



Midlothian Council
Children, Young People and Partnerships Directorate

Statutory Consultation Report

**Report on the outcome of the consultation on the
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.**

August 2026

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 establishment of a new all through school and its associated catchment areas within the land at Shawfair and realignment of catchment areas of Danderhall Primary School and Dalkeith High School.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation:

- 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.

The following schools are directly affected by this proposal:

- Danderhall Primary School
- Dalkeith High School

The following schools will be indirectly affected by the proposal:

- King's Park Primary School
- Tynewater Primary School
- Woodburn 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 public meeting which was held on 21 May 2026
- c) Any representations made to it by Parent Councils
- d) Oral representations made to it by pupils
- e) His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland's report on the proposal

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Midlothian Council has identified capacity pressures across the Dalkeith High School associated school group. In response, it is proposed that a new all through (2-18 years) school and catchment area be established at Shawfair.

- 1.2 Following review of the possible sites it was proposed that Shawfair town centre be used as a suitable location for a new 2-18 Education Campus.
- 1.3 Children currently living in the Shawfair area receive non-denominational education at Danderhall Primary School and Dalkeith High School. Rapid population growth, housing development and increased placing requests have contributed to capacity pressures at these schools.
- 1.4 The new school and catchment areas will help ensure that future housing developments have appropriate catchment school places for the growing population. The development of a primary school catchment area for Shawfair Primary School, and realignment of Danderhall Primary School catchment area, will ensure pupils are able to attend a primary school that is close to where they live and within a safe walking distance.
- 1.5 The campus will cater for up to 1,434 pupils across all age groups between 2-18, and include an ASN provision to support learners with complex additional support needs.
- 1.6 It is anticipated that the new school will open in August 2028. Learners 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. To support transitions to the new school pupils in each cohort will be hosted at other school sites prior to the opening of the new school. Prior to any hosting arrangements being finalised there will be discussions with the current and future school community.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 The establishment of a new all through school at Shawfair, with ASN provision, will ensure that children receive consistent, high-quality support in line with the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This approach will foster an inclusive environment where every child's right to education, protection, and development is upheld, thereby enhancing their overall well-being and educational success.
- 1.9 This is a Consultation Report prepared in compliance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 on the above proposal.
- 1.10 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 public meeting which was held on 21 May 2026
 - Provide a statement of the Council's response to those written and oral representations
 - Provide the full text of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in 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 His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in 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 An update to the Midlothian Council Learning Estate Strategy was approved at a meeting of full Council in December 2022 and included the Council's strategy for the provision of specialist provisions and services across its estate.
- 2.4 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)
- 2.5 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.

2.6 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.

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

2.8 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.”

2.9 This report has been prepared in accordance with the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#), having regard to the [statutory guidance for local authorities](#) published by the Scottish Government on 14 May 2015 and updated in 2026, and the [complementary guidance for local authorities](#) published by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland (revised February 2026).

2.10 The following information has also been used to prepare this 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 public meeting which was held on 21 May 2026
- Oral representations made to it by pupils at two pupil voice sessions which were held on 19 and 25 May 2026
- Any representations made to the Council by Parent Councils
- His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland (HMIES) report on the proposal

3. Midlothian's Vision for Education

3.1 Midlothian Council is committed to establishing a new all through school and associated catchment areas at Shawfair as part of the Council's strategic approach to delivering equity in learning opportunities. The establishment of this permanent provision will help address the increasing demand for school places within the Dalkeith High School associated school group.

3.2 The proposed school 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 secondary

school students. The school will include an ASN provision designed to support learners with complex additional support needs aged 5-18 years.

- 3.3 A new all through school at Shawfair would reinforce the Council's commitment to delivering high quality educational environments that improve learning outcomes and enhance the health and well-being of children and young people, and the wider community.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 The provision will offer high-quality educational experiences, ensuring that every child can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.
- 3.6 Under the leadership of a Head Teacher the proposed school will adhere to the principles of the UNCRC. This commitment guarantees that children's rights to education, protection, and development are upheld, fostering an inclusive atmosphere that promotes their overall well-being and educational success.
- 3.7 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. Every Midlothian school-age pupil is equipped with a device for learning.
- 3.8 Furthermore, the establishment of this permanent provision will address the increasing demand for school services within the community. It will offer a stable and supportive setting where children can build meaningful relationships, develop essential skills, and achieve their full potential. Midlothian Council's dedication to this initiative reflects its ongoing commitment to improving educational outcomes for all children, particularly those with additional support needs.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The main considerations relating to the proposed establishment of a new all through school at Shawfair and realignment of catchment areas of Danderhall Primary School and Dalkeith High School 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

5. The Consultation Process

- 5.1 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. To further ensure compliance with the Act, an independent consultant was engaged to chair all public meetings to ensure impartiality.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 It is for elected members of Midlothian Council to decide to adopt the proposal, withdraw it or seek to consult on another proposal.
- 5.4 Notification of the consultation was given to all statutory consultees prior to the commencement of the consultation.
- 5.5 The Consultation Proposal Document was published on Midlothian Council's website on 26 March 2026 and paper copies distributed on 26 March 2026 to:
- 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
- 5.6 Copies of an information leaflet on the consultation were emailed to affected consultees (see list below) and schools and others on 20 March 2026.
- 5.7 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following persons, including those indirectly affected, were consulted:
- 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 the Consultation 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
 - Community Councils of Dalkeith and District and Danderhall and District
 - Community Planning Partnership
 - Relevant users of the affected schools
- 5.8 The following schools are directly or indirectly affected by the proposal:

Directly affected:

- Danderhall Primary School
- Dalkeith High School

Indirectly affected:

- Kings Park Primary School
- Tynewater Primary School
- Woodburn Primary School

5.9 The consultation period commenced on Thursday 26 March 2026 and lasted until Wednesday 27 May 2026 being a period of seven weeks, which also included the statutory minimum 30 school days.

5.10 The proposal on which the consultation took place was:

- 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

5.11 The requirements for consulting on a relevant proposal relating to schools are set out in the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*.

5.12 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/shawfair-education-consultation>

5.13 If requested, copies of the proposal would have been made available in alternative formats or translated for readers whose first language is not English.

5.14 In addition, the consultation was publicised and received engagement in the following ways:

- There were 10 Facebook posts: Best performing Facebook post reached 34,319 news feeds and 186 people engaged with the post.
- There were 10 X posts (formerly known as Twitter): The best performing X post achieved 3,057 impressions with 33 engagements
- There were 10 LinkedIn posts: Best performing post achieved 1,840 impressions with 117 engagements
- Midlothian Council website consultation page had 70 views.
- The consultation was pushed during Council news slots on a local radio station and was advertised in one local print newspaper and two online news sites.

5.15 A generic email account was set up by the Council to receive representations and enquiries on the proposal.

5.16 A public meeting was held at Danderhall Primary School on 21 May 2026 at 6:30pm.

5.17 In addition, virtual drop-in sessions via MS Teams were offered on 12 May 2026 and 14 May 2026, which members of the public and staff were welcome to attend.

- 5.18 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 a specific question and enabled general comments and views to be entered.
 - Digital leaflets, 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.
 - Midlothian Council Head Teachers used established methods of communication to engage/remind parents about the consultation.
 - The Council consulted with children and young people potentially affected by this proposal by holding two Pupil Voice sessions.
- 5.19 The Consultation Report is the Council's response to the points raised during the consultation period on the Consultation Proposal Document.
- 5.20 This Consultation Report will be published for a period of three weeks before a final decision is taken by Midlothian Council on 22 September 2026.

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 arranged to receive additional written responses. The Council received 321 responses to its questionnaire during the consultation period. All representations that had been made during the consultation period were submitted to His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland and any issues or concerns raised are also subject to the Council's response in this Consultation Proposal.
- 6.2 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
Individual	315	98.1%
Organisation	4	1.3%
Not Answered	2	0.6%
Total Responses	321	100.0%

**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	421	64.1%
Staff	60	9.1%
Member of Local Community	128	19.5%
Other/Unknown	46	7.0%
Not answered	2	0.3%
Total Responses	657	100.0%

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

- 6.3 For the Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to establish a new all through school with early learning, primary and secondary learning, and specialist additional support needs (ASN) provision at Shawfair?

Table 3 – Number and percentage of responses by opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	228	71.0%
Agree	52	16.2%
No Opinion	8	2.5%
Disagree	17	5.3%
Strongly Disagree	15	4.7%
Not Answered	1	0.3%
Total Responses	321	100.0%

Table 4 – Number of responses by category

	Agree/Strongly Agree	Disagree/Strongly Disagree	No opinion/ Not answered
Parents	365	36	20
Staff	48	8	4
Members of Local Community	110	11	7
Other	41	3	4
Total Responses	564	58	35

**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 create new primary and secondary school catchment areas for the proposed Shawfair 2-18 Education Campus?

Table 5 – Number and percentage of responses by opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	217	67.6%
Agree	67	20.9%
No Opinion	11	3.4%
Disagree	11	3.4%
Strongly Disagree	13	4.1%
Not answered	2	0.6%
Total Responses	321	100.0%

Table 6 – Number of responses by category

	Agree/Strongly Agree	Disagree/Strongly Disagree	No opinion/Not answered
Parents	370	33	18
Staff	49	7	4
Members of Local Community	114	9	5
Other	42	3	3
Total Responses	575	52	30

**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 Danderhall Primary School, and Dalkeith High School?

Table 7 – Number and percentage of Responses by Opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	175	54.5%
Agree	91	28.4%
No Opinion	19	5.9%
Disagree	13	4.1%
Strongly Disagree	19	5.9%
Not Answered	4	1.3%
Total Responses	321	100.0%

**Percentages 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	318	45	58
Staff	47	7	6
Member of Local Community	105	15	8
Other/Unknown	40	4	4
Total Responses	510	71	76

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

- 6.6 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

- 6.7 There were four responses from organisations. All four respondents from an organisation strongly agreed or agreed with the proposal to establish an all-through school on the land at Shawfair.
- 6.8 Three organisations strongly agreed, and the remaining organisation had no opinion, on the proposal to create new primary and secondary school catchment areas for the proposed Shawfair Education Campus.
- 6.9 The four respondents from an organisation all strongly agreed or agreed with the proposal to realign the catchment areas of Danderhall Primary School and Dalkeith High School.

Public Meeting

- 6.10 Six individuals attended the public meeting held at Danderhall Community Hub on 27 May 2026 at 6:30pm.
- 6.11 Additionally, virtual drop-in sessions were arranged for 12 May 2026 and 14 May 2026, enabling any member of the public and staff to ask questions and discuss the proposal, the consultation process and how they could make representations. One individual attended the drop-in sessions.

Pupils and Staff

- 6.12 During the consultation period, Council officers facilitated two pupil voice sessions; one with pupils from Danderhall Primary School, and one with pupils from Dalkeith High School, as part of the consultation on the proposal to establish a new all through school and associated catchment areas.
- 6.13 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.

7. Support for the Proposal

- 7.1 280 of all questionnaire respondents (321 responses) to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to establish a new all through school with early learning, primary and secondary learning, and specialist additional support needs (ASN) at Shawfair.
- 7.2 284 of all questionnaire respondents were in favour of the proposal to create new primary and secondary school catchment areas for the proposed Shawfair 2-18 Education Campus.
- 7.3 266 of all questionnaire respondents were in favour of the proposal to realign the catchment areas of Danderhall Primary School, and Dalkeith High School.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 A number of common points emerged from the responses concerning:
 - i. Need for new school in wake of rapid housing growth in Shawfair/Danderhall area
 - ii. Pressure on existing school rolls
 - iii. Continuity and reduced friction from transitions
 - iv. Benefits of a modern education facility
 - v. Improved provisions for ASN, neurodiverse and deaf pupils

8. Opposition to the Proposal

- 8.1 32 of all questionnaire respondents (321 responses) to the consultation were not in favour of the proposal to establish an all through School at Shawfair.
- 8.2 24 of all questionnaire respondents were not in favour of creating new primary and secondary school catchment areas for the proposed Shawfair 2-18 Education Campus.
- 8.3 32 of all questionnaire respondents were not in favour of the proposal to realign the catchment areas of Danderhall Primary School, and Dalkeith High School.

8.4 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.

8.5 The following common points and questions emerged from the responses:

- i. Why are the Shawfair primary and secondary catchment areas not aligned?
- ii. Why are some Shawfair developments excluded from the primary Shawfair catchment?
- iii. How will transition arrangements work?
- iv. What will it mean for siblings in different age groups?
- v. Concerns around travel and safe walking routes
- vi. How will the ELC, primary and ASN provision operate within the wider school?
- vii. Why is a swimming pool, and other community facilities, not included in the design?
- viii. The location of the campus and environmental concerns
- ix. Why is Midlothian Council building a new school while other schools, such as Mauricewood and Beeslack, are underfunded and need upgrades?
- x. Why is Midlothian approving and building new housing developments before planning and delivering accompanying infrastructure like schools?
- xi. I am not in the Shawfair primary catchment and my Section 75 Developer Contributions were legally ring-fenced to facilitate the Shawfair education infrastructure.
- xii. What will happen if the school is delayed?
- xiii. When will the new school open?

9. No Opinion on the Proposal

9.1 8 respondents indicated that they had no opinion, and 1 respondent did not answer the question, on the proposal to establish a new all through school with early learning, primary and secondary learning, and specialist additional support needs (ASN) at Shawfair.

9.2 11 respondents indicated that they had no opinion, and 2 respondents did not answer the question, on the proposal to create new primary and secondary school catchment areas for the proposed Shawfair 2-18 Education Campus

10. Education Authority Response to the Main Issues Raised

i. Why are the Shawfair primary and secondary catchment areas not aligned?

The wider Shawfair area is currently served by Danderhall Primary School as it's catchment area covers the whole of the Midlothian Council area to the North of the A720. If approved, the new Shawfair secondary school's catchment will cover the same geographic catchment area. The current Danderhall Primary School will then form one of the schools within the Shawfair Associated School Group (ASG) and become a feeder school for the new secondary school. The current Danderhall Primary School catchment will change to cover approximately half of the projected pupil numbers for the area with the new Shawfair primary school covering the other half.

ii. Why are some Shawfair developments excluded from the Shawfair primary catchment?

When planning a change in catchment area the amount of housing (both existing and planned) is considered along with projected pupil numbers from those houses. The proposed catchment area is then drawn to reduce the number of streets which are split across different school catchments to build a school community within each geographical neighbourhood. Therefore, some housing developments will be in the Shawfair primary catchment and some in the Danderhall Primary School catchment areas.

iii. How will transition arrangements work?

All children who are due to start P1 and S1 in August 2027 will be catchment to Shawfair School.

The school building will not be operational in 2027, therefore these children will be hosted in other schools in Midlothian. When Shawfair School opens in August 2028 these children and young people will transfer to the new building and form the P2 and S2 year groups.

P1 children who are hosted will be placed in a class together, and S1 children who are hosted will be placed in a class together. This will allow them to begin forming the friendships and the school community that will transfer with them to the Shawfair School in August 2028.

Hosted children will be included in everyday life of their hosted school and will have a dedicated teacher who will move with them to Shawfair School to ensure continuity of education.

Hosted children will be provided with transport where required in line with the Integrated Transport Policy.

Children who are due to start P1 or S1 in August 2028 will start at Shawfair School.

iv. What will it mean for siblings in different age groups?

What are the Primary transition rules?

- For August 2027 entry, new P1 pupils in the Shawfair catchment will register for Shawfair Primary.
- From August 2027 entry to 2029 entry, sibling choice applies. This means P1 pupils with a sibling at Danderhall Primary School may choose either Shawfair or Danderhall Primary School.
- From 2030 onwards, all children in the new catchment attend Shawfair Primary.

What are the Secondary transition rules?

- 2025/26 P7 cohort remain catchment to Dalkeith High School.
- 2025/26 P6 cohort may attend Dalkeith High School or Shawfair Secondary school.
- 2025/26 P4–P6 cohorts with a sibling at Dalkeith High will be treated as catchment to Dalkeith High School if they wish

- 2025/26 P1–P3 cohort wishing to attend Dalkeith High School must submit a placing request.

Families moving into the area:

- 2025/26 S1+ or P7 cohorts will be catchment to Dalkeith High School.
- 2025/26 P6 and below cohorts will be catchment to Shawfair school.

v. Concerns around travel and safe walking routes

As the school and the wider Shawfair area is developed a variety of shared use paths will be built. The building planning process involves detailed plans of required paths, walkways and traffic infrastructure within the school's immediate area. Therefore, detailed plans for travel and safe walking routes are built into the school's design phase. A School Travel Plan will be prepared before the school opens, which will detail suitable routes to school.

vi. How will the ELC, primary and ASN provision operate within the wider school?

The new campus will have different entrances and playgrounds for each stage of the school. For example, the primary school will have separate entrances and playgrounds from the secondary school. There may be opportunities for children at different stages of their education to mix but this will be carefully planned and will be for specific activities. For example, a Senior phase pupil visiting the nursery to gain experience of early learning and childcare as part of a qualification.

vii. Why is a swimming pool, and other community facilities, not included in the design?

The school building will have sports pitches, an athletics track and a multi-use games area (MUGA). These facilities will be available for community use outside of school hours.

The building will house a library, café and community areas for use both during and outside of school hours.

Provision for a swimming pool was not included within the school's original design specification. The wider Shawfair community are between 3.6 and 5.3 miles from the nearest Midlothian Council swimming pool, or 3 miles from an Edinburgh Leisure swimming pool. All primary 4 children will continue to attend swimming lessons as part of the curriculum.

viii. The location of the campus and environmental concerns

As part of our planning application our team of professional consultants have assessed the proposed site and completed various surveys required for our statutory application, these include surveys on odour, noise and air quality. There is currently a project ongoing to remediate the site to enable the school project to commence with a clean and clear site this Autumn. We held four separate pre application consultation events at Danderhall HUB and Millerhill Community Centre, where we answered queries and followed up on queries that couldn't be answered in person. Midlothian Council have issued one community update newsletter to date and will be issuing further updates as the project progresses.

ix. **Why is Midlothian Council building a new school while other schools, such as Mauricewood and Beeslack, are underfunded and need upgrades?**

The Midlothian Learning Estate is monitored for condition and suitability annually as part of the Scottish Government school reporting. Where a school does not meet the required standards for condition and suitability the Learning Estate Team and the Planned Maintenance Team will consider and plan work to bring the building to the required standard. Both Beeslack Community High School and Mauricewood Primary School buildings are currently being surveyed and improvement, extension or replacement works are being drafted.

x. **Why is Midlothian approving and building new housing developments before planning and delivering accompanying infrastructure like schools?**

The approval of housing developments and the delivery of associated infrastructure, including schools, are governed by different planning, funding and delivery processes. New housing developments are typically approved in line with the Local Development Plan, which identifies areas for growth over an extended period. Educational infrastructure requirements are assessed as part of this planning process and are kept under review as housing development progresses and pupil numbers become clearer.

The planning, funding, design and construction of new school facilities involve significant lead-in times and depend on a range of factors, including the rate at which housing is completed and occupied, demographic trends, available funding, and statutory approvals. As a result, there can be a time lag between the commencement of housing development and the delivery of new educational infrastructure.

The Council's approach is therefore to plan for educational infrastructure alongside anticipated housing growth, whilst recognising that the timescales for housing development and school delivery do not always align exactly.

xi. **I am not in the Shawfair primary catchment and my Section 75 Developer Contributions were legally ring-fenced to facilitate the Shawfair education infrastructure.**

Financial contributions paid by housing developers to the Council are collected to cover the costs of increasing the capacity of schools to serve the new families moving into the area. The increase in primary school capacity is staged to keep pace with the growth in new homes.

The first stage was the expansion of Danderhall Primary School to a three-stream school. The next stage will be the primary school element of the proposed all-through campus to be delivered within Shawfair Town Centre. Further stages may take the form of a further standalone primary school within the Shawfair New Town.

The Council will collect developer contributions from developments in the Shawfair area and apply these to projects that deliver additional school places for these new communities. All sites contribute towards this project fund and projects are financed from this fund collectively and sequentially. The Council does not differentiate sites and the

catchment schools as they will eventually become. This is because flexibility is required to manage a project of this scale and scope as it comes forward over many years.

There is no legal requirement on the Council to spend specific contributions on a specific school, nor to then reflect this link within a new catchment boundary. The contributions paid by developers are collated into a single project fund to deliver the totality of additional education infrastructure within the Shawfair Strategic Development Area (SDA). There is no link made between contributions from specific sites and specific schools within the s.75 legal agreement signed by the landowners.

xii. What will happen if the school is delayed?

Learning Estate Team have a detailed timeline for the planning, construction and opening of the planned school in August 2028. At the time of writing the remediation of the land is ongoing and expected to be completed on time. To date, all timelines have been met, therefore the Learning Estate Team are confident that school will open in August 2028. Should there be unexpected disruption to construction Midlothian Council will put contingency plans in place. The nature of these plans will depend on the expected length of delay in the school opening. All plans will be shared with families as soon as reasonably possible.

xiii. When will the new school open?

Shawfair School is expected to open at the start of the 2028/29 academic year.

11. His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland Report

11.1 In accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a report was produced by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of a proposal by Midlothian Council to establish a new all through school and its associated catchment areas within land at Shawfair and to realign the catchment areas of Danderhall Primary School and Dalkeith High School. The His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland report can be read in full at Appendix 4.

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

- attendance at the public meeting held on 21 May 2026 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 Danderhall Primary School and Dalkeith High School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

11.3 The Summary section of the His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland report summarises their findings and conclusions as follows:

HM Inspectors agree that Midlothian Council's proposal to build a new school at Shawfair has potential education benefits. These include opportunities for smoother transitions for children and young people and improved provision for those with additional support needs. The proposal has the potential to provide an integrated approach to the delivery of the curriculum and ease the pressure on other schools in the area. However, HM Inspectors consider that should the proposal be approved, the issues raised by stakeholders regarding the practical arrangements for the new school need to be addressed. That the council should work with stakeholders to mitigate their concerns and should ensure that staff and parents are kept fully informed about the project progress.

Midlothian Council's Response to His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland's Report

11.4 Midlothian Council welcomes the report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in 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 His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland report Midlothian has been asked to address the following points:

- i. *HM Inspectors consider that it will be important, if the proposal is agreed, that stakeholders are kept informed on progress. That the council should work with stakeholders to mitigate any issues that arise should timescales alter.*

Learning Estate Team have a detailed timeline for the planning, construction and opening of the planned school in August 2028. At the time of writing the remediation of the land is ongoing and expected to be completed on time. To date, all timelines have been met, therefore the Learning Estate Team are confident that the school will open in August 2028. Should there be unexpected disruption to construction Midlothian Council will put contingency plans in place. The nature of these plans will depend on the expected length of delay in the school opening. All plans will be shared with families as soon as reasonably possible.

- ii. *Should the proposal be agreed, HM Inspectors recommend that the council work with stakeholders to ensure any traffic issues are mitigated and that active and safe routes to school are supported well.*

The wider Shawfair development is built on a 20 minute walking / wheeling neighbourhood. As new housing developments are built a network of paths and cycleways will be built across the area. As part of the planning process the school will have an assessment of accessible routes to the school building.

- iii. *HM Inspectors consider that if the proposal is agreed, it will be important for the council to provide more detail to stakeholders as the project progresses. This should help to address stakeholder concerns.*

As part of our planning application our team of professional consultants have assessed the proposed site and completed various surveys required for our statutory application, these include surveys on odour, noise and air quality. There is currently a

project ongoing to remediate the site to enable the school project to commence with a clean and clear site this Autumn. We held four separate pre application consultation events at Danderhall HUB and Millerhill Community Centre, where we answered queries and followed up on queries that couldn't be answered in person. Midlothian Council have issued one community update newsletter to date and will be issuing further updates as the project progresses. Please also note that the team are happy to answer any specific queries that cannot be answered within the Planning Application documentation.

12. Transition Arrangements

- 12.1 It is proposed to host pupils in each cohort at other Midlothian primary and secondary schools prior to the opening of the new school.
- 12.2 Prior to any hosting arrangements being finalised there will be discussions with the current and future school community.
- 12.3 Transport will be provided where required in line with our Integrated Transport Policy.
- 12.4 Once Shawfair school opens in 2028 the classes will transfer to the new building.

12.5 *Primary school*

- It is proposed, from August 2027, P1 children would attend the new Shawfair primary school and be hosted at other Midlothian primary school/s.
- 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 move into the 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.

12.6 *Secondary school*

- Children in P7 who currently attend Danderhall Primary School will continue to be catchment to Dalkeith High School.
- Children in P6 who currently attend Danderhall Primary School will have the choice to attend Dalkeith High School or the new Shawfair secondary school.
- Children who attend Danderhall Primary School as at September 2026, and are in P4-5, 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.

- An enhanced transition to secondary education will be offered to all children attending the ASN provision based on the individual needs of each child.
- Children will be supported to transition to their catchment area school.
- Where a child's additional support needs continue to require additional specialist support, a referral will be made to the Education Resource Group. Following assessment and consultation on their needs, they may be allocated specialist support in one of our provisions.

13. Alleged Omissions or Inaccuracies

- 13.1 Section (10) (3) of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* 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 Four inaccuracies were identified during the statutory consultation period, the details of which can be found in Appendix 5.

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 His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in 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) His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland's report.

- 14.2 Following receipt of the His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland report, 321 questionnaire responses received during the consultation period and consideration of oral representations made at a public meeting and pupil voice sessions 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 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 (Consultation) (Scotland) 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 21 May 2026;
 - c) the His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in 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 Report should be published, both electronically and in paper form, if required, on 31 August 2026, this meets the statutory requirement to publish this report for more than three weeks before consideration of the proposal by Midlothian Council.

16. Staffing Implications

- 16.1 If the proposal is approved, 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.
- 16.2 The staffing levels will principally be determined by the implementation of the transition arrangements and number of children.
- 16.3 Specialist staff will support the ASN and deaf provisions and work closely with colleagues working in the mainstream building. The Education Resource Group will continue to allocate places to the specialist provision in partnership with the Head Teacher. The presence of specialist staff working within a mainstream building will enhance opportunities for upskilling colleagues in inclusive pedagogy. Additionally, it will encourage staff support networks, shared learning, and continuous improvement for the learning and achievement benefit of all children at the school.
- 16.4 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.
- 16.5 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.
- 16.6 It is acknowledged that should the proposal be approved and implemented, forward planning will be required from the Education Service as a matter of good management practice in ensuring the required staffing is in place. Staffing arrangements for the new all through school will be consistent with Midlothian Council's recruitment policies and other local arrangements.

- 16.7 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.

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
- 17.2 Overall, there are no anticipated adverse environmental impacts as a result of this proposal.

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) The Council believes that the measures proposed in this document will enhance ELC, primary education, secondary education, and ASN support and education in Midlothian.
 - b) 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,
 - c) 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.
 - 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) 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.
 - f) Overall, there are strong educational arguments in favour of this proposal.

19. Recommendations

- 19.1 It is recommended that the Council approves the establishment of a new all through school and its associated catchment areas within the land at Shawfair and realignment of catchment areas of Danderhall Primary School and Dalkeith High School.

Appendix 1 - Comments from Questionnaire Responses

Of the 321 total responses, 135 contained comments of which 116 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 Report. The summary of comments below, were made from the remaining nineteen responses who did not choose the option to decline permission to make their comments publicly available.

Comments
I think it's incredibly upsetting to see talk of another new school when Mauricewood primary school is in such a horrendous and unfit for purpose state.
Better joined up policies if one campus. Less stress for children and young people about changes at crucial stages as they will be familiar with the environment Alleviates stress for families transporting / taking children to different schools Possible financial benefits eg for those pupils who need transport Possible financial benefits for Local Authority, not so many contracts with many different companies
You show a map of the catchment area for Danderhall and the new Shawfair High School, it would also be helpful to see what the new proposals are for Dalkeith High School.
As a resident of Midlothian for over 50 years, I think I can speak for others when I say we welcome new schools, new doctors, new transport links, New roads! any thing our council can do to accommodate the over proportionate scale of new houses being built in the area of Midlothian.
I strongly agree with all. As a Millerhill resident my main concern is where my daughter will go to secondary school for S1 as she is due to start secondary in August 2027. I am concerned by what it means that she will be 'hosted' by 'another Midlothian secondary school'. When will we receive confirmation of this?
I think the shawfair primary catchment should include houses originally billed as "shawfair" aka miller development on newton church roads my current daughter will be moving to new campus but new child would be going to Danderhall primary as it stands
There are lots of young families in Shawfair and we need access to nurseries and schools. The current schools won't have sufficient capacity and Shawfair is cut off from the rest of Midlothian due to the city bypass and Sheriffhall roundabout, making alternative nurseries and schools in Midlothian extremely inconvenient options. Very pleased by the proposals for new schools, please build them as soon as possible. There is a childcare crisis in Shawfair because there is only one nursery for children under 3/3.5 and we can't access government childcare funding through Edinburgh nurseries and so it's vital we have a new nursery facility that caters to children from 1 year. There is also no swimming pool near Shawfair, the nearest one in Dalkeith is an hour round trip via car and is already fully booked during school term time with lessons for Dalkeith schools. The Scottish government have committed to swimming lessons for all school children and so it is essential that the new schools have a swimming pool attached.
I'm concerned at the inability of Midlothian Council to spend their Rate payers rates in a safe and pragmatic manner.
Why is this school being built next to that huge "recycling" plant? Advise apparently is that developments must be 1.5km from these plants! Can the health risks and advice be published now? This area was to be housing, why has the school and housing sites been swapped over? You will have access to the health risk analysis from this plant for other housing developments, I.e. Crudens in construction now. Can this be published?
Need to listen to the opinions of school staff and parents

The lack of a swimming pool included in the proposal is a major disappointment. The presence of district heating throughout the shawfair development, means that it would be far more energy efficient than any other pool in the council area. With the size of the Shawfair development it's extremely frustrating that we will still have to traverse the Edinburgh bypass to get to an affordable swimming centre.

This is the only box in which to make comment. Why no swimming pool at the campus? Kids grow up these days not learning how to swim. The only swimming provision local is at the David Lloyd gym which costs a small fortune per month. The closest Midlothian council facility is across Sheriffhall Roundabout. It's ridiculous that no pool is included in the proposals.

My husband and I have concluded missives for the purchase of a plot in the Miller Homes, Shawfair development with a legal entry date of September 2026. Our son, is due to commence Primary 1 in August 2028, which coincides with the scheduled opening of the new school.

I wish to advocate for the inclusion of the Shawfair (Miller Homes) development within the primary catchment of the Shawfair All-Through Campus for the following reasons:

- Educational Benefits & Community Cohesion: Under Section 3 of the 2010 Act, the Council must prioritise the suitability of the learning environment. For our family, the Shawfair Community Campus offers the most significant educational benefit through its 3–18 "all-through" model. This ensures a seamless transition from primary to secondary education, which is a key factor in maintaining student attainment. Furthermore, as our development is marketed as "Shawfair," it is vital for our son's social integration that he attends school with his immediate neighbours within the new town center.

- Section 75 Developer Contributions: Our purchase of a plot involves a specific financial contribution via the Section 75 Agreement between Miller Homes and Midlothian Council. These funds are legally ring-fenced to facilitate the creation of the Shawfair education infrastructure. I expect the catchment boundaries to reflect this financial link, ensuring that families whose home purchases have directly funded the new school are granted primary catchment status.

- Workplace Logistics & Sustainable Travel: A primary driver for our relocation to Shawfair is the proximity to the railway station for our daily commutes into Edinburgh. Being zoned for Danderhall Primary would require us to travel in the opposite direction for school drop-offs before backtracking to the Shawfair station. This adds significant, unnecessary travel time and contradicts the "20-minute neighborhood" sustainability goals outlined in the Shawfair masterplan.

- Proximity and Safe Routes: The new Shawfair Campus is geographically closer to our home than Danderhall Primary. Placing our property in the Danderhall catchment creates an illogical commute that bypasses a brand-new facility specifically built to serve this new community.

I strongly support the proposal to include Miller Homes, Shawfair, within the permanent catchment of the Shawfair Community Campus. I request that the final Consultation Report (due June 2026) explicitly confirms the catchment status for a plot to provide our family with certainty ahead of our move this September.

(Editor note: personal details have been redacted from this response.)

The lack of a swimming pool might be detrimental to the learning of the children. That is a life skill and something should be considered. If including a pool within the school building is

prohibitive for many reasons, then someone should look to engage with David Lloyd at Shawfair to see if they can provide school swimming lessons.
Shawfair education campus needs a swimming pool. It's an important life skill, it fits with the 20 minute town vision, won't have to pay for bus to transport kids to another school with a pool, kids would spend far more time in a bus and in changing rooms than actually in a pool if we don't have one at Shawfair. There is currently nothing for kids to do in the area which leads to more anti social behaviour and long term problems. For anyone in the area wanting to use a pool our money currently goes to Edinburgh leisure / commonwealth pool as the most accessible. Much rather our money stayed in Midlothian.
Think it's a great idea and about time we see some positive changes to education and an all through school or campus will be a great addition Let's just hope the councillors actually agree and let this one get built and don't do what they always do and go back and forth with the decision making. Consulting for it the people want it let it happen and agree for once just come together and put the children and young people of Midlothian first Great work ahead and can't wait to see what comes from this project and amazing educational content. This will be one for others council to look at the Work you are going to do
New high school is desperately needed
My son is in s2 so has a couple more years at school he lives in danderhall I'm not sure if this will affect him?
There is a great need for the proposed new Shawfair 2-18 Education Campus and has been for some time now. The amount of house building going on definitely merits one. However, I am concerned that the 2026 pupil roll projection for Danderhall Primary School presented to Midlothian Council at its meeting on Tuesday 12 May 2026 is less than the actual school roll figure for 16 February 2026 given within this consultation document. There have been several recent examples in Edinburgh and the Lothians of schools needing extensions very soon after they are opened and I would seek some reassurance that this would not be the case here. Dalkeith High School is already over capacity and has had to have extra classes formed. I wonder how the school will manage in the near future when it has to accommodate classes with young people bound for the new Shawfair Secondary and classes with young people remaining at Dalkeith High School. According to the proposals this will be happening at a time when both Newbattle Community High School and Lasswade Community High School are over capacity. A further factor is the physical size of the classrooms within Dalkeith High School. I have concerns that even with skilful management this may not be Getting It Right For Every Child in Midlothian. Regarding catchment boundaries it makes sense to use the A720 Edinburgh City By-pass as the separation boundary for the 2 secondary schools. However, with regard to the use of the A6106 as the boundary between the 2 primary schools I have some reservations. This method is simple but it divides communities, who often span roads. Likewise I object to the way in which Cauldcoats Road is used as a boundary line because it separates Cauldcoats Farm from its cottages. I would urge revisiting this part of the proposal. Another worry that I have is the unfortunate consequence that the young people from one primary school will transition to the secondary school at the site of the other primary school. Folk can be very territorial and so this will require constant monitoring and very careful handling. That was one of the main factors contributing to the decision that a completely neutral site be chosen for the Dalkeith Schools Community Campus many years ago.

One exciting proposal is the hosting of Midlothian Council's specialist Department of Deaf Education. It is great to see Midlothian Council working towards ensuring that deaf children and young people are given the support and opportunities that they need to reach their full potential, and hopefully also widening access to BSL.

Finally, I would like to say that I believe August 2028 to be a very ambitious target but I wish the proposal well, and in conclusion ask why the questions on the paper document differ from the ones on the on-line survey.

Appendix 2 - Pupil Voice Session Responses

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.

Held on 19 May 2026 at Danderhall Primary School

Present: Katy Maclean, Learning Estate Resource Officer (KM), Danderhall teacher's x 2, Mary Noone, Business Support Officer (MN), Children from Danderhall Pupil Voice Council (PV)

KM: explained the proposal and what will be included in the new school – ELC, Primary, Secondary and ASN.

KM: What do you think about the proposal for a new school at Shawfair?

PV: I don't think a primary school is needed as there's one at Danderhall, and it's nearby.

KM: We're planning for the future as there are 4000 new houses being built.

PV: Shawfair will be over-capacity, and Danderhall is already here.

Teacher: we don't have a lot of spare classrooms, or space.

PV: I think it's good for P4s but if you're at Dalkeith some of your friend's might not be moving so you'll have to move away from your friends.

KM: The Council won't ask a pupil to move from a school they're already in. If you choose to, you can.

PV: I think we could have separate buildings.

KM: it's one building with different areas for primary and secondary.

PV: I think where it's being built is a bad idea - it's toxic.

KM: explained we would feed that back to the Learning Estate team as they're responsible for the development project.

PV: What's going to happen at sports?

KM: There'll be football and sports facilities, but not a pool.

PV: Is it one big building?

KM: Yes, one building.

PV: You could have swings in the playground.

KM: We'll feedback your idea.

PV: For primary, will there be enough space for P1-P7?

KM: Yes, it's all been planned for.

PV: How tall is the school?

Teacher: it will probably have more than one floor.

PV: Will there be stuff to separate different classes?

KM: Yes, there'll be separate classes.

KM: Shared maps of the catchment areas with the pupils and explained how the catchment areas would work.

KM: When we create a school, we create a catchment area. Which school you go to depends on where you live. Do you have any thoughts on the catchment areas for Danderhall and Shawfair?

PV: I'm not sure where the building is going to be.

KM: Explained the location of the new campus and that it's nearer to Millerhill.

Teacher: If Shawfair is the secondary school, does it mean that all children will be able to walk?

KM: Yes, all children should live in walking distance.

PV: Do you need to spend a year in Dalkeith and then move to Shawfair?

KM: You can if you want to, but you don't have to.

PV: Is the building near the Fort?

KM: It's towards the Fort but not at it.

Teacher: It'll be built near the new houses.

KM: Any thoughts on the catchment map?

MN: The catchment will be different for primary and for High School

Teacher: Some of our older children will be affected.

PV: Do you have to pay for it?

KM: No, you don't need to pay to go there

PV: Is it going to be near Newton Village?

KM: Quite close.

KM: Shawfair will open in August 2028. As part of that, P7s now will have the choice to go to Shawfair and will be hosted somewhere else, or will go to Dalkeith High. So,

when the school opens in 2028 there'll be an S1 and an S2 in the school, and so on. We do it this way so everyone has the best opportunity to choose school subjects as bigger schools have more subjects.

PV: Will there be an overflow of teachers until S5?

KM: We manage the staffing every year and will make sure you've enough teachers each year. We know by March each year how many pupils will be in each class and how many teachers we need.

PV: Our class, P7 might be the oldest class?

KM: You will be, if you attend Shawfair.

PV: Will it open in 2027 or 2028?

KM: The first year will be hosted. So, this year's P7s will have the choice to be S1 at Shawfair.

PV: Do you have to drive there?

KM: When we build a new school, the travel team and active travel team look at how pupils can get there and you'll be able to walk or cycle.

PV: If you live in Newton Village will it be easy to get to the school?

KM: Yes.

PV: What happens if an S5 from Dalkeith wants to join?

KM: You can't join if there isn't a year for you. For the first 3 years if you have an older sibling at DHS you will get to go as a catchment child. You won't be split up from your sibling.

PV: Do cousin's count?

KM: No. Which school you go to is a decision you'll make with your parents.

PV: Is there a guaranteed chance you can move from Dalkeith to Shawfair?

KM: If you're a catchment child, you would be prioritised. The pupil placement team look at all of the placements and make the decision.

PV: How many days will the holidays be?

KM: exactly the same.

PV: Will the P5s be the first S1s at the new school?

KM: The P6s this year will be the first year. KM further clarified it was this years' P6s, rather than this year's P7s, who would be hosted in 2027, having said earlier in the session that it would be this year's P7s who would be hosted in 2027.

PV: What if not enough want to move?

KM: We'll still open the school and look carefully at how hosting will work.

PV: Do you decide which school you go to or do your parents?

KM: It's between you and your parents.

PV: Will the P1s to P7s be in that school?

KM: As well as opening S1 in 2027 we'll also open P1-7 for Shawfair Primary School. Anyone going into P1 from 2027 will go to Shawfair if they're in the Shawfair catchment. They will also be hosted in 2027. You'll be transported to the hosted school. It's different for primary school pupils than secondary due to exams and the number of subjects. Primary School pupils can move from 2027.

PV: Do Primary 7s still have choice to go to DHS?

KM: They do for 2027 and if they have a sibling.

PV: If you have a sibling at nursery and move to P1 after summer, will they go to Shawfiar or go here?

KM: They can come to Danderhall under sibling transition arrangements.

PV: If you're at primary school and want to move to Shawfair in early August 2027 would you be able to move?

KM: If you're in the catchment and want to move, you'd need to tell Pupil Placement. Pupils out of catchment make a placing request and Pupil Placement will decide.

PV: How do we know if we live in the catchment area?

KM: You can use the online map which will pop up and tell you what your catchment schools are.

PV: What about high school transitions?

KM: We plan that all you guys can transition to Shawfair if you choose or Dalkeith High School as it normally does.

PV: How do people who live near Danderhall get to Shawfair?

Teacher: They'd come to Danderhall.

PV: if you wanted to go to Dalkeith High School will you be able to?

KM: Once the catchment comes in, you would only get the choice for 3 years if you have an older sibling at Dalkeith High.

PV: Could there be 5 pupils in S1 or S2? If only 5 wanted to go what happens?

KM: We won't know until we have the pupil registrations for that year.

Teacher: Will multiple hosted groups be hosted in the same place?

KM: Hopefully they'll be hosted together but we won't know until nearer the time.

KM: Is anyone anxious about the proposal?

PV: I'm scared if I move and none of my friends move.

PV: What happens if you live next to Danderhall but have to go to Shawfair?

KM: You would only have to go to Shawfair High School.

Teacher: You'll go to Dalkeith High School or Shawfair.

PV: I have a younger sibling and they don't want to go to Shawfair.

Teacher: That's a conversation for your grown-ups to decide.

PV: I feel anxious about going to Shawfair but if I don't go, I'll go to Dalkeith High School.

PV: My mum got advice before.

KM: that could have been from the events we held in January.

PV: What happens if your parents want you to go to catholic school?

KM: You make a request to the Roman Catholic school but it's a family decision to make a request.

KM: if you think of anything later, let your teacher know and they can pass it to us and we'll include it.

PV: Are you going be one of the teachers?

KM: No, I do the consultations.

PV: When will it be built?

KM: By August 2028, so in 2 years' time.

PV: Did covid delay this?

KM: We'll need to check but it takes a long time to plan new schools.

KM: Ended the meeting and thanked the pupils for their contributions.

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

Pupil Voice session

Held at Dalkeith High School on 25 May 2026

Attended: Katy Maclean (KM), Mary Noone (MN), Emma Omerod, Dalkeith High School Head Teacher (EO), Selection of Dalkeith High School pupils.

Katy Maclean (KM) introduced the consultation, the process, and the purpose of the session.

KM: Do you know about the new school?

Pupil: Yes

KM: Do you have any thoughts about the new school?

Pupils: No answer

KM: Do you think it's a good idea, or a bad idea?

Pupil: I think it's an awesome idea

KM: What do you think about children attending Shawfair instead of Dalkeith High School?

Pupils: No answer

KM: Do you know what a catchment area is?

Pupil: Yes

KM talked through the catchment maps, explained the catchment areas and how Danderhall Primary School's catchment will change, and where the new school will be.

KM: Do you think the catchment areas are fair?

Pupil: No answer

EO: Do you all think it's a good idea? Why do you think it's awesome?

Pupil: It will be easier for other people to go to it.

Pupil: it will be good for people to be able to walk to school. It will be good because there will be no more buses.

KM: Does it look a good place for the line for primary school to be?

Pupil: Yes

KM: Does it look like a good place to draw the line for Danderhall?

Pupil: Yes

KM: Explained who will be eligible for the new school, and that 2027's P1 intake and S1 intake will be hosted. Hosting will be arranged for the 2027 P1 and S1 intake. Explained that 2027 S1s would have the choice of attending Shawfair or DHS in the first year.

KM: Any thoughts on the hosting arrangements?

Pupils: No

KM: Children can choose if they attend Dalkeith High School or Shawfair in the first year unless they have a sibling. Does that sound fair?

Pupils: No answer

KM: Do any of you have a sibling that that could affect?

Pupil: No

KM explained that the school would be an all-through school and that there would be an Additional Support Needs (ASN) provision.

KM: Do you think that's a good idea?

Pupil: Yes, it's a good place for ASN

Pupil: If first year's will be hosted, it will be difficult for children going to three different schools in three years.

KM: All the hosted pupils will be hosted together and would move schools together, along with their class teachers. It gets the community going before they go into the new building.

Pupil: Is it a Primary School and High School?

KM: Yes, and a nursery.

KM: Explained how a new year will be added to the school each year.

KM: Any thoughts on that?

Pupils: No

Pupil: It will be difficult for children to transition to jobs having been in one school their whole life.

KM: Research has shown that transitions are very important and that minimising the transition is a benefit to children. This should make it easier for them to deal with. It's a good question, and we'll feed it back to our colleagues who will respond. KM explained how any questions they ask will be noted and responded to in the consultation report, and that we will take back any questions we can't answer.

KM: If you ask us any questions we'll respond in the consultation. Councillors will make the final decision. The council can see your questions.

EO: talk amongst yourselves and see if there's anything else you want to ask

Pupils: No answer

KM: If think of anything else you want to ask, you can get in touch with us later and ask.

KM concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation.

Appendix 3 – Public Meeting Minutes

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

Public Meeting held at Danderhall Primary School on 21/05/26

Attendees: Michelle Strong (MS), Alastair Delaney (AD), Richard Burgham Price (RBP), Magnus Inglis (MI), Rachel Tulloch (RT), Mary Noone (MN), Emma Ormerod, Dalkeith High School Head Teacher (EO), Chris Reid, Danderhall Primary School Head Teacher (CR), Danderhall Depute Head Teacher, 1 Class Teacher, Ann Kivlin, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education Scotland

6 members of the public attended

Alastair Delaney (AD) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Council Officers. AD Introduced himself and outlined the purpose of the meeting and the statutory consultation process.

AD 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 (MS) welcomed everyone to the meeting and then outlined the proposals and spoke through the presentation slides:

Agenda



- Welcome and Introductions
- Format and purpose of meeting
- Statutory Consultation Process
- The Proposal
- Educational Benefits
- Questions
- Close and Thanks

Introductions



Name	Role
Alastair Delaney	Independent Chair
Michelle Strong	Chief Education Officer
Midlothian Council Officers Children, Young People & Partnerships Directorate	
His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland	Observers

Purpose of the meeting



- Council staff will present the proposals
- Opportunity for questions
- All comments and questions are noted

Statutory consultation process



- Proposed permanent change –council must follow process contained in national legislation
- Consult for minimum 6 weeks
- Must hold a public meeting
- Must publish its final report

Relevant legislation



- 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 & Timeline



- Proposal Paper including Educational Benefits Statement published 26 March 2026
- Statutory Consultation Period: 26 March 2026 to 27 May 2026
- Representations from interested parties are sought throughout the consultation period
- Report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education Scotland within 3 weeks of end consultation
- Service takes account of all feedback
- Final consultation report published 31 August 2026
- Decision by Midlothian Council 22 September 2026

Proposals



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

- 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 2028.

Background & Context



- Midlothian one of Scotland's fastest-growing local authorities
- Dalkeith High School associated school group under pressure and near capacity due to:
 - Rapid population growth and housing development
 - Growing number of placing requests
- Pupils should be able to attend a primary school that is close to where they live and, if possible, within a safe walking distance.
- New school and catchment areas required to ensure future housing developments have appropriate catchment school places

Background & Context cont'd



- Children who currently live in Shawfair receive non-denominational education at Danderhall Primary School and Dalkeith High School.
- Danderhall Primary School catchment area covers:
 - Danderhall, Newton Village and Millerhill settlements to the north of The City of Edinburgh Bypass.
 - all allocated sites across Shawfair area with significant housing numbers - projected to increase pupil numbers at the school.
- Shawfair school will cater to up to 1434 pupils:
 - 20 entitled 2-year-olds
 - 80 3–5 year-olds
 - 434 primary school pupils
 - 900 secondary school students

Accommodation



- Children, young people, community
- Modern teaching, learning, nurturing environment
- Flexible and adaptable
- Improved learning outcomes
- Wellbeing and safety
- Active spaces – library information plaza, games hall, cafe

Accommodation cont'd

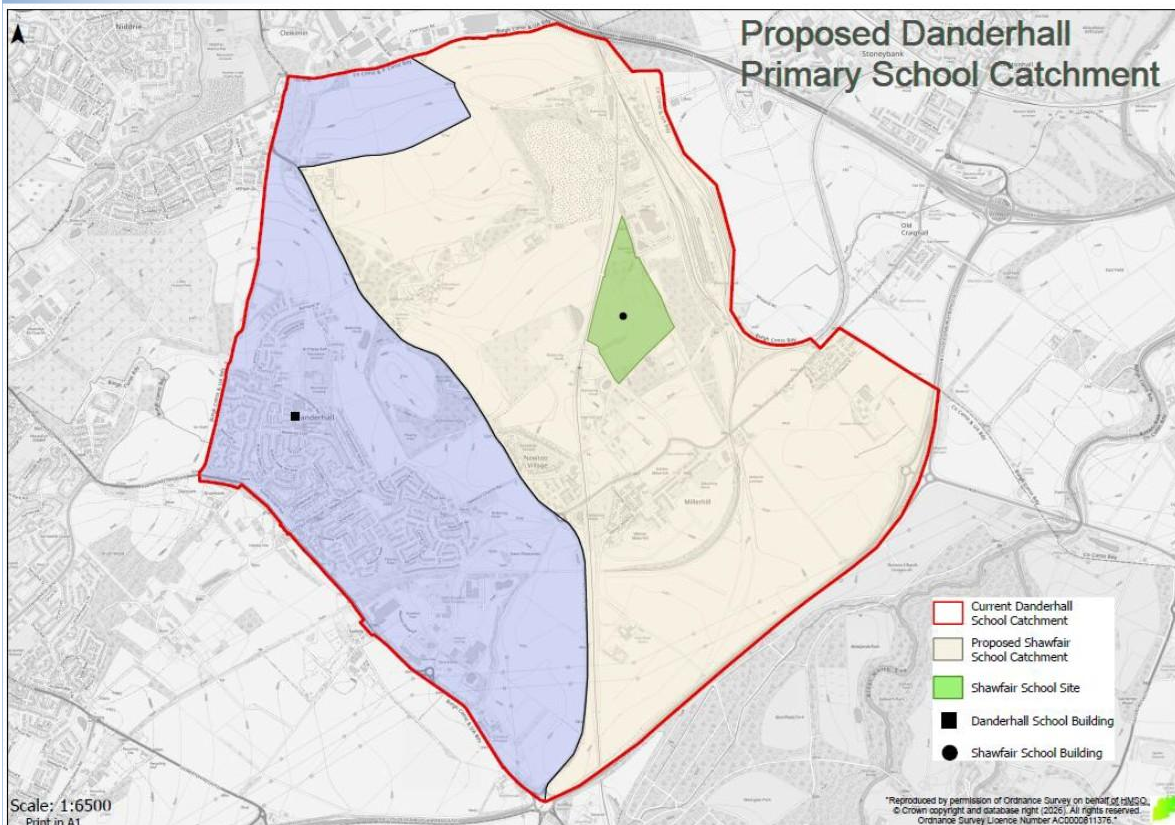


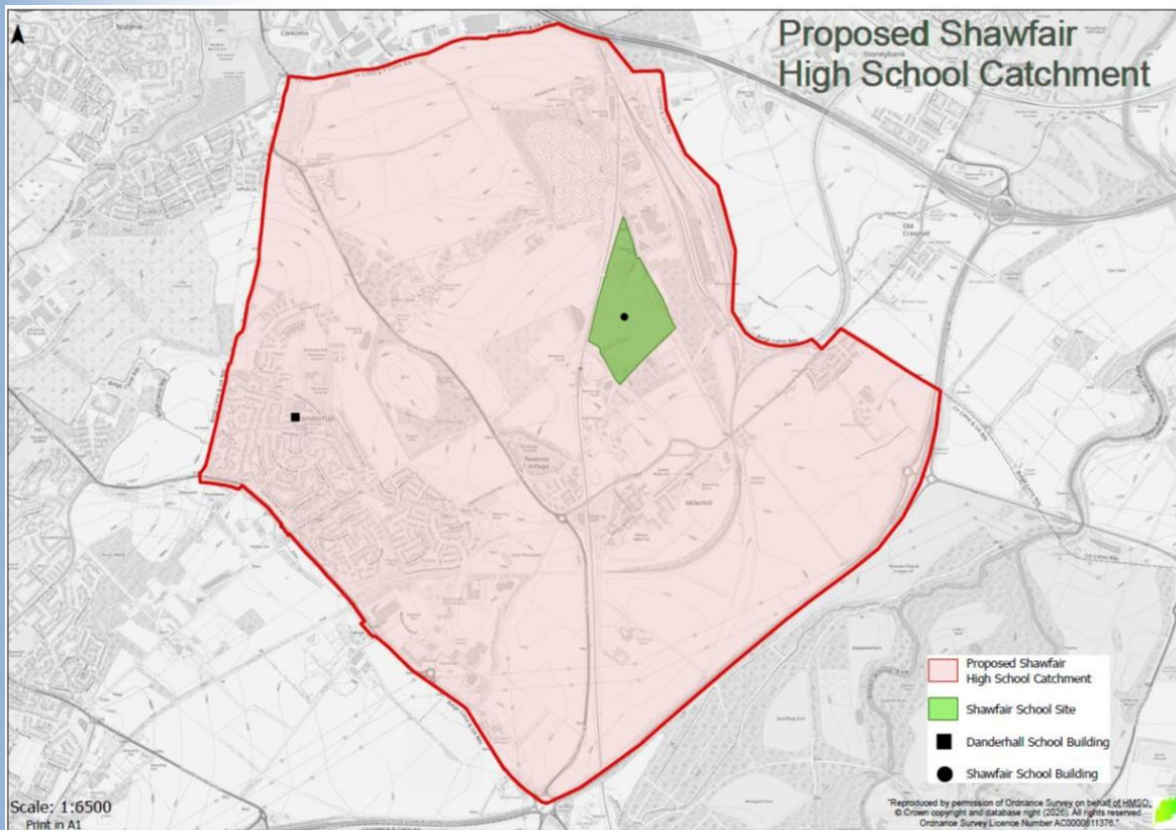
- 3 sports pitches: 2 grass, 1 3G all weather pitch
- Basketball courts / multi-use games areas (MUGAs)
- 6-lane running and athletics track
- Outdoor learning areas (maker's yard, growing space, art terrace)
- Woodland area to rear of primary school
- Community park and landscaped public plaza
- Bicycle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

Transition arrangements



- Children who join P1 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.
- Children who join S1 in August 2027 and who live in the Shawfair school catchment area will have the choice to attend Dalkeith High School or the new Shawfair school. If attending the new Shawfair school these pupils will form classes and be hosted appropriately.
- 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 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.
- Once Shawfair school opens in 2028 the classes will transfer to the new building.





Educational Benefits



Transitions

- Fully integrated from early years to the senior phase.

Learning environment

- Flexible and aspirational – positive health and wellbeing during and beyond school

Teaching and learning

- Different approaches – active learning, interdisciplinary, outdoor, therapeutic for pupils with ASN – supports attainment and achievement
- Fully digital – modern, flexible, distance learning
- Collaborative and cooperative

Educational Benefits cont'd



Inclusion and Accessibility

- Design promotes inclusivity, accessibility - adaptive for learners with disabilities and Additional Support Needs (ASN)
- Modern facility, increased accessibility – positive engagement and attainment
- Department of Deaf Education – access to mainstream schools for deaf children and young people
- STEM centre for excellence – high value, resilient employment opportunities

Staffing

- Head Teacher and required staff will be appointed
- Increased specialist staff – opportunities for support and upskilling
- Share and develop good practice – improved quality of learning

Educational Benefits cont'd



Curriculum

- Flexible, broad range of opportunities – personal achievement
- Vocational learning, skills for learning, life, and work

Community

- Children attend school with local peers – connection and inclusion
- Families fully involved
- Flexible, multi-use spaces support integration
- Social opportunities for parents, carers and communities

Outcomes



- If the decision by Midlothian Council elected members in September 2026 is 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:
- A 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.

Project Timeline



	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

Questions?



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

Q: How will transition's work for children with additional support needs (ASN) joining the Shawfair provision? How will they be involved in the school?

MS: 46% of our pupils have an ASN and the vast majority are supported in their mainstream class, either through intervention or support from the class teacher. For those in an ASN placement the type of support they receive depends on their individual needs. We have a range of provisions throughout Midlothian and where possible we try to keep our children in their local community. For some types of provision, such as Hearing-Impaired provision, this isn't possible and those children will travel from across Midlothian to attend a provision setting.

EO: Children with ASN are fully supported in our school. We have a generalised Support for Learning Team who support our mainstream pupils and a separate Complex needs Provision Team who support our provision children in separate classrooms and in mainstream classes when the pupil is able to attend a mainstream class.

Q: What happens if I live close to but not in the catchment? I'll be in the Danderhall primary catchment. Can the line be moved?

MS: Your catchment would be Danderhall Primary School based on the proposal as it stands. The catchment shown in the documents is a proposal and the final decision will be made by elected members in September. I encourage you to submit your concerns or ideas to the proposal which will be taken into account in the final report. You will also be able to make a Placing Request to any Midlothian school, including Shawfair, when you are registering your child(ren) for school.

Q: What are the chances of a successful placing request? I hear it's low.

MI: Our school roll sits at about 1200 pupils for every year group, the vast majority of whom go to their catchment school. For entry to P1 and S1 in August 2026 we have granted more requests than we refused, with approximately 80 placing requests refused, some from Midlothian residents, some were resident in other local authority areas. It is very difficult to say if a request will be granted in the future as pressures occur in different schools each year. We follow legislation when deciding placing requests and can only refuse a request under certain conditions as laid out in that legislation. Everyone can make a request and success depends on the school's capacity.

Q: New housebuilders are telling buyers they will get a new town centre, and other amenities, but that's not true as my house does not fall within the catchment area. Can the boundary be moved to the new builds?

MS: As previously mentioned, you can respond to the proposal and explain that you don't agree with the current catchment area proposal. You will also be able to make a placing request to Shawfair school. When we were working on the catchment proposals, we looked at roll projections, house build out rates and timings. We have tried to balance those factors to ensure both Danderhall Primary and the new Shawfair primary will have a balance of pupils and neither school will be over or under occupied. The proposed primary catchment areas are split by a main road, this reduces the need for primary aged children to cross a busy road and reduces the likelihood of residential streets being split across two schools' catchment areas, thus building community and peer links.

MI: Danderhall Primary School was a two-stream school, which was rebuilt in 2021 on its existing site as a three-stream school. Each housing developer pays the council a developer contribution based on the type and number of units in its plans. Some of those developer contributions were forward spent on the new Danderhall primary School building and some will be spent on the new Shawfair school pupils.

AD: Builders will sometimes provide information about local facilities which isn't correct.

AD: The strength of feeling submitted to the proposal will be fed into the report and be reflected on by the elected members ahead of their decision in September.

Q: What contingencies are there for ASN if the school is not ready in 2028?

MS: We've identified a site and remediation work is ongoing. Everything is moving forward and we're working towards a 2028 opening.

MS: explained transition arrangements, such as hosting the 2027 intake in other schools to begin building the school community before the building opens.

Q: What happens if the timeline overruns?

RBP: Explained the constraints on building projects such as the conflict in the middle east and rising costs. The milestones on the project have been hot on time so far, including the planning application being submitted.

RT: We'll be getting constant feedback from Learning Estate so we can plan effectively the closer we get to the 2028 date. We are currently working on contingency plans but as we get

closer the details will be refined. For example, a 1-week delay in opening will have different contingencies than a 6-month delay. Until we start building and we have more detail it's difficult to make detailed plans at this stage.

RBP: Information about the project and how you can contact us and engage with us will be advertised and we'll provide regular updates.

Q: Capacities for new school – why only 20 2-year-old places? Given the recent election manifestoes is there potential for expansion of ELC? How are you planning for it?

MS: There are proposed to be 20 places for funded 2-year-old places, which are accessed through the Good Time to Be 2 scheme. The school will also have spaces for wrap around care. The Scottish Government proposal that all primary school children should have access to a breakfast clubs is being worked on at the moment.

RBP: The building plans include the possibility to extend if necessary following Scottish Government new policies such as a change in the provision of Early learning and Childcare.

Q: Transitions between stages – this will be fully integrated on the single campus, but what about those attending a different school, such as Danderhall Primary School?

MS: We have a successful track record of children transitioning to other school buildings, such as nursery to P1 or P7 to S1. We don't anticipate any issues with this continuing, the respective head teachers will work together to ensure all children are prepared for the change.

Q: How do you plan on ensuring the school will be properly staffed, particularly in the secondary school?

MS: key is planning which is why we're growing the school as we go. We need to look at numbers we've got and plan the specialist staffing around that. The school won't offer exam subjects when it opens, so senior phase pupils will remain in their current schools.

RT: looking at hosting for 2027 so there are P1, P2, S1 and S2 year groups when the school opens.

Q: What are the hosting arrangements?

RT: We plan to host the 2027 P1 intake at Danderhall Primary School and the S1 intake at Dalkeith High School. They will move to the new school when it opens and form the P2 and S2 year groups.

Q: transitions – are you anticipating primary teaching S1 initially?

MS: No. We want to build up subject specialists as the school grows.

Q: Numbers – pupil projections – how will you handle above projections?

MS: explained plan for hosting so as soon as the school opens the existing catchment schools will have a reduction in pupils in their buildings.

EO: explained that Dalkeith High School is run by BAM as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) school and the limitations they face.

Q: Is the new school going to be PPP?

RBP: No, it will not be a PPP school.

Q: Will all the rooms have four walls and a door?

MS: That's the plan.

Q: Will there be safe walking routes from Danderhall to the new school?

MS: Part of planning application is safe routes to school, whether that is walking or wheeling routes

RBP: The wider Shawfair development will have a network of cycle and walking paths linking all parts of the community together.

AD: Closed the meeting and thanked all participants for their contributions

Appendix 4 - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland Report

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by HMIE addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Midlothian Council to establish a new all through school and its associated catchment areas within land at Shawfair and to realign the catchment areas of Danderhall Primary School and Dalkeith High School.

June 2026

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from HMIE 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 establish a new all through school and its associated catchment areas within land at Shawfair and to realign the catchment areas of Danderhall Primary School and Dalkeith High School. 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 meeting held on 21 May 2026 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 Danderhall Primary School and Dalkeith High School, 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 public consultation ran from 26 March to 27 May 2026. Copies of the proposal were made available to stakeholders and on the council website. A public meeting was held at Danderhall Primary School on 21 May 2026 and was attended by six members of the public. Virtual drop-in sessions were offered to those who could not attend the public meeting. Three hundred and twenty-one responses to the public consultation were received by the council. Most respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal, with a few expressing no opinion. Several respondents raised questions including travel and safety concerns, and the design and location of the proposed building. Several respondents questioned why there was no plan to provide a swimming pool in the new school.

2.3 Two meetings were also held with groups of pupils from Danderhall Primary School and Dalkeith High School. Many were keen to understand the implications of the proposal. For example, about the phased entrance year on year and how this might affect how it feels to attend the school and whether peer groups would be split up. A few were positive about the potential for a more local school they could walk to. A few queried the planned location of the new school, expressing concern about the local environment.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 HM Inspectors agree that there are potential educational benefits to the proposal. The council believes that the new school will support a fully integrated approach to curriculum pathways from early years through to senior phase. They further believe that 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. HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has the potential to support the delivery of the curriculum for all learners and improve transitions. That building a new school at Shawfair could provide an attractive learning environment for all children and young people, enabling them to be educated close to where they live.

3.2 The council states in the proposal, that the new building will be more accessible, including for those with additional support needs. HM Inspectors agree that the plans for the new building could provide an appropriate learning environment for those children and young people with additional support needs.

3.3 HM Inspectors agree that given the current pressure on school rolls at Danderhall Primary School and Dalkeith High School, and the increasing level of demand for additional support needs, providing a new school at Shawfair should help to address current capacity issues. However, parents at Danderhall Primary School, who met HM Inspectors, question the proposed timescale for the completion of the new building and whether it is realistic. They worry that if the building is not completed by August 2028, there could be further pressure on the rolls of the existing two schools and on the educational experience for these children. Parents and staff are also anxious about the lack of detailed information about the proposal. HM Inspectors consider that it will be important, if

the proposal is agreed, that stakeholders are kept informed on progress. That the council should work with stakeholders to mitigate any issues that arise should timescales alter.

3.4 Almost all stakeholders that met with HM Inspectors are positive about the proposal. They recognise the potential educational benefits of creating a purpose-built learning environment in the Shawfair area. Staff are positive about the potential improved transitions between nursery and primary school and into secondary school. Children and young people like the idea of being in a new school, although a few also said it is important that there are separate areas for different age groups.

3.5 Children and young people, who meet HM Inspectors, thought it would be a good idea for most pupils to be able to walk or cycle to school. That this was a positive that could result from the changing catchments. A few parents expressed reservations about traffic and safe routes to school. Should the proposal be agreed, HM Inspectors recommend that the council work with stakeholders to ensure any traffic issues are mitigated and that active and safe routes to school are supported well.

3.6 A few stakeholders, that met with HM Inspectors, expressed concerns about the proposed location of the building. Parents at Danderhall Primary School feel that the council has not adequately taken account of environmental factors and have raised the matter with them. HM Inspectors consider that if the proposal is agreed, it will be important for the council to provide more detail to stakeholders as the project progresses. This should help to address stakeholder concerns.

3.7 Several of those who responded to the council's proposal and stakeholders that met with HM Inspectors are disappointed that no swimming pool is included in the plans. They feel strongly it will disadvantage the community and lead to additional travel for families.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree that Midlothian Council's proposal to build a new school at Shawfair has potential education benefits. These include opportunities for smoother transitions for children and young people and improved provision for those with additional support needs. The proposal has the potential to provide an integrated approach to the delivery of the curriculum and ease the pressure on other schools in the area. However, HM Inspectors consider that should the proposal be approved, the issues raised by stakeholders regarding the practical arrangements for the new school need to be addressed. That the council should work with stakeholders to mitigate their concerns and should ensure that staff and parents are kept fully informed about the project progress.

HM Inspectors

June 2026

On behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland

Appendix 5 - Omissions, Corrections & Amendments

Version 1.0 (1-3) 14/04/2026

Version 2.0 (4) 22/05/2026

This document highlights specific omissions, corrections and amendments regarding the published documentation relating to the above consultation. These have been identified after the documentation has been published so cannot be retrospectively included.

The document version number and date can be found at the top of this document to help establish the most recent omissions, corrections and amendments that have been made.

1) Correction: Consultation Proposal Document, page 3, pt. 7 reads 'A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document will be available on **XXX**'

Consultation Proposal Document, Page 3, pt. 7 should read 'A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document will be available on [Shawfair 2-18 Education Consultation - Midlothian Council - Citizen Space](#)

2) Correction: Consultation Proposal Document, page 11, pt.36 reads 'A map of the proposed primary catchment area of Shawfair 2-18 School can be found in Appendix'

Consultation Proposal Document, page 11, pt.36 should read "A map of the proposed primary catchment area of Shawfair 2-18 School can be found in Appendix **2**'

3) Correction: Consultation Proposal Document, page 11, pt.40, 4th bullet point reads, 'A realignment of the Danderhall Primary School Catchment Area and Dalkeith High School Catchment Area from August **2028**.'

Consultation Proposal Document, page 11, pt.40, 4th bullet point should read 'A realignment of the Danderhall Primary School Catchment Area and Dalkeith High School Catchment Area from August **2027**.'

4) Correction: Consultation Proposal Document, page 7, Section 2: The Proposals for Consultation, 4th bullet point reads 'A realignment of the Danderhall Primary School Catchment Area and Dalkeith High School Catchment Area from August **2028**'

Consultation Proposal Document, page 7, Section 2: The Proposals for Consultation, 4th bullet point should read 'A realignment of the Danderhall Primary School Catchment Area and Dalkeith High School Catchment Area from August **2027**'