provision will provide a nurturing, high-quality learning environment designed to support the specific additional support needs of learners with direct access to outdoor safe and secure spaces. Adapted classrooms, sensory room, and a life skills-based space are resources that can be used to promote high quality learning through relational and attachment-based approaches, in a safe environment for 5 - 18 learners with complex additional support needs. This environment will further enhance multi-agency working to support learners to achieve.

31. The Education Resource Group will continue to allocate places to the specialist ASN provisions based on assessment of needs.

Proposed Changes to School Catchment Boundaries

32. Catchment area reviews must consider existing and future long-term housebuilding plans for the area so that schools have sufficient capacity to accommodate all children living in the catchment area both now and in the future. The basis for the review/development of a primary school catchment area is that pupils should be able to attend a primary school that is close to where they live and, if possible, within a safe walking distance.

33. Each primary school and high school in Midlothian has a defined catchment area that entitles any child living at an address in that area to attend their designated school as an entitled pupil.

34. All addresses to the west of A6106 and North of Cauldcoats Road will form the new catchment area for Danderhall Primary School. All other addresses will form the new primary catchment area for Shawfair school.

35. All addresses in the current Dalkeith High School catchment area that lie to the North of the Edinburgh City Bypass (A720) will transfer into the proposed new Shawfair high school catchment.

36. A map of the proposed primary catchment area of Shawfair 2-18 School can be found in Appendix
37. A map of the proposed secondary catchment area of Shawfair 2-18 School can be found in Appendix 2.
38. There are no nursery catchment areas in Midlothian and this will also apply to the early learning and childcare facility at the proposed Shawfair school.
39. The factors which have been considered in the development of this Proposal Document are:
- The responsibilities associated with the National Improvement Framework and the new duties imposed on Education Authorities by the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 as amended by the 2016 Act.
 - The agreed principles underpinning the development of an empowered school led system set out in the 'Education Bill Policy Ambition- Joint Agreement', June 2018 <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/06/8745/downloads>
 - The duties placed on local authorities in relation to the adequate and efficient provision of school education in their area
 - The duties placed on local authorities to secure best value in the delivery of services
40. If approved, implementation of the proposal will mean:
- A new all through school catchment area will be established for the proposed Shawfair 2-18 Education Campus, and the catchment areas of Danderhall Primary School, and Dalkeith High School will be realigned;
 - A new all through school with early learning, primary and secondary learning, and specialist ASN provision will be established for the proposed Shawfair 3-18 education campus catchment area;
 - The new all through school will open on its permanent site on the completion of the new building in August 2028 or as soon as possible thereafter;
 - A realignment of the Danderhall Primary School Catchment Area and Dalkeith High School Catchment Area from August 2028.

SECTION 3: Educational Benefit Statement

- A. Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) is central to Midlothian Council's ambition to raise attainment, improve achievement, and deliver better educational outcomes for all children. CfE aims to develop learners who are successful, confident, effective and responsible, and who can use their learning to reach their full potential while adapting to the increasing pace and complexity of life in today's and tomorrow's world.
- B. The principles of CfE recognise the professionalism of teachers and the importance of granting them the freedom and responsibility to apply broad national guidance in ways that best meet learners' needs. This enables schools to design a curriculum tailored to their children and community, while ensuring entitlement to a broad general education.
- C. The new 2–18 school at Shawfair will support a fully integrated approach to curriculum pathways from early years through to the senior phase.
- D. A new and flexible learning environment can inspire pupils and can have a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of learners, increase aspirations, attainment, achievement and positive destinations beyond school.
- E. The new school 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.
- F. Digital technologies will provide a platform for emerging and new technologies to be used to support learning and enable the full potential of the use of technologies to the benefit of young people, including distance learning opportunities. The provision of high-quality technology for learning will provide the potential to transform ways of learning and teaching by giving young people and staff flexible and ubiquitous access to a fully digital learning environment.
- G. The curriculum will provide the opportunity for learners to achieve across all curricular areas and develop skills, attributes and capabilities through courses aligned with the design principles of Curriculum for Excellence: challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance. Children and young people will be provided with a broad range of opportunities for personal achievement and interdisciplinary learning across all curriculum areas and subjects by building on best practice in curriculum design.
- H. The new school will 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.
- I. The flexible learning and teaching spaces in the new school will enable staff to work together in a collaborative manner and provide more opportunities for cooperative working between pupils and between phases of education.
- J. The new campus will provide provision of a high-quality learning environment in a location that is more accessible to more pupils, it is anticipated that there will be a positive impact on engagement and attainment, which will drive economic benefits. More widely, creating a centre for excellence for STEM will support the Midlothian Science Triangle. This will create opportunities for pupils to secure high value and resilient employment in the science sector.

- K. The new school campus will ensure that accessibility for learners with disabilities complies with the Equality Act (2010). The new school 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.
- L. Learning experiences will be adaptive to changing requirements of children and young people with complex needs, ensuring that all additional support needs are met in line with the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 and the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009.
- M. Pupil Support staff and teaching staff will work closely with all associated primary schools to ensure that the learning, pastoral and social needs of children are fully supported during the transition process, including enhanced arrangements for children and young people with Additional Support Needs.
- N. The new school campus will deliver Early Years, Primary, Secondary education, together with a Complex ASN Provision. Learning experiences will be adaptive to changing requirements of children and young people with complex needs, ensuring that all additional support needs are met in line with the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 and the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009. The proposed complex additional support needs provision will provide a nurturing, high-quality learning environment designed to support the specific additional support needs of learners through a differentiated curriculum including life skills and therapeutic approaches and direct access to outdoor safe and secure spaces. Adapted classrooms, sensory room, and a life skills-based space are resources that can be used to promote high quality learning through relational and attachment-based approaches, in a safe environment for 5 - 18 learners with complex additional support needs. This environment will further enhance multi-agency working to support learners to achieve.
- O. It is proposed that the new school campus will host Midlothian Council's specialist Department of Deaf Education. The provision will be designed so deaf young people can access mainstream primary and secondary education with specialist deaf support. The school will offer a blended model of specialist and mainstream education, allowing teachers to adapt approaches, provide language support and ensure access to the curriculum. All educational and communal areas will be designed with high-quality acoustic treatment, supporting effective communication for deaf learners.
- P. The shared flexible learning and teaching spaces in the new school will enable staff to work together in a collaborative manner and provide more opportunities for co-operative working between pupils.
- Q. Learning and teaching approaches will include the use of modern, digital approaches to enhance learning experiences.
- R. The provision of ELC accommodation, and primary and secondary provision on the site would allow for a seamless progression in learning from nursery to P1, and from P7 to S1. The delivery model will reflect the Local Authority commitment to offer the 1140 hour flexible, high quality early learning and childcare provision.
- S. Carefully designed spaces for families and professionals to meet together will enhance early learning experiences for children and help children and families reach their full potential, welcoming and fully involving families in the life of the school. It is important that the school

is flexible and allows the creative and multiple use of spaces by the staff and pupils, and also by the community.

- T. The new all through school could provide a focal point for parents/carers of nursery and primary age children, to integrate and socialise with each other and with existing communities.
- U. Children in the Shawfair area will have the opportunity to attend school with children in their settlement and have more involvement in the learning community where they live.
- V. It is anticipated that this proposal may have wider benefits to the community in respect of local employment opportunities, including on the construction of the new school.
- W. The Council will continue to work with existing community groups and new community groups as they develop. Local communities are well served by the existing secondary and primary schools which act as focal points for community events and it is anticipated that the establishment of a new primary school would have a positive impact and will enhance this further.

SECTION 4: Other Implications

Transition Arrangements

1. In order to support transition to the new school Midlothian Council is proposing to host pupils in each cohort at other school sites prior to the opening of the new all through school. Pupils will be hosted in separate classes within another Midlothian primary and secondary school, allowing for the establishment and development of the school community as well as providing a smooth transition. Transport will be provided where required in line with our Integrated Transport Policy. Prior to any hosting arrangements being finalised there will be discussions with the current and future school community.
2. Children who join P1 and S1 in August 2027 who live in the Shawfair school catchment area will be registered for places at the new Shawfair school. These pupils will form classes and be hosted appropriately.
3. Once Shawfair school opens in 2028 the classes will transfer to the new building.

Primary school

- Subject to the decision of Midlothian Council, from August 2027 P1 children would attend the new Shawfair primary school.
- For the 2027, 2028 and 2029 P1 intakes, if children have a sibling already attending Danderhall Primary School they will have the choice of attending either Danderhall Primary school or Shawfair primary school.
- Children will only be eligible for this P1 transition arrangement if they live in the catchment area on or before 30th June 2027.
- From 2028, all children who live in the new catchment area will attend Shawfair primary school.
- From 2028 all children who live in the new catchment area will be able to transfer to the new Shawfair primary school from Danderhall Primary School if they choose. Midlothian Council will not require a child to move from a school they already attend.
- From 2030 onwards all new P1 children who live in the new catchment area will attend Shawfair primary school, irrespective of siblings at other schools
- Parents who wish their child to attend an out of catchment primary school will be required to submit an out of catchment placing request.

Secondary school

- Children who are currently in P7 at Danderhall Primary School will continue to be catchment to Dalkeith High School.
- Children who are currently in P6 at Danderhall Primary School will have the choice to attend Dalkeith High School or the new Shawfair secondary school.
- Children who are attending Danderhall Primary School as at September 2026, who are in P4-6, and who have a sibling who will be attending Dalkeith High School when they are due to start S1, will be treated as catchment to Dalkeith High School if they wish to attend. Otherwise, they will be catchment to the new Shawfair secondary school.

- Children who are attending Danderhall Primary School as of September 2026, who are in P1-3 and wish to attend Dalkeith High School will have to submit an out of catchment placing request.
- Children who are attending Danderhall Primary School as of September 2026 and who are in P6 or below and do not have a sibling at Dalkeith High School will be catchment to the new Shawfair high school. If they wish to attend Dalkeith High School they will have to submit an out of catchment placing request.
- Children who move into the catchment area and are in the S1 and above cohorts as of school session 2025/26 will be catchment to Dalkeith High School.
- Children who move into the catchment area and are in the P7 cohort as of school session 2025/26 will be catchment to Dalkeith High School.
- Children who move into the catchment area and are in the P6 cohort and below as of school session 2025/26 will be catchment to the new Shawfair secondary school.

Transport

4. Midlothian Council will continue to provide free school transport for pupils who attend its schools in accordance with existing policy.
5. If a pupil falls under a transition arrangement which means they would be considered catchment to their previously designated catchment school, concessionary transport may be provided in accordance with existing policy.
6. Parents who make successful placing requests for their children to attend schools other than their catchment school must make their own transport arrangements and meet costs thereof.
7. A School Travel Plan is a strategy developed by each school to encourage and promote more active travel to school for both staff and pupils. Its purpose is to make alternatives to driving easier and safer, while providing parents/carers and staff clear information about available travel options. A School Travel Plan can help to improve the school run, reduce congestion and increase road safety, make school pupils and staff healthier, make routes to school safer and look after our environment. A School Travel plan for the new school will be developed in consultation with pupils, parents and staff and as new housing developments are completed. School Travel Plans for directly affected schools may also be revised where necessary.
8. Owing to the location of the new education campus there should be no significant changes to school transport provision for eligible pupils.
9. It is recognised that there will be changes to methods of travel and routes to school from pupils who will in the future be within walking, cycling distance to the new school. It is also recognised that there may be changes to travel arrangements and methods of travel for some staff. This will be identified during the development of a School Travel Plan for the new school.

Staffing

10. A Head Teacher will be appointed ahead of the school opening to lead on the establishment and development of the school and its learning community, in partnership with parents/carers, pupils and key partners.

11. Should the proposal be approved and implemented, forward planning will be required from the Education Service to ensure the required staffing is in place in line with Midlothian Council's recruitment policies and other local arrangements.
12. The proposed increase in specialist staff supporting the provision working closely within a mainstream building would be advantageous and provide more effective support to the career-long aspirations of staff. In particular, mainstream staff will benefit from the expertise of specialist staff in upskilling in inclusive pedagogy. In addition to this it would enable staff across specialist provisions to develop support networks in order to reflect, share and develop good practice in order to learn together and plan for improvement. This would lead to improved quality of learning, teaching and achievements for children both within and outwith specialist provisions.
13. Consultation will be undertaken with staff in affected schools, Trade Unions and professional associations where appropriate on an implementation plan for staffing the new all through school. If this proposal is implemented, the Council does not envisage any adverse effects from the proposal in respect of staffing. Should issues arise however, these will be mitigated through the Council's Education Leadership Team support structure.
14. The new school and Danderhall Primary School will join the Shawfair associated school group and staff will benefit from the strong culture of collaboration and joint planning within this associated school group.

Equal Opportunities

15. The Council as a public authority has a duty under the Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equality Duty 2011, and the Fairer Scotland Duty (Part one of the Equality Act) to have due regard to their provisions when making strategic financial decisions. This is done through assessing the potential impact of the decision on equality through an Equality Impact Assessment. The Council will undertake the process of assessment during the consultation process in respect of this proposal to ensure that due regard is given to such matters in the decision-making process.
16. Having regard to provision of a new all through school, it is not believed that this will have a negative impact on any equality target groups.
17. The Council must also consider its duty in respect of socio-economic impact. Having a new school located in the community means that is more accessible for those who may be economically disadvantaged.
18. As part of the consultation process the Council will consult with a wide range of stakeholders, including staff, parents/carers and young people and will address comments about equality during this consultation.
19. Under the Equality Act 2010, education providers must not treat disabled pupils less favourably and should take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage. The new primary school will comply with accessibility requirements and therefore would positively promote equal opportunities for any child who has a disability.

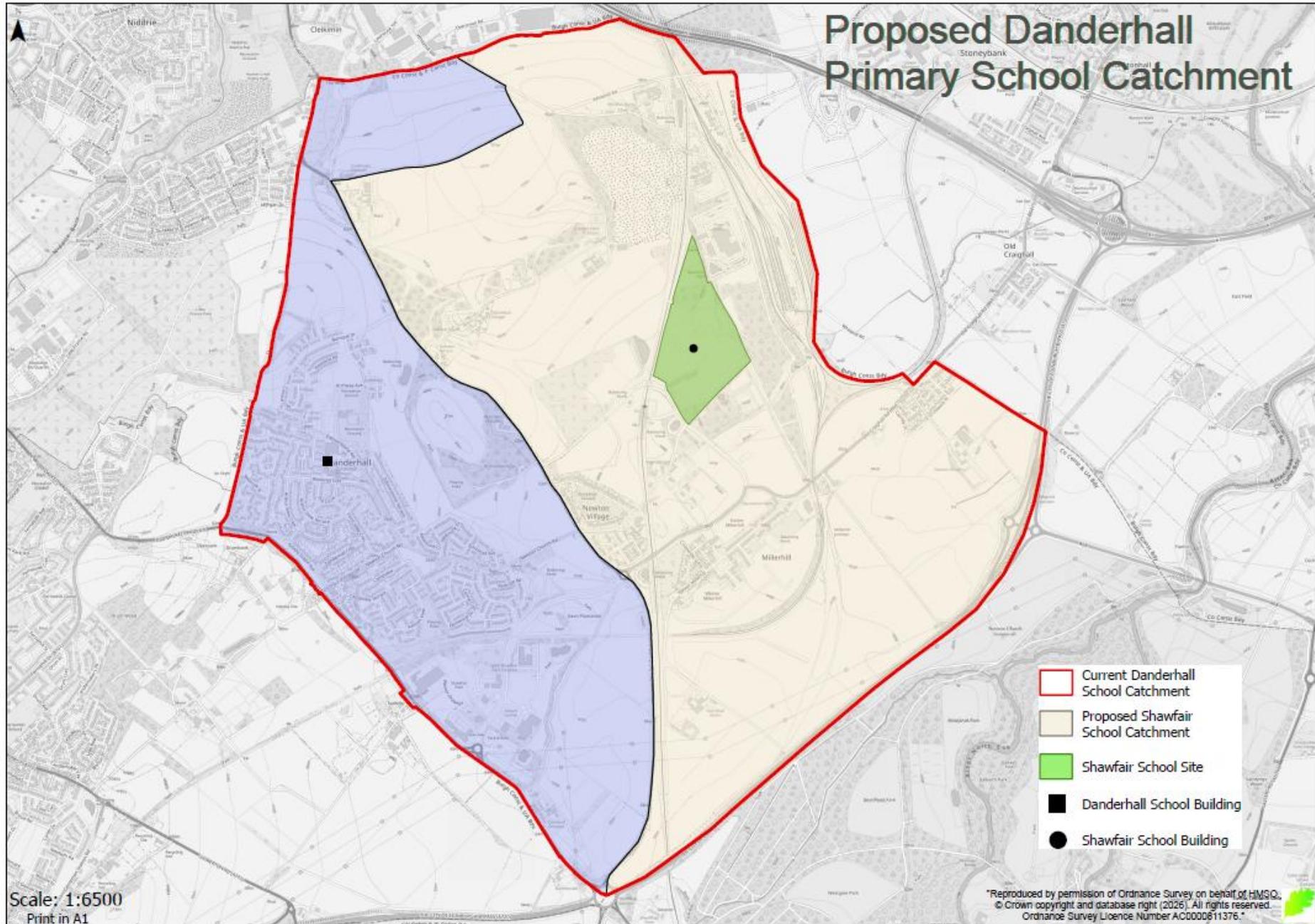
SECTION 5: Conclusion

1. The Council believes that the measures proposed in this document will enhance ELC, ASN, primary education, and secondary education in Midlothian.
2. It is proposed that a new all through school with early learning and childcare provision and its associated catchment area will be established for Shawfair,
3. In addition, it is proposed that the secondary catchments of Dalkeith High School and Danderhall Primary School will be realigned to match the primary changes.
4. 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.
5. This proposal will provide certainty for parents/carers and pupils by ensuring school catchment areas give pupils the best opportunity to attend their local catchment school as Midlothian continues to grow.
6. Overall there are strong educational arguments in favour of this proposal.

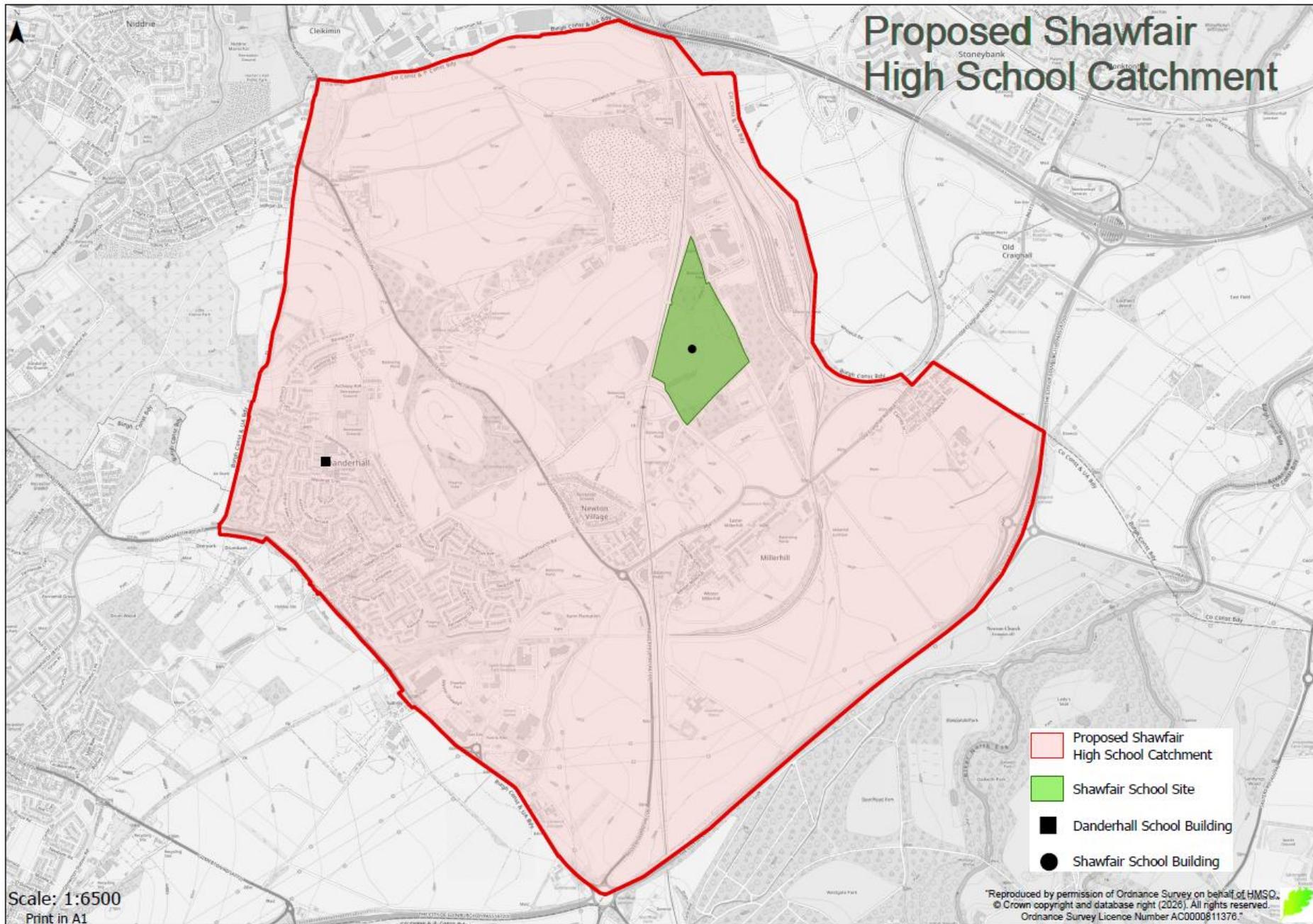
Appendix 1: Statutory Consultation Timeline: Shawfair new non-denominational all through school

	Date Beginning	Date Ending	Duration
Statutory Consultation Period	26/03/2026	27/05/2026	Min 6 continuous weeks including min of 30 school days.
His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education Scotland (HMIE) Engagement Period	01/06/2026	19/06/2026	3 weeks
Publication of Consultation Report	31/08/2026	31/08/2026	1 day
Further Consideration after publication of report	31/08/2026	21/09/2026	3 weeks
Consideration of Consultation Report by Midlothian Council	22/09/2026	22/09/2026	1 day

Appendix 2: Proposed New Primary School Catchment Areas



Appendix 2: Proposed New Secondary School Catchment Area



Appendix 5: Consultation Questionnaire

Midlothian Council

SHAWFAIR 2-18 EDUCATION CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

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

Proposal to establish a new all through school and its associated catchment area within the land at Shawfair and to realign the catchment areas of Danderhall Primary School and Dalkeith High School.

Further detailed information about the proposal, which you are encouraged to read to help inform your response, can be found at <https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/shawfair-education-consultation>

Please note the closing date for submission of completed questionnaires is 27th May 2026.

You can return this electronically to EducationConsultation@midlothian.gov.uk or by post to Shawfair 2-18 Education Consultation, Freepost SCO 622, Midlothian Council, Dalkeith EH22 1DN

About You

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

Individual

Organisation (please give details below)

2. Which category best describes you?

	Danderhall Primary School	Dalkeith High School	Other
Parent of current pupil(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent of future pupil(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of the community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please give details)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to establish a new all through school at Shawfair?

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

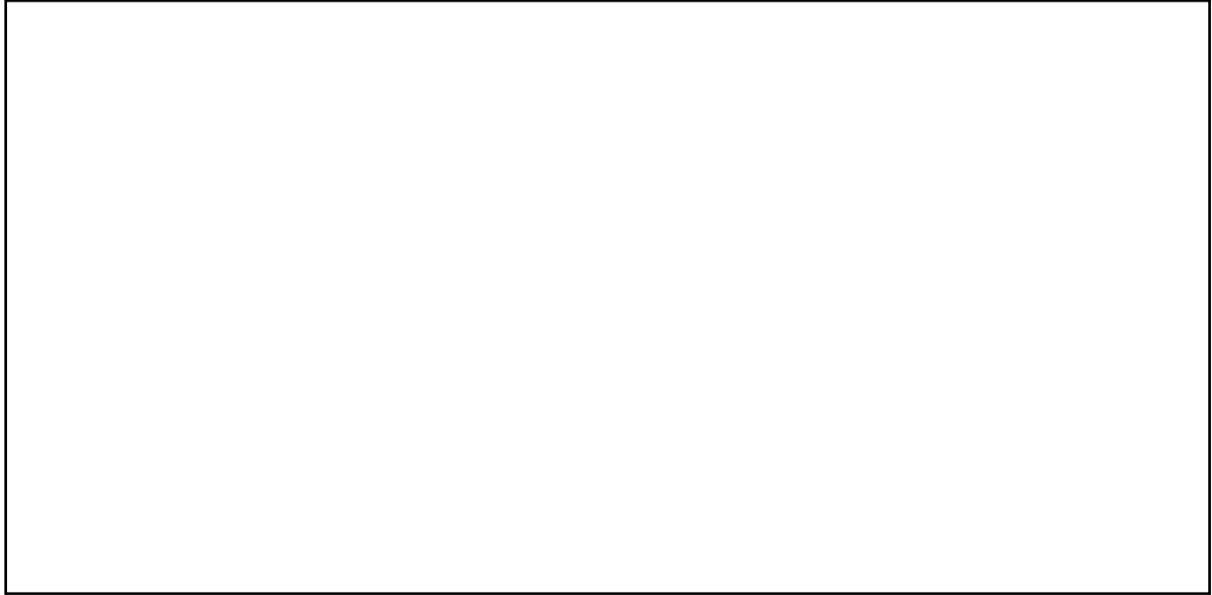
5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to create a new primary school catchment area at Shawfair and remove this land from the current Danderhall Primary School catchment area?

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

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to create a new secondary school catchment area at Shawfair and remove this land from the current Dalkeith High School catchment area?

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

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



Thank you for completing this Consultation Questionnaire.