

10.00am, Thursday, 19 March 2026

## Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Proposing the Establishment of a New Non-denominational Primary School and Nursery Classes at Hunters Hall Park, Implement Catchment Changes and Close Greengables Nursery School

Decision/scrutiny  
Wards

Decision  
17 Portobello / Craigmillar

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Approve that a new non-denominational Primary School and nursery classes may be established at Hunter's Hall Park.
- 1.2 Approve the formal closure of Greengables Nursery School and relocation of its services to the new school and formal notification of Scottish Ministers of this decision.
- 1.3 Approve the implementation of catchment changes, to allow the establishment of a catchment for the proposed new primary school, with adjustments to the catchment areas of Brunstane, Castleview, Newcraighall, and Niddrie Mill Primary Schools and Castlebrae Community Campus and Portobello High School.
- 1.4 Approve that a sibling guarantee be applied according to the terms set out in this paper.
- 1.5 Note the intention to carry out further engagement with the wider community on the design of the new school and its impact on the surrounding environment, as per the decision of the Culture and Communities Committee on 11 February 2026; and develop a detailed design based on feedback from this engagement to inform a subsequent consultation seeking to revoke Common Good status where necessary.

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Corporate Director of Place

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## **Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Proposing the Establishment of a New Non-denominational Primary School and Nursery Classes at Hunters Hall Park, Implement Catchment Changes and Close Greengables Nursery School**

### **2. Executive Summary**

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- 2.1 This report recommends the Council approve that a new primary school and nursery may be established at Hunter's Hall Park in the east of Edinburgh with associated catchment changes to accommodate the additional children expected from new homes and to relieve accommodation pressures on existing primary schools.
- 2.2 The majority of people responding to the consultation expressed support for the proposals for a new primary school in the area. However, the response from the community to the proposals highlighted concerns about the loss of green space and the impact this could have on the environment.
- 2.3 Accordingly, Culture and Communities Committee decided in February 2026 to "Defer a decision on revoking Common Good Status until further consultation has taken place especially around the loss of green space and the potential environmental impact on the site". In order to undertake meaningful consultation, it will be necessary to undertake design development so that the requested further consultation is based on a final solution with clarity on its environmental impact.
- 2.4 Should Council not approve the recommendations in this report, there is a statutory restriction limiting the Council's ability to reconsult on the Greengables nursery closure and relocation proposals for a period of 5 years. It would also be necessary to reconsult on the establishment of a new school and catchment changes.

### **3. Background**

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- 3.1 The Revised Craigmillar Urban Design Framework (2013), which sets out a vision and planning principles for development of the Craigmillar area, proposed that a new primary school be built on the site of the existing Greengables Nursery School.

- 3.2 However, initial informal community engagement in 2023 suggested that an alternative location at the Jack Kane Centre in Hunter's Hall Park would be better and that Greengables Nursery could also relocate to the new school site.
- 3.3 On [2 September 2025, the Education, Children and Families Committee](#) approved that a statutory consultation be undertaken proposing the establishment of a new non-denominational Primary School and nursery classes at Hunter's Hall Park, the closure and relocation of Greengables Nursery School and the implementation of catchment changes.
- 3.4 The statutory consultation paper proposed that:
- 3.4.1 A new 15 class non-denominational primary school and 128 places for 3-5 years old pre-school children and 9 babies places nursery be established alongside the Jack Kane Centre on the allocated site within Hunter's Hall Park.
- 3.4.2 The new primary school would be built with a planning capacity for 420 pupils (two stream).
- 3.4.3 The catchment area for the new school should be formed from sections of the existing Castlevie and Niddrie Mill Primary Schools catchment areas and include the following:
- 3.4.3.1 All areas within the Castlevie Primary School catchment southeast of Pringle Drive (taking in Milligan Road and surrounding streets).
- 3.4.3.2 All areas within the Castlevie Primary School catchment east of Greendykes Road, and south from Castlegreen Care Home and properties on the north side of Gulliver Street (including all properties at Gulliver Street and Niddrie House Park nos. 16,18,20, 30, 32, 34 and 36).
- 3.4.3.3 All areas within Niddrie Mill primary school catchment south from Niddrie Mains Road/ Newcraighall Road, except certain addresses at Niddrie House Park, Niddrie Mains Road, and Niddrie Marischal Place.
- 3.4.3.4 All areas within Newcraighall Primary School catchment west from Portobello Junction to Millerhill South Junction (NDE1) rail line.
- 3.4.4 The new primary school will feed to Castlebrae Community Campus which will be extended in planned phases to meet growing demand for places and increasing catchment numbers.
- 3.4.5 The catchment areas of Niddrie Mill and Brunstane Primary Schools will be realigned so that:
- 3.4.5.1 The Jewel, including all areas north from the Edinburgh South Suburban (Sub2) rail line, south from Niddrie Burn, west from Portobello Jn to Millerhill South Jn (NDE1) rail line, and east from Duddingston Park South feed to Brunstane Primary School.

- 3.4.6 The catchment areas of Castleview and Niddrie Mill Primary Schools will be realigned so that:
- 3.4.6.1 All areas within Castleview Primary School catchment and east from Greendykes Road (east section), south from Niddrie Mains road, north from Castlegreen Care Home and properties on the north side of Gulliver Street (excluding all properties at Gulliver Street), and west from the current catchment boundary feed to Niddrie Mill Primary School.
- 3.4.7 The catchment areas of Castlebrae Community Campus and Portobello High School be realigned so that the primary schools catchment changes between Niddrie Mill and Brunstane Primary Schools are reflected in the High School catchments.
- 3.4.8 All of these proposed catchment changes are shown in maps in the summary Statutory Consultation Paper attached as Appendix 1.

### **Common Good Consultation**

- 3.5 The statutory consultation on the proposals set out above was conducted simultaneously with a consultation to remove Common Good status on parts of the park to enable construction of the new school in Hunter's Hall Park. On [11 February 2026, Culture and Communities Committee](#) considered a report setting out the Outcomes of this consultation with a recommendation that Common Good status be revoked from areas of the park to allow development of design work for the new school and a BMX track to progress.
- 3.6 However, having considered the Outcomes of the Common Good consultation, the Culture and Communities Committee did not approve the removal of Common Good and instead *"Defer[red] a decision on revoking Common Good Status until further consultation has taken place especially around the loss of green space and the potential environmental impact on the site."*
- 3.7 In order to appropriately assess the "loss of green space and the potential environmental impact on the site", and to avoid repeating community engagement without new information, it is necessary to develop the school design proposals to a reasonable level. This design development will be undertaken with key community stakeholders and be informed by the feedback received during the substantial consultation and engagement processes undertaken to date as well as Environmental and Traffic assessments and studies.
- 3.8 The developed design and environmental impact assessments will then be shared with the wider community as part of a new consultation proposing the revocation of Common Good status from clearly defined areas of Hunter's Hall Park.
- 3.9 Until such time as Common Good status is removed from the areas of Hunter's Hall Park that are necessary for the delivery of a new school and supporting facilities, it will not be possible to establish a new school, should that be approved as a result of the recommendations in this report.

## 4. Main report

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- 4.1 The statutory consultation to which this report refers has been undertaken according to the requirements set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 4.2 The statutory consultation period ran from Tuesday 7 October 2025 to Tuesday 9 December 2025. The full statutory consultation paper is available online at the following link: [Hunter's Hall Park Proposals Full Consultation Paper](#) and a summary paper is provided in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 The consultation included an online questionnaire, two public meetings, three drop-in information and feedback events and a pupil survey of P4-S2 pupils at the most affected schools.
- 4.4 The consultation and related events were advertised through the following methods:
  - 4.4.1 Letters to parents or carers of pupils at affected schools.
  - 4.4.2 4,500 leaflets dropped through local community doors around Hunter's Hall Park.
  - 4.4.3 12 lamp post wraps with web address and QR code.
  - 4.4.4 Posters and copies of the consultation paper were available at affected schools, council offices at Waverley Court, City Chambers and Craigmillar library, and Jack Kane Centre.
  - 4.4.5 Newspaper advertisement (Edinburgh Evening News), which was also relayed on the online Public Notice Portal. A press release which was relayed by various digital news websites.
  - 4.4.6 Through direct email to Ward Councillors, Members of Scottish Parliament (constituency and regional), Member of Parliament (Edinburgh North and Leith), Community Councils, local childcare providers and other local relevant community groups.
- 4.5 Consultees were encouraged to use a response questionnaire which was available online using the Council's consultation hub. Responses to the consultation could also be submitted by email or letter, with the possibility of using the copy of the questionnaire which was part of the proposal document.
- 4.6 In total, 115 responses were received to the consultation which incorporated both the Common Good and Education consultations. The response consisted of 92 online survey responses, 20 flyers left at venues with comments, one email response, one postal response and one written submission received at the public meetings.
- 4.7 One respondent submitted twice to the online consultation. The respondent submitting the written submissions at the public events had also submitted an online response. The flyers received did not allow the individual to be identified and it is not possible to say whether they had already made an online submission. Given

the low numbers, for the purposes of quantifying the overall response, it is assumed that flyers submitted were not an additional submission by people who had already submitted online.

- 4.8 Accordingly, it is estimated that 113 individuals responded to the consultation. All the responses received were considered in detail and analysed.
- 4.9 Most submissions were from local residents, with a significant number of responses from parents/carers.
- 4.10 Those who responded using the online questionnaire on the consultation hub were asked to give their views on 4 different aspects. The first one was relating to the common good removal; the other 3 were related to the school proposal, and addresses the following aspects:
  - 4.10.1 Establishment of a new primary school and nursery in Hunter's Hall Park.
  - 4.10.2 Closure and relocation of Greengables Nursery and Family Centre to the new school.
  - 4.10.3 School catchment changes.

### **Key Issues Raised**

#### *Proposal to establish a new school*

- 4.11 In relation to the question about the establishment of a school, 85 people gave an answer to this question.
- 4.12 Forty-five (45) people provided comments in support of the establishment of a new primary school. The main themes or issues raised in support of the proposal included:
  - 4.12.1 A general agreement with the proposal.
  - 4.12.2 A need to provide a local school and/or community facilities because of lack of spaces within the existing schools, or the need for more schooling options.
  - 4.12.3 The new school would be closer to people's home and make it easier for children to access using active travel.
- 4.13 Thirty-eight (38) people provided comments against the establishment of a new school. The main themes or issues raised in opposition to the proposal included:
  - 4.13.1 The unsuitability of the location in which the proposed new school would be built, and/or suggestions to build a school in a different location.
  - 4.13.2 The loss of greenspace and/or habitat that the construction of the new school would represent.
  - 4.13.3 The new school and nursery would negatively impact the area by generating too much traffic.
- 4.14 Other main themes or issues raised related to the proposal to establish the new school include:

4.14.1 Need to assess transport access to the new school.

*Proposal to close and relocate Greengables Nursery*

4.15 In relation to the question about closure and relocation of Greengables Nursery and Family Centre to the new school, 79 people gave an answer to this question.

4.15.1 Thirty-five (35) people provided comments in favour of this proposal. The main themes or issues raised in support of the proposal included:

4.15.2 A general agreement with the proposal.

4.15.3 The existing nursery facilities are in poor condition and the new nursery as part of the school would have modern facilities.

4.15.4 The benefits associated with the collocation of services.

4.16 Thirty-six (36) people provided comments against the proposal to close and relocate Greengables Nursery. The main themes or issues raised in opposition to the proposal included:

4.16.1 The good quality of the existing Nursery and preference for investment to be made in the existing facilities.

4.16.2 The loss of open space associated with the relocation of the nursery into Hunters Hall Park.

4.17 Other main themes or issues raised related to the proposal to close and relocate Greengables Nursery include:

4.17.1 Need for the facility to continue to be close to the community

4.17.2 Need for the staff to be retained as part of the relocation

*Proposals for school catchment change*

4.18 In relation to the question about school catchment changes, 74 people gave an answer to this question.

4.19 Twenty-six (26) people provided comments in favour of the proposed catchment changes. The main themes or issues raised in support of the proposal included:

4.19.1 General agreement with the proposed catchment changes.

4.20 Twenty-one (21) people provided comments against the proposed catchment changes. The main themes or issues raised in opposition to the proposals included:

4.20.1 The traffic which the proposed catchment change would generate on the roads.

4.20.2 School alignment with the high school.

4.20.3 Individual properties inclusion in different catchment and the general non need for a new school.

4.21 Twenty-one (21) people mentioned that they had no concerns about the proposals, or had no strong opinion on the matter.

## **Public Meeting**

- 4.22 Public meetings were held on Thursday 13 November 2025 at Castleview Primary School and on Tuesday 25 November at Greengables Nursery. Three (3) members of the public attended the first meeting and five (5) members of the public attended the second meeting. Both meetings followed the same format with Council officials delivering a short presentation to those present, including Council colleagues from departments with an interest in the proposals, a representative from Edinburgh Leisure and a representative from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland. Members of the public were given the opportunity to ask questions relating to the proposals and receive an answer from Council officials. Minutes of the meetings have been published on the consultation website and are provided in Appendix 3 of this document.

## **Drop-in Information and Feedback Events**

- 4.23 Three drop-in information and feedback events were organised at Castlebrae Community Campus, the Jack Kane Community Centre and at Niddrie Mill and St. Francis primary schools campus. The first drop-in event at Castlebrae Community Campus was an evening event and was attended by less than five members of the public.
- 4.24 The event at the Jack Kane Community Centre was attended by more than 20 people. Attendees raised concerns about the loss of green space and the impact on the Jack Kane Community Centre and the Jack Kane Sports Centre. Attendees also raised questions about the legality of the Council's proposals.
- 4.25 The drop-in event at Niddrie Mill and St. Francis primary schools campus took place whilst parents and carers were collecting children, and it had several parents or carers and pupils showing interest in the proposals. The main questions asked related to timescales, and how the proposal would impact specific addresses.

## **Pupil Consultation**

- 4.26 Workshops were held with pupils from St Francis RC Primary School, Niddrie Mill Primary School, Castleview Primary School and Castlebrae Campus. Full details of these workshops and the feedback received from pupils can be found in Appendix 2.
- 4.27 In summary, 79 questionnaires were completed by pupils in addition to comments made and recorded during activities. The majority of pupils agreed that a new primary school is needed in the area. However, pupils also raised concerns that the proposals may mean that the existing play park would be taken away and had mixed feelings about whether Hunter's Hall Park is the right location for a new school. Pupils also raised concerns about safety and vandalism in the park and the lack of lighting and condition of the paths.
- 4.28 If the proposals are approved and the project progresses, pupils from local schools will be involved in developing the design for the new primary school.

## **His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland**

- 4.29 As required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, all responses received during the public consultation were made available to His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland (HMIE). HMIE visited the schools directly affected by the statutory consultation and discussed the educational aspects with staff, parents and pupils before producing their final report. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of the proposal and is attached as Appendix 6.
- 4.30 The HMIE report concludes there are potential Educational benefits to the proposals presented by The Council. HMIE point to stakeholders positive views about the long-term benefits of the proposals including the establishment of the new primary school, the relocation of the Greengables nursery and the catchment realignments.
- 4.31 HMIE also highlight some concerns and issues raised by their consultees, including:
- 4.32 The strong local feeling about the removal of the Common Good status, traffic congestion and the establishment of the BMX track. Responses to these issues are captured in Appendix 2.

### **Sibling Guarantee**

- 4.33 Under these proposals there will be no mandatory transfer of existing pupils to a different school. To mitigate the risk of siblings being required to attend different schools as a result of catchment changes, a 'sibling guarantee' is proposed. This would be offered to families who live within the section of Castlevuew, Newcraighall, and Niddrie Mill Primary Schools catchment areas realigned with the new primary school catchment, to families who live within the section of Castlevuew Primary School catchment area realigned to Niddrie Mill Primary School catchment, and to families who live within the section of Niddrie Mill Primary School catchment area realigned to Brunstane Primary School catchment.
- 4.34 The 'sibling guarantee' would apply to siblings of pupils attending Castlevuew, Newcraighall and Niddrie Mill Primary Schools and Castlebrae Community Campus. This would mean that younger siblings of pupils living in one of the areas transferring to a new catchment area, would be guaranteed a place when applying to their older sibling's school.
- 4.35 Appendix 5 details the exact conditions under which this guarantee would apply.
- 4.36 The Council has considered the impact of a 'sibling guarantee' on the relevant schools and recommends that it is offered for the following reasons:
- 4.36.1 It is not expected to have a detrimental impact or create accommodation pressures as the number of homes that could benefit from a 'sibling guarantee' will be limited; and
- 4.36.2 Some of the affected properties are a reasonable distance from their current catchment school and so would have lower priority for an out of catchment

place than other properties (as set out in the Council's Placing in School Procedures).

## **Conclusions**

- 4.37 The response to this consultation has demonstrated that the public is divided in relation to the proposals. The reasons raised against the establishment of the new school are generally related to the loss of green space at the proposed site in Hunter's Hall Park and not with the educational aspects of the proposals. Accordingly, while the majority of respondents support the delivery of a new school, they are concerned about the environmental impact it may have.
- 4.38 This report therefore asks Council to approve the recommendations in this report, that a new primary school may be established on the Hunter's Hall Park, but notes that the delivery of this school and consequently the closure and relocation of Greengables Nursery and the changes of catchment areas will be dependent on Culture and Communities Committee approving the revocation of Common Good from necessary areas of Hunter's Hall Park at a future date.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 If the recommendations set out in this report are approved, design development of the new school proposals will be undertaken. This design development will be undertaken with key community stakeholders and be informed by the feedback received during the substantial consultation and engagement processes undertaken to date as well as Environmental and Traffic assessments and studies.
- 5.2 The developed design and environmental impact assessments will then be shared with the wider community as part of a new consultation proposing the revocation of Common Good status from clearly defined areas of Hunter's Hall Park.
- 5.3 It is likely that this new consultation, seeking to revoke Common Good status from Hunter's Hall Park, would take place at the end of 2026 at the earliest with an Outcomes report presented to the Culture and Communities Committee in the first half of 2027.
- 5.4 Until such time as Common Good status is removed from the areas of Hunter's Hall Park that are necessary for the delivery of a new school and supporting facilities, it will not be possible to begin the construction of a new school, should that be approved as a result of the recommendations in this report.
- 5.5 The catchment boundary changes proposed would be implemented in time for the P1 registration process in the November prior to the new school opening. The requirement for further engagement means that the new school could open in August 2031 at the earliest, which would mean the catchment changes relating to the new school would be in place in November 2030.
- 5.6 The provision of the sibling guarantee will be administered through the regular P1 and S1 intakes process.

## **Referral to the Scottish Ministers**

- 5.7 Should the Council approve the recommendation to formerly close Greengables Nursery and relocate it to the new primary school, the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) as amended requires that the Council notify Scottish Ministers of that decision within a period of six working days.
- 5.8 At the same time as it notifies the Scottish Ministers of the decision, the Council must publish on its website notice of the fact that the Scottish Ministers have been notified and provide the opportunity for people to make representations to the Scottish Ministers.
- 5.9 Anyone interested in making representation to Scottish Ministers must do so within a three-week period from the day the decision is taken by the Council.
- 5.10 Ministers have eight weeks (the three-week representation period plus a further five weeks) from the date of the Council decision to decide whether to 'call in' the decision. Through the 'call-in' process, Ministers may overturn the Council decision to close Greengables nursery or attach conditions to it.
- 5.11 The grounds for 'call-in' are set out in the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) as amended and are limited. Call-in is permissible only where Ministers consider that the Council may have failed to comply with the requirements imposed on it under the 2010 Act in a significant regard; or where the education authority has failed to take proper account of a material consideration relevant to its decision to implement the proposal.

## **If Council does not approve the Proposals**

- 5.12 Section 2A of the 2010 Act provides for a restriction on making a school closure proposal in relation to the same school (or nursery) for a period of 5 years following a decision made by the education authority not to proceed with the closure.
- 5.13 Accordingly, should Council decide not to approve the recommendations in this paper, it would not be possible to re-consult on a proposal to close and relocate Greengables Nursery within a five-year period.
- 5.14 However, this restriction only applies to a closure proposal. Should it wish to do so, it would be possible for the authority to make material changes to the proposals for a new primary school and associated catchment changes and then re-consult within a 5 year period.
- 5.15 Re-consulting on the proposal to establish a new school with associated catchment changes would be a statutory requirement if the current proposals were not approved.
- 5.16 A delay in the delivery of a new primary school will place further pressure on local primary schools. Council officers will closely monitor intakes at the schools and make recommendations on any actions required to the Education, Children and Families Committee. The costs incurred hiring the temporary classrooms at Castleview Primary School would be extended.

## 6. Financial impact

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- 6.1 Approval of the recommendations in this report do not lead directly to the delivery of a new school. The recommendations do, however, lead to the requirement for a budget to be established for the design development of a new school on the Hunter's Hall Park site.
- 6.2 The estimated cost for a new Primary School at Hunters Hall Park is currently an unfunded pressure in the Council's Capital Investment Programme. The capital funding for construction of the new school will require to be considered as part of the budget setting process culminating in February 2027. This may also include a bid for capital funding to also address condition and suitability issues arising from the Jack Kane Centre.
- 6.3 A new school would lead to an increase in revenue costs. In addition to the additional teaching and support staff, there would be a requirement to create and fill all the management and non-teaching staff positions associated with running a separate primary school. The creation of a new school building or extension of the existing Jack Kane Centre would also result in additional building running, maintenance and repair costs for the school estate.
- 6.4 The additional revenue costs will be considered as part of the appropriate budget setting process before the school becomes operational.

## 7. Key Policies

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### Equality and Poverty

- 7.1 The recommendations in this Committee report have been made following a statutory consultation undertaken according to the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This Act is designed "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. These consultation processes are expected to be robust, open, transparent and fair, and seen to be so." (Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010: guidance).
- 7.2 Accordingly, by following the established process set out in the Act, the Council has provided those stakeholders most affected by these proposals with an opportunity to have their say and raise any concerns or issues. This Outcomes Report sets out the Council's response to the relevant matters raised during the consultation and suggests any mitigating measures that may be required.
- 7.3 Equality Duty covers the protected characteristic of age, which refers to a person having a particular age or being within an age group. The age group most directly impacted by the proposal to establish a new school is young people and children. The Educational Benefits statement in the statutory consultation paper sets out the ways in which the Council believes that children and young people could benefit or

be disadvantaged by these proposals. In addition, letters providing information and inviting responses to the statutory consultation were made available to the parents and carers of all pupils in the affected area. Separate pupil survey was also undertaken to understand the views of young people and children.

- 7.4 This statutory consultation has been undertaken at a formative stage of the project to provide early confirmation of its deliverability. No detailed design work has taken place, and the full scope of the project is yet to be confirmed. Approval of the proposals outlined in the statutory consultation will provide the Council with the right to establish a school on the proposed site and implement catchment changes when that new school opens. However, the delivery of the new school and related catchment changes will only be progressed subject to committee approval of revocation of necessary areas of Common Good from Hunter's Hall Park, inclusion of a budget for the new school within the Council's capital programme and securing the necessary planning permissions.
- 7.5 Approval of the location of the new school will allow the development of a design through engagement with relevant stakeholders, partners and the wider community. The Council's Corporate Property Strategy requires that a school facility should accommodate other functions, becoming a focus for community activity and wider service delivery. The Council will work with partners and other relevant stakeholders to optimise the use of this new asset during and beyond the school day.

### **Climate and Nature Emergencies**

- 7.6 If the proposal is approved, further engagement with key stakeholders will be necessary to allow a future meeting of the Culture and Communities Committee to consider again, the proposal to revoke Common Good status from areas of Hunter's Hall Park.
- 7.7 The response from the community to the proposals in the consultation paper highlighted concerns about the loss of green space and the impact this could have on the environment. Despite this, the majority of people supported the proposals for a new school in the area. However, because the consultation was undertaken at a formative stage of the project to provide early confirmation of its deliverability, it was not possible during the consultation to be specific or demonstrate the measures that could be taken to recognise the significant environmental value of Hunter's Hall park within the community and seek to limit and mitigate the environmental impact of the proposals.
- 7.8 Accordingly, following the decision of the Culture and Communities Committee to: *"Defer a decision on revoking Common Good Status until further consultation has taken place especially around the loss of green space and the potential environmental impact on the site"*, it will be necessary to undertake design development so that the requested further consultation is based on a final solution with clarity on its environmental impact.
- 7.9 The design and location of the new school has been proposed because of the opportunities it presents to promote Active Travel opportunities to minimise the

impact on carbon emissions and energy consumption. It also provides opportunities to consider alterations to the existing Jack Kane Centre which would aim to improve the energy efficiency of the existing building. Any new school building or extension of the Jack Kane Centre would be designed to ensure compliance with strict energy efficiency standards (Passivhaus for new build elements).

- 7.10 Playgrounds will be designed to maximise natural spaces and to ensure surface water runoff is dealt with within the school grounds using sustainable drainage systems.
- 7.11 Outdoor play, learning and exploration are at the heart of Edinburgh's Primary and Early Years settings. New schools and nurseries are designed with high-quality outdoor settings. Internal spaces are designed with easy access between indoor and outdoor spaces promoting exploration of external environments.
- 7.12 The heavy focus on the design of outdoor spaces and natural environments is to embed within children's learning and experiences an appreciation and understanding of nature and the outdoors. It is recognised that one of the single most effective ways of addressing climate and nature emergencies is through education.

### **Environmental Impacts**

- 7.13 The proposal includes the delivery of new a new facility on parkland which is partially classed as probable to have been previously used for shallow coal mining workings. Any new building will be restricted on its location to avoid these areas.
- 7.14 The new build will reduce the available parkland; however, it is expected that the building footprint would be less than 1% of the whole park.
- 7.15 An Environmental Impact Assessment will be carried as part of the development of the project to understand the full impact of the proposal on the site

### **Housing Emergency**

- 7.16 The Council declared a housing emergency in November 2023. The Housing Emergency Action Plan (HEAP) was considered by the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on 25 February 2025.
- 7.17 The establishment of a new Primary School and Nursery at Hunter's Hall Park is essential to enable the delivery of new housing in Craigmillar and surrounding areas. The existing primary schools and early facilities in the area don't have capacity for all the new planned housing and this proposal would ensure the provision places for future pupils generated by these

## **8. Risk, compliance, governance and community impact**

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- 8.1 The statutory consultation to which this paper refers has been undertaken according to the requirements set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

- 8.2 If the proposals are approved there is a risk that the costs associated with further design development are incurred without the project ultimately being delivered due to a failure to secure the necessary planning consents or revocation of areas of Common Good from Hunter's Hall Park.
- 8.3 If the proposals in this paper are rejected, in the long-term, the existing schools are unlikely to provide sufficient or suitable accommodation for projected demand and growing additional support needs.
- 8.4 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) will be undertaken to address the specific changes proposed by the project as part of the formal planning process.

## **9. Background reading/external references**

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- 9.1 [“Outcomes of Consultation Proposing Removal of Common Good Status from Sections of Hunter's Hall Park”](#), Culture and Communities Committee, 11 February 2026.
- 9.2 [Statutory consultation to remove Common Good status and establish a new primary school at Hunter's Hall Park – referral from the Education, Children and Families Committee](#), Culture and Communities Committee, 2 October 2025
- 9.3 Statutory Consultation Paper: -  
[https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/huntershall/supporting\\_documents/hunters-hall-park-proposals-consultation-paper-final2pdf](https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/huntershall/supporting_documents/hunters-hall-park-proposals-consultation-paper-final2pdf)
- 9.4 Previous Engagement: -  
[Hunter's Hall Park and Jack Kane Centre – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

## **10. Appendices**

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- 10.1 Appendix 1 - Summary of the Statutory Consultation Paper
- 10.2 Appendix 2 - Issues Raised and Council Response
- 10.3 Appendix 3 - Minutes of Public Meetings
- 10.4 Appendix 4 - Pupil Workshop Summary and Feedback
- 10.5 Appendix 5 - Sibling Guarantee
- 10.6 Appendix 6 - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland Report

## Appendix 1. Summary of the Statutory Consultation Paper

# Proposal to remove Common Good status from sections of Hunter's Hall Park, establish a new non-denominational Primary School with Nursery and Early Years services (incorporating the existing Greengables Nursery) and close Greengables Nursery School.

## Summary Paper

GIVE US YOUR VIEWS:

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/huntershallproposals](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/huntershallproposals)



### What is being proposed?

The City of Edinburgh Council is proposing the following in the Craigmillar area of the city:

- The **establishment** of a new 14 class non-denominational primary school in Hunter's Hall Park with an Early Learning and Childcare Centre and the formation of a new catchment area. This would include the relocation of the existing Greengables Nursery into the new Early Learning and Childcare Centre and closure of Greengables Nursery School Building.
- Common good status to be removed from sections of Hunter's Hall Park to allow for the new primary school, a competition standard BMX track and supporting infrastructure to be built.
- Redevelopment of the Jack Kane Centre to improve and expand the facilities and services offered by the Jack Kane Community Centre and the Jack Kane Sports Centre.
- Maps showing the proposed school location and proposed catchment options have been included within this summary paper.

### Where will the new primary school and nursery be located?

It is proposed that the new school, nursery and early years services will be built in Hunter's Hall Park.

### Why do we need a new primary school in Craigmillar?

Significant new housing has been built in the Craigmillar area, with more housing expected. The existing school infrastructure is not large enough to accommodate the pupil numbers expected going forward.

### What are the implications for existing secondary schools?

The new primary school will feed into Castlebrae Community Campus. The proposal in this paper includes the relocation of a small area from Castlebrae Community Campus catchment into Portobello High School catchment.

### **Who will the changes affect?**

The site for the new school and the position of the existing schools means that some realignment of existing catchment areas will be required to take advantage of existing capacity. A catchment area for the new primary school will be formed from sections of Castleview, Newcraighall and Niddrie Mill Primary Schools existing catchments.

Maps showing the proposed catchment areas have been included at the end of this summary paper.

Greengables Nursery would move to a new Early Learning and Childcare Centre as part of a new primary school at the Jack Kane Centre. This will provide greater capacity so that more children can attend and families can access a greater range of services.

### **When would the changes come into effect?**

If the proposal is approved by the Council, the new school, nursery and early years services could open in August 2029 at the earliest.

### **Why are we consulting?**

We want to hear the views of anyone affected by the proposal. There is also a legal obligation to carry out a statutory consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young people (Scotland) Act 2014.

### **How will I know if my views have been considered?**

A report capturing views on removal of Common Good status will be considered by the Council's Culture and Communities Committee on Thursday, 12 February 2026.

A second report capturing views on the proposal to establish a new primary school, closing Greengables Nursery School and undertaking catchment change will be considered at a meeting of the full Council on Thursday, 19 March 2026.

Further details of this process are contained in the full statutory consultation paper.

### **How can I find out more about the proposal or make my views heard?**

If you want more information, you can find the full consultation paper and other supporting information at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/huntershallproposals](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/huntershallproposals) where you can find a questionnaire.

We have also organised a public meeting which anyone can attend, as below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Thursday, 13 November 2025	18:30 – 20:30	Castleview Primary School
Tuesday, 25 November 2025	18:30 – 20:30	Greengables Nursery

The meetings will open with a short presentation followed by a question and answer session. We will take a note of the meeting and all the points made will be captured in the final 'Outcomes of the Consultation Report'.

Please email: [huntershallproposals@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:huntershallproposals@edinburgh.gov.uk) by Thursday 23 October 2025 if you need translation services at the meeting.

In addition, we will hold drop-in public information events where you can speak with a Council Officer, find out more about the proposals and share your views:

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 30 October 2025	16:30 – 19:00	Jack Kane Community Centre
Monday, 3 November 2025	16:30 – 19:00	Castlebrae Community Campus
Wednesday, 3 December 2025	14:30 – 17:00	Niddrie Mill & St Francis Primary Schools

It would be helpful if you could take time to complete our short survey – you can find it easily online at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/huntershallproposals](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/huntershallproposals).

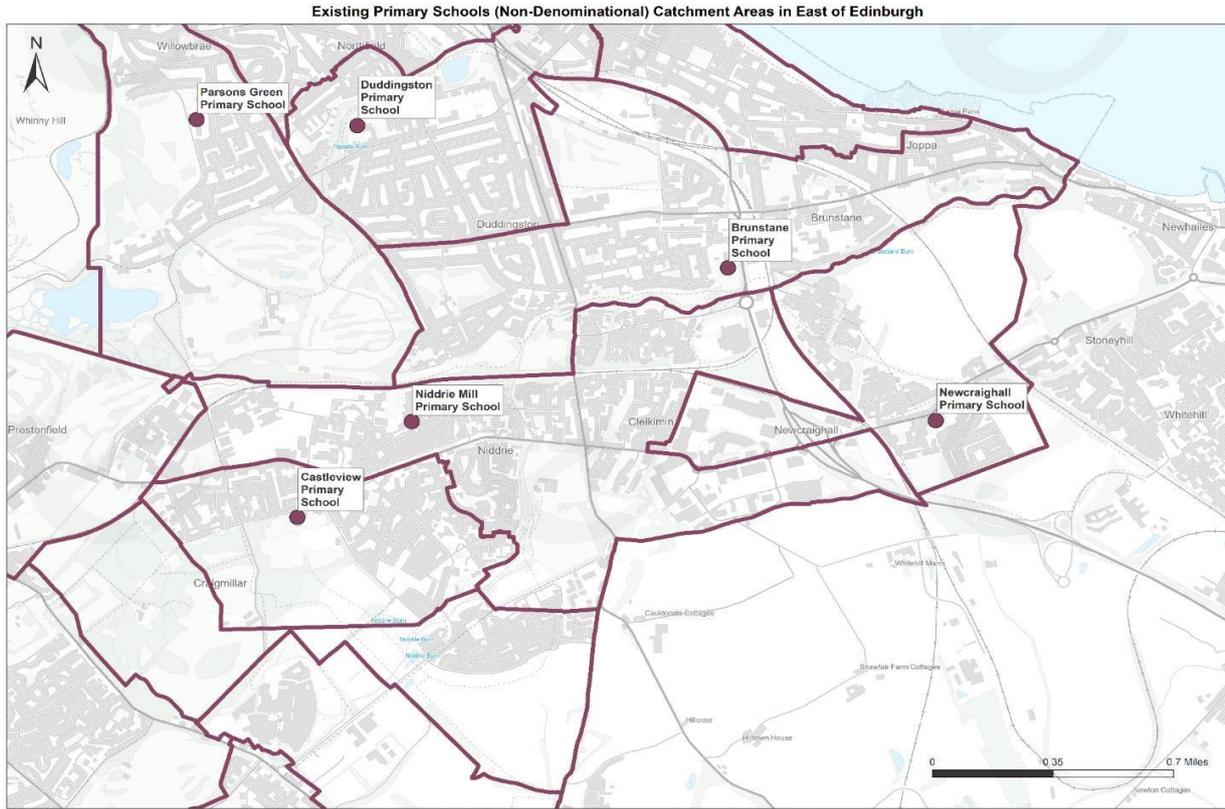
Copies of the statutory consultation paper are also available for inspection at the Council Offices at City Chambers and Waverley Court, at Craigmillar Library, at the Jack Kane Centre, at Greengables Nursery and at the schools affected by the proposals.

You can also email comments to us directly at [huntershallproposals@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:huntershallproposals@edinburgh.gov.uk) or if you prefer they can be posted to the address below:

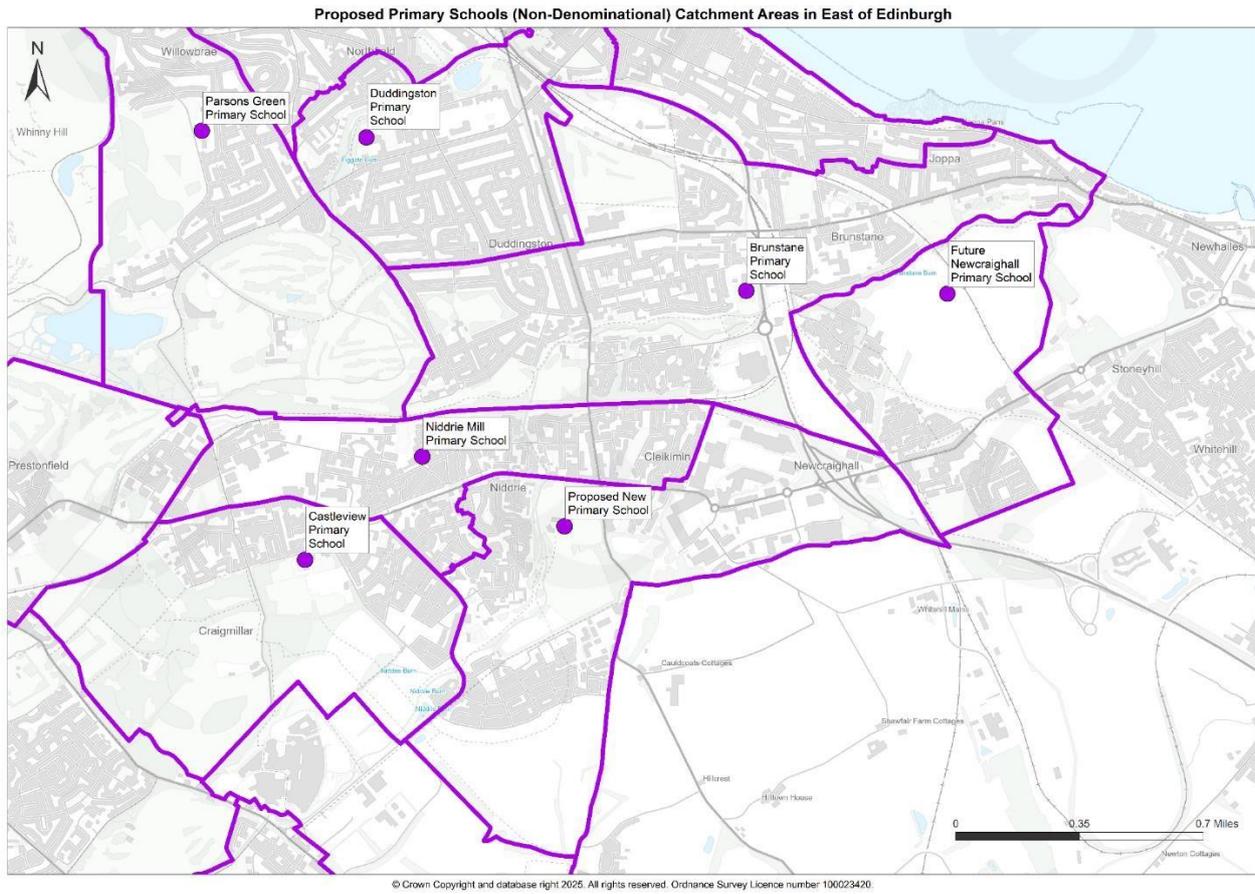
Hunter's Hall Park Proposals  
City of Edinburgh Council  
Waverley Court, 1.6  
4 East Market Street Edinburgh  
EH8 8BG

**All comments should arrive by 5pm on Tuesday 9 December 2025.**

## Existing Primary School Catchment Boundaries

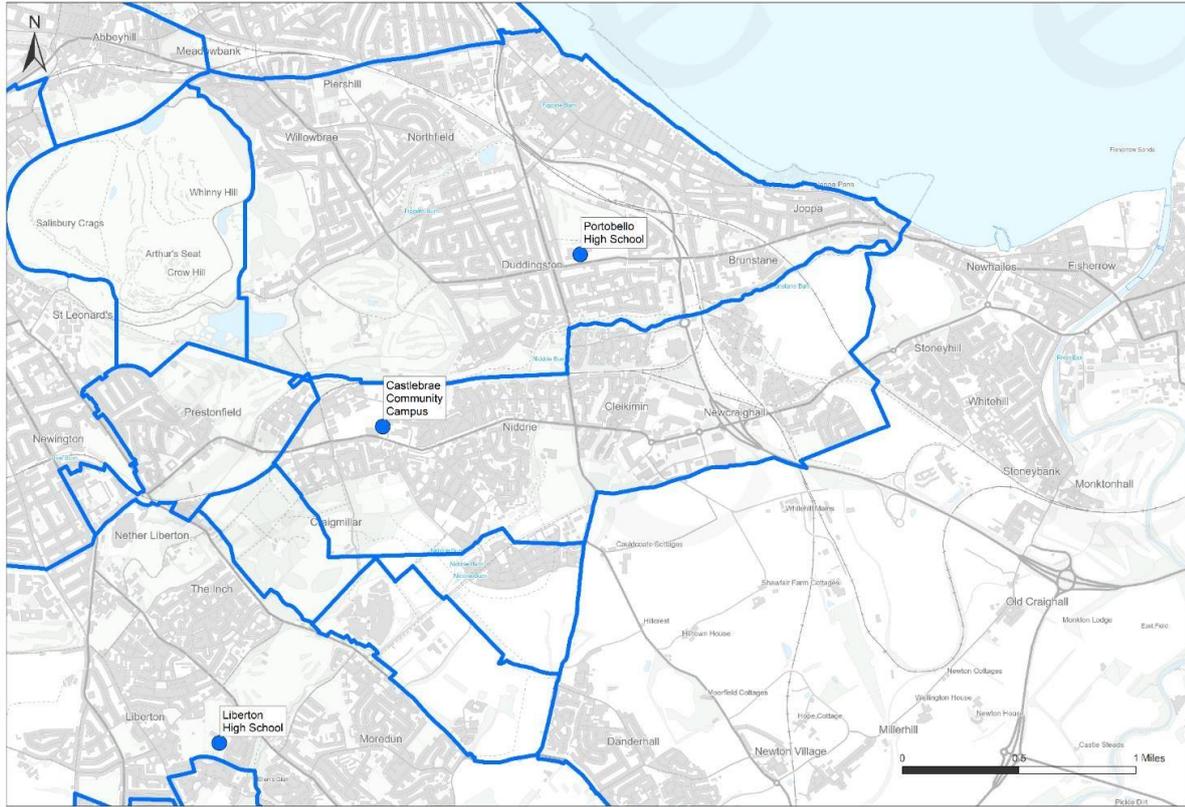


## Proposed Primary School Catchment Boundaries



# Existing Secondary School Catchment Boundaries

Existing Secondary Schools (Non-Denominational) Catchment Areas in East of Edinburgh



# Proposed Secondary School Catchment Boundaries

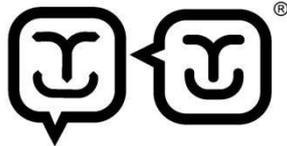
Proposed Secondary Schools (Non-Denominational) Catchment Areas in East of Edinburgh



## Proposed New Primary School Site



Background aerial image by: Bluesky International Ltd. / Getmapping PLC.



**HAPPY TO TRANSLATE**

ترجمہ کے لئے حاضر آماندوں سہجے انوباد کررہ

بسعذنا توفیر الترجمة MOZEMY PRZETŁUMACZYĆ 很樂意翻譯

You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats if you ask us. Please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service at [its@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:its@edinburgh.gov.uk) quoting the unique reference: 25-1287b.

## Appendix 2. Issues Raised and Council Response

Question 7 – Gives us your views on the proposal to establish a new primary school and nursery in Hunter’s Hall Park

1	<b>Issue: Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The construction of the new school and nursery would reduce greenspace in the area which is insufficient</b></li> <li>• <b>I have nothing against a new school &amp; nursery. But I do not agree with it being built in our beautiful park</b></li> <li>• <b>As stated it doesn't look like it will remove much green space and could be viable</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A building to accommodate a new school and nursery as proposed in The Council proposal would generally have about 4,000sqm distributed over 2 floors. This would mean the footprint of the building would be about 2,000sqm, which is about 0.8% of the area of the whole park.</li> <li>• In line with the Council "Thriving Greenspaces 2050 Vision and Strategy," the development would focus on creating resilient green spaces for wildlife and people, supported by community involvement, aligning with the broader City Plan 2030 to boost biodiversity, health, and climate action. The project will aim to enhance and encourage greater use of the areas of park that remain by addressing known issues highlighted by park users and consultees during the initial engagement process (see report to Education, Children and Families Committee, September 2025). These issues included:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Safety concerns for park and building users due to poor lighting.</li> <li>○ Anti-social behaviour and isolated location of facilities in the park.</li> <li>○ Concerns about dog fouling and littering in the park.</li> <li>○ The need for better public access to the park.</li> <li>○ A lack of facilities for people, such as play areas, seating and bins.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>It is hoped that use of the surrounding park spaces by a school community will help reduce instances of anti-social behaviour with the greater use of spaces in the park encouraging greater funding and social investment. The wooded areas provide an ideal setting for outdoor learning, while the sports fields will provide opportunities for active learning and after school clubs.</p> <p>Should the proposals progress to the next stages of design, environmental assessments would be undertaken to mitigate the impact of any changes to the park. Care would be take to avoid disrupting wildlife. The proposals provide the opportunity to consider howvprovision for wildlife in the area</p>

		<p>can be improved to sustain existing species and attract others.</p> <p>In summary, while the proposals in the consultation paper would result in a reduction in open, green space; they provide an opportunity to improve the use and quality of the park as a whole – for users and wildlife.</p> <p>The above also means that, of the 2 hectares required for a site to accommodate a proposed school and nursery, only 10% would result in a loss of greenspace to accommodate the new school building. The remainder of the site would be used for a playground and access routes, the majority of which would remain as greenspace and/or open space.</p>
2	<p><b>Issue: Alternative Location</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Build at The Jewel instead</b></li> <li>• <b>There's a big patch of open land to the left of the big new library, it's in front of this art deco 1920s looking factory which is also worth saving - why not build, please, on this site instead?</b></li> <li>• <b>would be more beneficial to construct the new primary school at The Wisp rather than at Hunters Hall Park.</b></li> <li>• <b>Why can't they build a new primary school next to Castleview where the old Castlebrae Community High School</b></li> </ul>
	<p>Council Response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The establishment of the new school at Greendykes has been identified in the Edinburgh City Plan 2030 and Revised Craigmillar Urban Design Framework (2013). This is a result of the pressure on local schools due to additional children living in the new developments in the area.</li> <li>• Other locations not within the Craigmillar area would be too far to address the pressures arising from the new developments.</li> <li>• Other locations within the Craigmillar area have been considered but they are not within The Council ownership, not compatible with The City Plan 2030, have been allocated to new housing or have other issues which make the site incompatible with the establishment of a new school and nursery.</li> <li>• Hunter's Hall Park has been selected as the preferential location after feedback from previous engagements. The existing co-location of an established community centre and large sports centre at the Jack Kane Centre alongside ongoing investment within the park (supporting active travel and sports provision) provides a significant opportunity to create a vibrant community campus where people can enjoy various activities</li> <li>• The expansion of Castleview Primary School to accommodate the extra demand would make this the biggest Primary School in Edinburgh. This would be physically challenging as while</li> </ul>

		<p>adding classrooms is straightforward, increasing the capacity of cores spaces such as dining and support spaces is not. The significant requirement for spaces for pupils requiring more targeting support would be a particular concern if the school roll were to expand to meet all local demand from new housing.</p>
3	<p><b>Issue: Problems at Hunter's Hall Park</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>At present, the park is not being used to its full potential. Unfortunately, it has become an area frequently disturbed by motorbike and quad bike activity, which makes it unsafe and unpleasant for families and other park users.</b></li> <li>• <b>The new school and nursery could act as a hub for local families and improve the sense of community in the area. I would, however, like to see careful consideration given to the design, access routes, and parking to ensure minimal disruption for local residents</b></li> <li>• <b>Area too unsafe to establish a primary school and nursery in Hunter's Hall Park</b></li> <li>• <b>This is a good use of land that is currently an unpleasant park. I don't walk my dog there because of dirt, litter and drug related paraphernalia</b></li> <li>• <b>Please tear down Jack Kane Centre. It is an eye sore building, very energy inefficient old and underused.</b></li> <li>• <b>This area needs better building and provision - to allow for its regeneration and to provide a strong start for the next generation</b></li> <li>• <b>The site could have sheltered area for teenagers to hang out as it is also desperately needed for teenagers to prevent them getting into trouble.</b></li> </ul>
	<p>Council Response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The establishment of a new primary school and nursery at Hunter's Hall Park would be preceded by a master plan exercise for the whole park to allow existing issues in the park to be addressed.</li> <li>• This plan would dictate the changes required to address the existing issues in the park and to support the operation of the existing and new facilities.</li> <li>• It is hoped that use of the surrounding park spaces by a school community will help reduce instances of anti-social behaviour with the greater use of spaces in the park encouraging greater funding and social investment.</li> <li>• A feasibility study would also be carried out to assess the different scenarios to deliver the new accommodation.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Issue: Traffic</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>There needs to be proper consideration to the influx of traffic</b></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A new, modern building would make a huge difference for families nearby, and it would mean more children can walk to school instead of having to travel further away</b></li> <li>• <b>The (existing) catchment schools are quite far from my home and not very safe to walk, as many road crossings without traffic lights</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic assessment studies would have to be carried out as part of the planning application for the construction of the new school and nursery. This would identify any measures required to mitigate the impact of the new school on the surrounding transport infrastructure.</li> <li>• The addition of a new school to the area would represent a reduction in the size of the existing primary school catchments and therefore reduce the distance between the school and pupils' homes. This combined with a review and improvement of the local active travel routes would promote the use of active travel for pupils accessing their local school.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Issue: service provision Forrest Kindergarten</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Could have a forest nursery attached to it as well</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The establishment of the new school and nursery at Hunter's Hall Park would increase the number of early years spaces as well as the opportunities for children to access the local park. The establishment of a Forrest Kindergarten alongside the proposal is currently not part of the project but it could be explored at a later stage.</li> </ul>
6	<b>Issue: service provision ESB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>I implore the council to consider adding ESB provision for youngsters in the area into the plans when building the new school</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current proposals do not include an Enhanced Support Base as part of the new school.</li> <li>• As part of the Inclusive Learning Estate Review a number of potential locations for additional Enhanced Support Bases have been identified, with Hunter's Hall Park/ New Greendykes PS being one such site. Pending the conclusion of the review, Hunter's Hall Park will continue to be considered as a potential ESB location.</li> </ul>
7	<b>Issue: Existing Schools capacity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The new school provides a space for children in the area</b></li> <li>• <b>Castleview Primary school is overcrowded, and the streets aren't safe for the number of children leaving the school</b></li> <li>• <b>There are so many new homes, and existing schools are surely struggling to keep up</b></li> <li>• <b>This area of Edinburgh already has enough schools</b></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A modern, accessible school is essential to meet the growing educational needs of local families and will provide children with the learning environment they deserve.</b></li> <li>• <b>It is very concerning to add yet another school in this area, where you can find schools and learning centres every 500 metres from Prestonfield Primary to Castlebrae High school and primary, Greengables etc.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As demonstrated in the consultation paper, the existing primary schools don't have capacity to accommodate the forecasted number of pupils mainly generated by the new homes being developed in the area.</li> <li>• The proposed primary school would have capacity for 420 pupils and 137 early years children and babies. This allows the Council to relieve the pressure on the existing schools and to accommodate the extra demand generated by the new housing.</li> </ul>
8	<b>Issue: School name</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>I would urge the consideration of a name for the new school to move away from "Greendykes primary" pay respect to the history of the land it's being built on and call it Hunters Hall Primary School</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The name for the new school would only be decided at a later stage through consultation with the local community.</li> </ul>
9	<b>Issue: loss of amenity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Letting a nursery and school be built only benefit those with kids or working in the school (and the council getting money).</b></li> <li>• <b>This development represents a positive investment in our community's future.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The provision of schools and nurseries is a statutory requirement for The Council and benefits not only those attending and working at the establishment, but also the wider community. Schools are key providers of education, which is essential to foster social cohesion, reduce crime, promote equality, and enhance civic participation.</li> <li>• The Council makes no profit out of schools and nurseries. Education at the proposed school is provided free of cost to parents and carers and school and nurseries represent a revenue expense rather than a profitable service.</li> </ul>
10	<b>Issue: Loss of open space</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>We need open ground for children to play safely outside in park land.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The construction of the new school and nursery building would be complemented by a playground area which would be designed to be safe for children. The playground would be</li> </ul>

		fenced off and closed at school operational hours but could be accessible to be used by children at other times.
11	<b>Issue: Creation of Jobs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>It's a good idea, hopefully opening up more job opportunities for primary school teachers &amp; reducing class sizes/school rolls in schools in the area</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition to teaching and support staff, there would be a requirement to create and fill all the management and non-teaching staff positions associated with running a school. These positions would include a Head Teacher, a Business Manager, admin/clerical staff, dining room staff and janitorial staff</li> <li>• Greengables Nursery would be integrated into the new Early Years facility at the school. Staff would be given the opportunity to transfer to the new site</li> </ul>
12	<b>Issue: Common good land aspects / Use of the land for ulterior motives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>When the land allocation is changed it is a form of theft from the public then sold on to private ownership</b></li> <li>• <b>No coherent evidence has been presented to justify the revocation of Common Good Land for this purpose</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments and responses relating to the proposal to revoke Common Good status from areas of the park can be found in the <a href="#">report to Culture and Communities Committee on 11 February 2026</a>.</li> <li>• The proposal to establish the new school and nursery would only use the area needed for the facilities. Any spare area would remain part of the existing park.</li> </ul>
13	<b>Issue: Further information/ Plans for Jack Kane Centre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>I would also like to know what these developments would be. Are there any plans for the Jack Kane Centre itself?</b></li> <li>• <b>It's important for the Jack Kane community and sports centre to remain accessible and inviting to the community, and I'm worried that sharing the space with the primary school will reduce the important youth services it provides</b></li> <li>• <b>currently we have a community centre and a school, and the proposal is to replace that with only a school.</b></li> <li>• <b>Another council run sports centre being closed should not be an option</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal does not include the closure of the existing facilities at Jack Kane Centre.</li> <li>• The establishment of the school and nursery would complement the existing sports centre and community centre. Siting the school within Hunter's Hall Park presents an opportunity to consider the wider benefits of investment not only in the new school but also the existing provision within the Jack Kane Community and Sports Centres.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further consultation will be required as part of the planning application. This will give the opportunity for people to have a say on a fully developed proposal.</li> </ul>
14	<b>Issue: BMX</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>There are not many bmx bike's nowadays</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments relating to the BMX proposal fall outwith the scope of the educational proposals. Comments and responses relating to the proposal to revoke Common Good status and the BMX proposals can be found in the <a href="#">report to Culture and Communities Committee on 11 February 2026</a>.</li> </ul>
15	<b>Issue: Learning Delivery model</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The future of learning is not confined to buildings, but broadcast through living networks of mentorship, curiosity and field resonance. Any proposal for new infrastructure must account for this shift, or risk becoming obsolete before it is built</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments relating to education delivery model proposal fall outwith the scope of this consultation as the existing <a href="#">Scottish Government</a> and <a href="#">CEC policy</a> provide the framework for the provision of learning environments.</li> </ul>
16	<b>Issue: Loss of wildlife habitat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>I am against any further loss of wildlife habitat in the area</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An environmental impact assessment would be carried out alongside the proposal to build the new school and nursery.</li> <li>• Measures identified in the study as necessary to reduce impact on wildlife or mitigate the effects of the changes would be carried out as part of the project.</li> <li>• The impact on wildlife habitat would be assessed as part of the planning application.</li> </ul>
17	<b>Issue: Noise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>I live opposite the centre and do not want to hear kids screaming and shouting 5 days a week</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact on residential amenity would be assessed as part of the planning application.</li> </ul>
18	<b>Issue: High School Capacity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Means more kids funnelling into Porty High or CastleBrae, which are already oversubscribed</b></li> <li>• <b>What will inevitably happen you will suddenly put a high school there furthering the lack of green space</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Castlebrae Community Campus has been built with the intention of being expanded when the need arises.</li> </ul>

Question 8 – Give us your views on the proposal to close and relocate Greengables Nursery and Family Centre to the new school.

1	<b>Issue: Campus model</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Makes sense that everything is under one campus</b></li> <li>• <b>It would make sense to have everything in one place, with a new, modern space and access to school facilities</b></li> <li>• <b>Co-locating nursery / early years provision with a primary school and community centre can help streamline services, foster continuity between nursery and school, and perhaps provide one central hub for families. This can mean less travel, more joined-up working, and possibly more efficiency.</b></li> <li>• <b>Young children have poorer interactions and feel less safe in larger early years settings.</b></li> <li>• <b>Smaller standalone nurseries provide a safe place for children and parents</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new school site will provide children from Greengables Nursery with opportunities for more varied experiences and a larger peer group that can contribute to a quality learning experience.</li> <li>• It is anticipated that the children and families of Greengables Nursery would benefit from the close working relationship between the nursery and primary school, including the use of additional spaces within the school (e.g. the gym hall) and the adjacent facilities in the Jack Kane Community Centre and Jack Kane Sports Centre. This increase in the availability of space and access to facilities would enhance opportunities for children's experiences across the curriculum. This strong working relationship would also result in positive transition arrangements as children prepare to move on to Primary 1.</li> <li>• Greengables Nursery currently benefits from a high-quality outdoor space and recreating this quality and enhancing it to meet the standards achieved in new settings such as the new Maybury Primary School will be a focus for the design team.</li> <li>• The proposed nursery would be developed in two clusters of 64 pupils each.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Issue: Building condition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Greengables is run down already.</b></li> <li>• <b>Why demolish a building that has been in the area for many years and used by many.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The last condition survey of the Greengables facilities have identified more than £0.5M of work required to bring the facilities into good condition.</li> <li>• Furthermore, refurbishment of the current facilities may require a temporary closure or decant of the facilities to a different location.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Issue: Closure of existing facility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Greengables is a hidden gem, brilliant nursery with an amazing natured like garden. Would be sad to see it go.</b></li> <li>• <b>Would be better off investing in those learning places instead of relocating it entirely.</b></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>keep such services within centred clusters...extend existing buildings.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The value of Greengables Nursery is understood by the Council. It provides an excellent service and there is no desire to see this diminished. However, the existing facilities do have some suitability issues which would be hard to solve without a full building replacement.</li> <li>• A full replacement of the buildings on the current site may require a temporary closure or decant of the facilities to a different location.</li> <li>• The excellent outdoor facilities currently provided at Greengables Nursery are something the Council would seek to replicate and expand on at a new site.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Issue: Capacity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The move seems partially driven by rising demand in the area. A new centre might allow more children to be accommodated, potentially reducing waiting or mismatch in provision. It might also allow more flexibility in hours/wraparound care etc.</b></li> <li>• <b>it is long overdue and will probably be a welcome expansion for the growing area.</b></li> <li>• <b>more opportunities for nursery teachers within the area hoping to join and expand the children</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greengables nursery currently has a capacity for 50 pupils between the ages of 2 to 5.</li> <li>• The new nursery facilities at the Primary School would have capacity for 128 pupils between the ages of 2 to 5 and an additional 9 babies.</li> <li>• The additional capacity would reinforce the provision of early years place in the area responding to the additional demand generated by new housing in the area.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Issue: Transition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>It's important to ensure that families who currently rely on Greengables do not lose access to the valuable support and community services it provides.</b></li> <li>• <b>My main concern is ensuring that the staff currently working at Green Gables are protected</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greengables Nursery would be integrated into the new Early Years facility at the school.</li> <li>• It is assumed children attending Greengables Nursery when the new school opens would also transfer to the relocated nursery at the new school along with the current staff. However, parents would have a right to make choices about their nursery, subject to availability of places elsewhere.</li> <li>• Families who currently rely on Greengables could be given an improved level of support at the new site.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff would be given the opportunity to transfer to the new site.</li> </ul>
6	<b>Issue: Greengables current site</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Why can't you build the new school etc, on the site of the existing Greengables Nursery?</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial community engagement in 2023 sought views on locating a new primary school on the site of the Greengables Nursery School, as per the Urban Design Framework. However, this highlighted some concerns within the community due to the site's proximity to two multi-storey blocks of flats, Wauchope House and Greendykes House.</li> </ul>
7	<b>Issue Traffic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>It might add to traffic at tricky times but I would hope that this would be mitigated with no park zones and traffic management systems in Niddrie Mains Road.</b></li> <li>• <b>Better links to public transport and parking for the nursery.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic assessment studies would have to be carried out as part of the planning application for the construction of the new school and nursery. This would identify any measures, such as no parking zones and traffic management systems, required to mitigate the impact of the new school and nursery in the nearby road's infrastructure.</li> </ul>
8	<b>Issue: Loss of greenspace</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The relocation will take away the green space used by local youths and communities.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area of the building required for the new nursery would be about 650sqm, this represents about 0.25% of the whole park area.</li> <li>• The playground, while not an open space, would remain as greenspace space.</li> </ul>
9	<b>Issue: Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>This is not a good location for houses much further up the wisp.</b></li> <li>• <b>I'm just not convinced that the Council have really explored existing Brownfield sites.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A review and improvement of the local active travel routes would promote the use of active travel for pupils accessing their local school. This would also improve the connections between all areas of Craigmillar and Hunter's Hall Park.</li> <li>• Other locations within the Craigmillar area have been considered but they are not within The Council ownership, not compatible with The City Plan 2030, have been allocated to new housing or have other issues which make the site incompatible with the establishment of a new school and nursery.</li> <li>• Hunter's Hall Park has been selected as the preferential location after feedback from previous engagements.</li> </ul>

10	<b>Issue: Definition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The proposal remains undefined, abstract.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per the minimum legal standards of consultation, this consultation is being undertaken whilst the proposal is still at its formative stage. Further engagement and consultations would be carried out as the project develops in more detail.</li> </ul>
11	<b>Issue: Greengables site after</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>And what's going in its place? More houses?</b></li> <li>• <b>What then happens to Greengables and those buildings and land?</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No decision has been made about what would happen to the vacated Greengables Nursery site. The site and buildings would initially be offered to other Council services and then to partner organisations. A Community Asset transfer would also be considered. If no alternative use was identified, the site would most likely be marketed for sale.</li> </ul>
12	<b>Issue: new location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The travelling community lives there already and I want them to stay.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunter's Hall Park is not a designated Gypsy/Traveller site. Further information on designated gypsy/traveller sites can be found on the Scottish Government website: <a href="https://www.mygov.scot/gypsy-travellers">https://www.mygov.scot/gypsy-travellers</a></li> </ul>
13	<b>Issue: Loss of habitat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The creatures already living there deserve to not have their home disturbed either.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An environmental impact assessment would be carried out alongside the proposal to build the new school and nursery.</li> <li>• Measures identified in the study as necessary to reduce impact on wildlife or mitigate the effects of the changes would be carried out as part of the project.</li> <li>• The impact on wildlife habitat would be assessed as part of the planning application.</li> </ul>
14	<b>Issue: Closure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To build a new community for young children will take many years- if a new one is needed keep Greengables as a beacon of excellence and an example to follow for any other new nurseries in the area.</b></li> <li>• <b>Do not see the need, this is a highly valued and established part of the community no need to have this added to be destroyed. If additional early years places are needed this can be provided without the need to get rid of Greengable.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is assumed children attending Greengables Nursery when the new school opens would also transfer to the relocated nursery at the new school along with the current staff.</li> </ul>

		However, parents would have a right to make choices about their nursery, subject to availability of places elsewhere.
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Question 9 – Give us your views on the proposed school catchment changes.

<b>1</b>	<b>Issue: High School Catchment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New school should go under Portobello HS not Castlebrae. Community Campus since Castleview PS catchment is changing and they should go to Castlebrae CC where new school should have Portobello HS as catchment.</b></li> <li>• <b>I think there would be need for another non domination High School with a special educational needs base.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The areas included in the proposed catchment for the proposed primary school are currently within Castlebrae Community Campus catchment.</li> <li>• The Council is also in the initial stage of developing a strategy to gradually expand Castlebrae Community Campus to accommodate demand for additional spaces.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Issue: Catchment Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The new catchment should reflect how much the area has grown and make things easier for families who've moved into the new developments.</b></li> <li>• <b>I feel a bit weird having the houses that are next door to the park to not be in the catchment area of the new proposed school.</b></li> <li>• <b>The school catchment should not be just offered in consideration of people with children but rather for the community as a whole.</b></li> <li>• <b>We would like to be in catchment for the new school too as it will be the closest school to us but the new catchment will not include us which seems unfair.</b></li> <li>• <b>I don't think it is good for the community to be further fragmented. The fragmenting of the catchment areas mirrors the fragmenting of the park.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed new catchments have been defined in a way that make best use of existing and future capacity, is socially inclusive and maintains logical boundaries and safe routes to school. This means that catchments need to take into consideration not only geographical aspects but also capacity of existing schools to ensure these maintain a sustainable roll.</li> <li>• The proposed catchment for the new school takes into consideration, new, existing and future housing developments. It aims to serve the properties closest to the new school, including some of the older and newer developments in the area.</li> <li>• For pupils not wishing to attend their catchment school an out-of-catchment placing request can be made.</li> </ul>

3	<b>Issue: Map</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>I didn't really understand the map of which schools would be feeder / catchment schools to the secondary schools. I would prefer to see this written down.</b></li> <li>• <b>New catchment areas unclear.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 5 of the consultation paper includes a detailed description and plans of the proposed changes to catchments. Furthermore, the appendices 2 and 3 include enlarged versions of the existing and proposed catchment maps, and appendix 4 lists the addresses directly affected by the changes. The full consultation paper can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Issue: Transition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>It's important that any catchment changes are carefully planned to avoid disrupting families or splitting up established friendship groups and support networks. The transition process should be managed sensitively, with clear communication to parents and sufficient time for families to prepare.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal to change catchments have been defined taking into consideration feedback from local school community. This has also been directly communicated to existing parents and carers of children currently attending the local school and advertised for the wider community.</li> <li>• A sibling guarantee is also proposed as part the proposal for changes. This ensures that families with more than one child can keep siblings within the same school, even if this is no longer their catchment school.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Issue: Traffic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>It would mean more traffic coming into the area</b></li> <li>• <b>Yet more traffic on the road because kids aren't safe to walk a mile to school</b></li> <li>• <b>I am opposed to any increase in traffic from the Greendykes estate into the park to access any school as the estate is a safe haven for little children on their bicycles and scooters</b></li> <li>• <b>I think the proposed catchment changes are fair and will support parents and children with easier and quicker access to a school in my area, as the schools currently are a bit of walking distance like 15 minutes where hunters hall is closer.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The addition of a new school to the area would represent a reduction on the size of the existing primary school catchments and therefore reduce the distance between the school and pupils' homes. This combined with a review and improvement of the local active travel routes would promote the use of active travel for pupils accessing their local school. This change could even represent a reduction of traffic in the area, rather than an increase.</li> </ul>

6	<b>Issue: Neighbourhoods within catchment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not use Craigmillar/Niddrie again as a solution zone for all council's troubles place the school in Newcraighall where the new housing is developing and leave things as they are here</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal of a new primary school and nursery at Hunter's Hall Park is to address the demand for new spaces from new homes being developed within the areas of Craigmillar, Niddrie, Greendykes and the Wisp.</li> <li>• The new developments in Newcraighall will be served by a new 3 stream primary school and nursery, to be built within the area of the new developments and replace Newcraighall Primary School.</li> </ul>
7	<b>Issue: Size of new catchment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Far too large. Such an enormous Catchment Area strongly suggests that the proposed new school is not really necessary.</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The size of a school catchment is generally a reflection of the urban fabric of an area and not directly proportional to number of children leaving in an area.</li> <li>• The proposed catchment size is approximately in the median of other non-denominational primary school catchments in The City of Edinburgh region.</li> <li>• The proposed catchment also includes two large areas which are unlikely to be developed for housing as these are include in the Green Belt area and a Business and Industry Area</li> </ul>
8	<b>Issue: Brunstane Primary School Catchment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>People in Brunstane are happy with the school (...) Why travel to another school when the live in the Brunstane area already.</b></li> <li>• <b>As a resident of the jewel area this proposal puts our nearest primary and nearest secondary in our catchment which makes complete sense</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed catchment changes do not propose any changes to the homes in Brunstane area. The impact on Brunstane Primary School catchment would be to add the properties at the Jewel into the school catchment. The Primary School already accommodates some of the pupils living within the area, and it would have capacity to accommodate the remainder of the catchment pupils.</li> </ul>
9	<b>Issue: Loss of Greenspace</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Whatever happens with the catchments is irrelevant of the main problem which is you trying to take away green space not just from craigmillar / niddrie but from everyone</b></li> </ul>
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments relating to the loss of greenspace at the park fall outwith the scope of this question and have been addressed in other questions.</li> </ul>

# Record of Meeting

## **Proposal to Build a New non-denominational Primary School with Nursery and Early Years services in Hunter's Hall Park, Craigmillar**

**Public Consultation Meeting held at 6.30 pm, Thursday 12 November 2023, Castleview School, Edinburgh**

**Present: 3 members of the public**

**In Attendance:**

Tom Wood (Independent Chair);

Councillor James Dalglish (Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee);

City of Edinburgh Council Officers: Robbie Crockatt (Strategic Asset Planning Manager), Gillian O'Rourke (Quality Improvement Manager – Early Years), Gui Martins (Learning Estate Planning Officer) and Ashley Lowson (Assistant Committee Officer).

### **1. Introduction**

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Tom Wood introduced himself and advised that he had been invited by the City of Edinburgh Council as an independent person to chair the public consultation meeting. Mr Wood thanked everyone for coming along and explained his role as well as introducing the key officers in attendance. It was explained that the consultation would continue until the 09 December 2025, and the public had the opportunity to feed in comments until then.

The Schools (Consultation Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to conduct a public consultation. The public consultation would provide people with the opportunity to express their views and feed directly into the consultation process.

## 2. Presentation/Proposal

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The presentation considered the building of a new primary school and Early Years at Hunter's Hall Park, the closing and relocating of Greengables Nursery along with the associated proposals for catchments changes and removal of Common Good status. The presentation showed an artist's impression of the proposed plan which depicted the joining of the existing community and sports centre, the creation of the combined education buildings, the opening up of the park including improved surveillance and lighting along with the proposed competitive standard BMX track.

The consultation period is to remain open until 9 December 2025 and to date more than 5000 leaflets have been distributed to houses, local and partners organisation along with lampposts wraps, social media, television and press advertisements.

From the feedback received, Jack Kane's integral part in the local community was noted as was its current signs of degradation and room for improved facilities. Similarly, feedback in relation to Greengables Early Years and Castleview Primary School noted the degraded conditions of the buildings and need for improved facilities and increased spaces. The need to consider safety along with improved conditions in relation to Hunter's Park was also underlined.

The need for further community engagement prior to a planning application being lodged was noted. A further period of consultation and engagement would follow, likely to be after 19 April 2026.

It was noted that Castleview Primary School currently provides the community with the temporary capacity required while the catchment for Niddrie Mill Primary School currently exceeds the school capacity. The increased housing in the community along with the need to create capacity for the additional pupils this development will generate was underlined. The objectives of the proposals aim for a balanced capacity across the local primary school estate.

The Common Goods consultation is to remain ongoing for the 3 areas that have Common Good Status namely the Community, Sports and Education Centre, Landscape Play and Parking area and the cycling facilities. The Landscape Play and Parking area could return to Common Good status.

## 3. Questions/Comments

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### Question 1:

The presentation used words word like 'better areas' and 'better facilities' - who gets to define this. Who gets weight in determining what is a better or worse idea.

### Answer: 1

Engagement with the local community has facilitated a space for ideas to be shared and that process addressed things such as sports and social facilities and the need for improved security, and we would look to reflect this feedback in the design process. Following the engagement process, Elected Members will then decide whether to accept the recommendations or not.

**Question 2:**

I live in the flat that look onto the park and used to work in the Jack Kane Centre, and it has played a big part of my daily life. I believe it should be a listed building because it is such an integral part of the community. One of the strengths of the centre, and the reason many young people are drawn to it is because it is separate from the school. There are lots of examples of community centres being taken away and redesigned as schools or community hubs which can be beneficial however my concern is these new designs risk young people no longer using the centre. What will happen to the Jack Kane Community Centre?

**Answer 2:**

One of the reasons we are engaging so heavily with the community in relation to the Community Centre and Sports Centre specifically is to gain a clear understanding of how best to preserve the essence of the Jack Kane Centre into the new building. The need to retain the identity of the Community Centre and the Sports Centre as separate entities is recognised. Since Covid, the use of the Centre has dropped, and we want to see it's use increase and part of this is not to take away anything but to improve the facilities to bring more people to it as we recognise how valuable it is for a range of groups such as youth groups, parents and child groups.

In terms of bringing the school onto the site, it has been raised before how this may change the identity of the centre. We recognise this and central to our design is how to create this separation to maintain its identity. The feedback has been very clear that the Jack Kane Centre is not just bricks and mortar but an iconic building. However, the need for things like windows, a clear entrance to the front of the building, and concerns that it is not always obvious what the sports and community centres are and where the separate entrances are located have also been raised.

We want the facilities to work harder and bring more people to them whilst also maintaining their separate identities. Community Hubs can be subjective as they support a range of community functions, and we want to expand on this with our designs.

**Question 3:**

One of the main issues with the plan is that they are too vague, abstract and nebulous. How can the community agree to this if we don't even know what the proposal is. How can common good be revoked if we don't know what the proposal is?

**Answer 3:**

The current plans are just an outline, and everything is up for grabs however this makes the engagement process tricky as if we arrive with a complete design then the project runs the risk of being a 'fate complete' and people question what impact they can have whereas if we arrive with a blank slate, it feels too vague. To look at the design we need to know the parameters which is the reason for asking for the Common Good to be revoked so we can work within this area. You are correct to say the design is vague, but it is deliberately so otherwise the proposal to the community would be fixed.

**Question 4:**

Is it correct to say the crux of the matter is the capacity in schools hence why you are having to use Common Good land to increase the capacity in schools?

**Answer 4:**

Capacity is falling in this area as new houses are pushing up the population figures. Developmental plans have proposed a new school in this area for many years, but we are now at the point where this is a necessity. Given the requirements of the Jake Kane Centre, it makes sense to join the projects up by bringing the school and Community Centre together to form a synergy. Partly, there are capacity issues, but this is not the reason for choosing to invest in the Jack Kane Centre which is a structurally sound building but requires investment to bring the mechanics, engineering and electrics up to modern standards. Consideration is also being given to retrofitting the building to reduce its carbon output and footprint.

**Question 5:**

It feels like a paradox to talk about the Community Centre's carbon footprint when we are building more housing. Is talk about Net Zero just window dressing?

**Answer 5:**

No, Net Zero is one of the issues but it's also about a comfort standard and the condition and suitability of the building - we want the Jake Kane Centre to be an attractive environment but if the building is cold or it overheats then people are less inclined to go. Additionally, RAC is a ticking timebomb with enormous consequences.

**Question 6:**

Gillian, would you like to share your thoughts about the educational opportunities?

**Answer 6:**

Having a purpose build environment allows for creativity and an exciting learning space. Similarly, an outdoor space helps promote outdoor learning and this project could offer a fabulous outdoor space. Combining Early Years into the project offers a high-quality support transition to school which is a great benefit to children.

**Question 7:**

What I'm hearing is 'I think I think', but how do you know for certain? How do we know this is not just your opinion and you are acting in accordance with the benefactors of community. Have you considered AI implementation?

**Answer 7:**

Young people are entitled to come to school for a set period, and these proposals increase entitlement for Early Years and appropriate environments.

**Question 8:**

Given that we are transitioning into a new economy should schools not evolve with work life architecture where people are working from home on their own schedules. Should

schools not catch up and reflect this change and use of AI interfaces to reflect this transition.

**Answer 8:**

The curriculum is being modernised and with that schools are also embracing digital technologies however research shows that children need teachers and need to be in school to socialise and engage with learning. It is also important that learners are actively involved with highly skilled practitioners. There are a wide range of opportunities that young people would not get at home using AI.

**Question 9:**

We don't need to extract children entirely; I'm talking about slowly condensing of timetables with a few periods per week. Not an 'either or', with no engagement in school but not a 9-4/5 schedule either but instead a slow gradual deleveraging with AI interfacing to supplement learning, where young people still go to school and engage with tutors.

**Answer 9:**

This will happen naturally

**Question 10:**

I can see the benefits as it's a great location and one of the reasons why the Jack Kane Centre works so well. I want to mention that the Jack Kane has been quieter since covid not because no one wanted to come but due to funding. For example, a group I worked with ran out of funding and Jack Kane Centre kept going for as long as they could for the 13 young people every week, but it ultimately had to close due to a lack of funding and it's important to highlight that.

**Answer 10:**

One of things JK community management community have said is that during covid the Community Centre shut and groups that had used the space then went to other facilities such as church halls or into Midlothian etc and unfortunately these groups have never returned. What we want to do is provide an environment that attracts people back to the Jack Kane Centre.

**Question 11:**

I think a big part of why the Jack Kane Centre and other community centres are quieter is due to a lack of investment. As previously noted, when I worked at the Jack Kane centre the group was at capacity, but we could not continue due to funding restraints. I want to highlight this and the fact we have been developing schools since 20025 and it's concerning that in that time a school could have been build where houses have been built. I can't help but question why are we only building a school now after the houses have been built? It feels like a lack of forward planning and cost cutting.

**Answer 11:**

The relationship between new housing developments and the amenities needed to go with it is an interesting point in terms of to what extent building developers must contribute to statutory infrastructure such as GP surgeries, transport and education. It is important to

note that housing is not always sequential for example, the Newcraighall housing development did not materialise post financial crash. In terms of infrastructure, the risk is do we wait to build before or after the schools are unable to absorb the pressure from increased housing. We are now reaching this point. Scottish Government policy is to build the infrastructure first but sometimes the reality makes this a challenge to deliver because housing does not come forward at the right time and developers appeal with their need to fund infrastructure. I understand your frustration, and it is shared with the panel. The City Plan approach is not always helpful as we go through the frameworks, but we must make sure the housing will arrive.

**Question 12:**

I don't think the school should be waiting when private building is taking place. What are your thoughts on this?

Answer 12:

I don't know the details of the site and the needs of the area however if the school is needed, we will look at alternatives. The council are consulting on the next local delivery plan and if you are interested in principle, it is worth looking and contributing as this is a live consultation and will impact how the city is planned.

**Question 13:**

I work in this area and see examples all the time of the infrastructure point being reached. I understand the need to build houses and for land to be sold but the onus is on the developers to contribute to the infrastructure, which is seriously lacking, and this has been recognised for a long time. If you are ever on Niddrie Mains Road in the morning you will see how busy the roads are.

**Answer 13**

Yes, these same issues exist in the West side of the city, too unfortunately.

## **5. Conclusion**

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Mr Wood brought questions to a close and thanked everyone for all their contributions which were extremely valuable. Mr Wood reminded everyone that they had until the 09 December 2025 to make any further contributions on the website or in writing.

Mr Wood thanked everyone for coming and for the meeting

# Record of Meeting

## **Proposal to Build a New non-denominational Primary School with Nursery and Early Years services in Hunter's Hall Park, Craigmillar**

**Public Consultation Meeting held at 6.30 pm, Thursday 25 November 2025, Greengables Nursery, Edinburgh**

**Present: 5 members of the public**

**In Attendance:**

Tom Wood (Independent Chair);

City of Edinburgh Council Officers: Robbie Crockatt (Strategic Asset Planning Manager), Donna Murray (Head of Education Early Years Parents & Operations), Gui Martins (Learning Estate Planning Officer) and Carolanne Eyre (Assistant Committee Officer).

Apologies: Councillor James Dalgleish (Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee)

### **1. Introduction**

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Tom Wood introduced himself and advised that he had been invited by the City of Edinburgh Council as an independent person to chair the public consultation meeting. Mr Wood thanked everyone for coming along, explained his role and introduced the key officers in attendance. It was explained that the consultation would continue until the 09 December 2025, and the public had the opportunity to feed in comments until then.

The Schools (Consultation Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to conduct a public consultation. The public consultation would provide people with the opportunity to express their views and feed directly into the consultation process.

### **2. Presentation/Proposal**

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The Learning Estate Planning Officer presented on the proposal for the building of a new primary school with Early Years services at Hunter's Hall Park, which incorporated the relocation of the existing Greengables Nursery and the closure of its current building, along with the associated proposals for catchments changes and removal of Common Good status to some sections of the park.

The presentation showed an artist's impression of the proposed plan which depicted the joining of the existing community and sports centre, the creation of the combined

education buildings, the opening up of the park including improved surveillance and lighting along with the proposed competitive standard BMX track.

The consultation period is to remain open until 9 December 2025 and to date more than 5000 leaflets have been distributed to houses, and local partner organisations, there has been newspaper and social media advertisements and lampposts wraps installed.

From the feedback received, Jack Kane's integral part in the local community was noted as was its current signs of degradation and room for improved facilities. Similarly, in relation to Greengables Early Years and Castleview Primary School the degraded conditions of the buildings and need for improved facilities and increased spaces was noted. The need to consider safety along with improved conditions in relation to Hunter's Park was also noted.

The existing primary school catchment areas were presented; specifically, it was noted that Castleview Primary School currently provides the community with the temporary capacity required while the catchment for Niddrie Mill Primary School currently exceeds the school capacity. The increased housing in the community along with the need to create capacity for the additional pupils this development would generate was underlined and a proposal to create a new catchment area along with the realignment of boundaries was presented. The objectives of the proposals aim for a balanced capacity across the local primary school estate.

The Common Goods consultation is to remain ongoing in relation to making changes to the 3 areas with Common Good Status referred to as Community, Sports and Education Centre, Landscape Play and Parking area and the cycling facilities. The Landscape Play and Parking area could return to Common Good status.

The timeline which spanned from 2005 to present day, of the area redevelopment was also highlighted in the proposal. This included the Craigmillar Urban Design Framework from 2005 alongside the revised Craigmillar Urban Design Framework from 2013.

It is anticipated the outcome of the Statutory consultation reports would be considered: on 12 February 2026 at the Culture and Communities Committee in relation to Common Good, and on 19 March 2026 at City of Edinburgh Full Council in relation to Establishment of the new school and closure / relocation of Greengables Nursery. Should the proposal progress, the need for further community engagement prior to a planning application being lodged was noted.

### 3. Questions/Comments

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#### **Question 1:**

Why has there been no mention of St Francis Primary School – what will happen with that.

#### **Answer: 1**

The proposal / presentation is focused on non-denominational schools. There are no plans to make any changes to St Francis Primary School.

#### **Question 2:**

Why was a site not reserved at the New Greendykes area for a school, or why was the site at Greendykes Road identified as a possibility in 2005 not used instead.

**Answer 2:**

The Craigmillar Urban Design Framework of 2005 was revised in 2013 proposing that a new primary school be built on the site of the existing Greengables Nursery School. We are unable to provide the reason for that decision today but will look back to determine.

**Question 3:**

Can the proposed BMX track be moved to the area right of the Greenland – at the old Quarry, with access from car via City bypass and access from foot/bike from within the community.

**Answer 3:**

All suggestions and alternatives are welcome; officers would investigate this option.

**Question 4:**

What will be done about all the extra traffic, Niddrie Mains Road is already busy all day every day.

**Answer 4:**

The new school catchments are designed under “active travel”. The plan is to make the journeys for pupils shorter and safer, which may reduce traffic on the roads as cars would no longer be required to reach school.

**Question 5:**

Why was a site not reserved for a new school when land was sold to developers instead of the council having to use land with Common Good Status.

**Answer 5:**

We are unable to provide an answer at this time, officers will look further into the matter and get an answer on that question.

**Question 6:**

Can the location be moved to another area to avoid the removal of common good status

**Answer 6:**

The area south of the burn also has common good status, which ever location is used, there would be a need to apply to remove common good status.

**Question 7:**

The key issue relates to location and placement of the Jack Kane and how accessible it is. Those walking with kids and buggies will struggle, the journey needs to be considered.

**Answer 7:**

Jack Kane is loved but accessibility is challenging in terms of lighting and personal security. The rationale is most users come from the South and from the West over the

bridge. The Council want to make it more accessible and attractive with suitable facilities. This is one reason why the proposal is to invest in Jack Kane

**Question 8:**

The BMX track is competition standard; the locals won't get to use it.

**Answer 8:**

The BMX track is a real asset to draw people in, it is a competition standard track. The council want local people and local children to have access. A range of options will be available within the 9am-9pm, 7 days a week opening hours. Programmes are being considered to include free school use as part of the curriculum, as well as other sessions for a BMX club, coaching sessions and peer sessions. Many options are being considered.

**Question 9:**

The proposed area for the BMX track is in a very well used section of the park, why not locate to a completely different part of the city. If it is built, a bigger car park will also be needed.

**Answer 9:**

The car park size will be accessed and be built to match requirements. It will not be built any bigger than required.

**Question 10:**

The concern is the BMX track would not get much use in the winter; kids will be at school and adults at work. Will it be redundant.

**Answer 10:**

The BMX track is an all-year-round facility – with an all-weather track and floodlights. It has never been known for a track to see usage drop in the winter months.

**Question 11:**

Could we utilise AI for capacity concerns and use portacabins as buffers until everything is up and running. I have an 82 page document with information. There was a case study that had shown how 2 years of learning could be condensed into six weeks. Could the curriculum be reduced to 3.5 days per week with teachers still working 5 days. This would help with capacity issues.

**Answer 11:**

It would be good to see the information in detail, please send in an electronic version.

**Question 12:**

How many people have engaged in the process, as I feel a lot more people have come to the White house and moaned about it than the amount of people who have attended meetings.

**Answer 12:**

Lots of people make comments online, and this is not the end of the process. Public engagement is not for moaning – it is for radical ideas. 5000 leaflets have been issued,

posters are in schools, the library and Tesco's. 50 lampposts have been wrapped, social media posts made and newspapers adds issued. The council is trying to spread the word while trying to not spend to much of public funds on advertising.,

**Question 13:**

How will I get an answer to my question about the site not being some where else.

**Answer 13**

Please leave contact details with the minute taker – the answers will also be shown on the outcome report.

**Question 14:**

There is a piece of land at Greendykes not being used, at Milligan Drive next to the number14 bus terminus. Can we use that instead?

**Answer 14:**

Officers will have a look at this suggestion and also will look at all other sites that have already been considered, providing a response as to why they are not being proposed in the consultation response.

## **5. Conclusion**

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Mr Wood brought questions to a close and thanked everyone for all their contributions which were extremely valuable. Mr Wood reminded everyone that they had until the 09 December 2025 to make any further contributions on the website or in writing.

Mr Wood thanked everyone for coming and for their contributions.

## Appendix 4. Pupil Workshop Summary and Feedback

# HUNTER'S HALL PARK SCHOOL AND COMMON GOOD CONSULTATION – PUPIL ENGAGEMENT REPORT

## 1. Introduction

This report outlines the findings from the pupil engagement sessions conducted as part of the Hunter's Hall Park School and Common Good Consultation (known to some children as Jack Kane Park and Centre). This engagement forms part of the overall considerations for the proposals in the park, which includes a primary school and nursery, investment in the Community and Sports Centres, and consideration of an existing proposal to install a BMX track in the park.

## 2. Engagement Objectives

The main objectives of the engagement were:

- To gather insights and feedback from local pupils regarding the proposals to build new primary school and competition standard BMX track in Hunters Hall Park.

To discuss pupils' journey to Hunters Hall Park and gather feedback about what they like and/ or dislike.

## 3. Methodology

Engagement activities were carried out across a range of schools to capture diverse perspectives.

Sessions were predominantly focussed on P6 and P7 in primary schools and S1 and S2 in the secondary school.

The schools visited are listed below:

Date	Location	Group
13 January 2026	Niddrie Mill Primary School	Focus group – P6 & P7
14 January 2026	St Francis RC Primary School	Focus group – P6 & P7
14 January 2026	St Francis RC Primary School	After school club P4
15 January 2026	Castlebrae Community Campus	S1 & S2
15 January 2026	Castleview Primary School	P7 classes

The following section provides an overview of the activities that were carried out with pupils at the four schools. The engagement sessions at each school took approximately 30 minutes.

## Introduction and Overview

The project team provided an introduction and overview of the project and answered any initial questions from the pupils. Following the introduction, all pupils were given a printed worksheet that outlined the purpose of engagement.

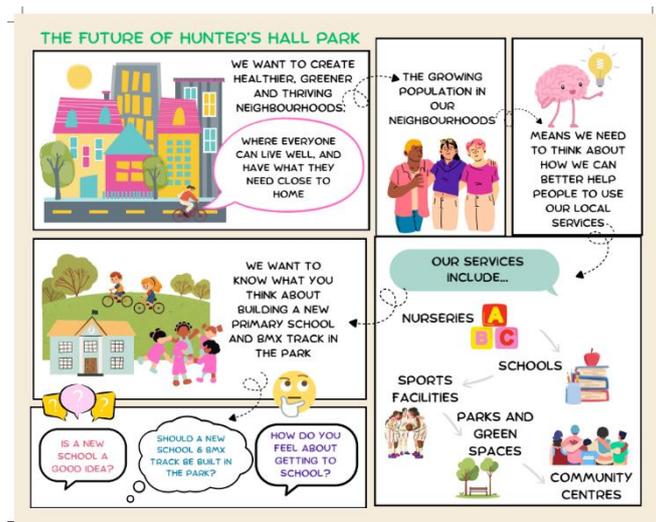


Figure 1: Engagement Worksheet

## Activity 1

After a brief overview of the project, pupils were asked to provide views on the plans to build a new primary school and BMX track in the park, utilising maps, post it notes, pens and discussion.



Figure 2: Activity 1 Materials

## Activity 2

Pupils were asked if they thought Hunters Hall Park was a suitable location for a new primary school. Pupils were encouraged to think about their journey to the park and what the like/ dislike. Feedback was provided in the form of discussion, pictures and written comments.



Figure 3: Activity 2 Materials and example of feedback gathered

## Activity 3

Following activity one and two, pupils were asked to independently complete a paper based survey to provide their feedback on the Hunters Hall Park proposals. In total, 79 pupils completed the survey. *\*Activity three was not carried out with all pupils at the four schools due to time constraints.*

# 4. Engagement Feedback

This section of the report details the outputs and overall findings from the pupil engagement.

# Activity 1 Feedback: Niddrie Mill Primary School

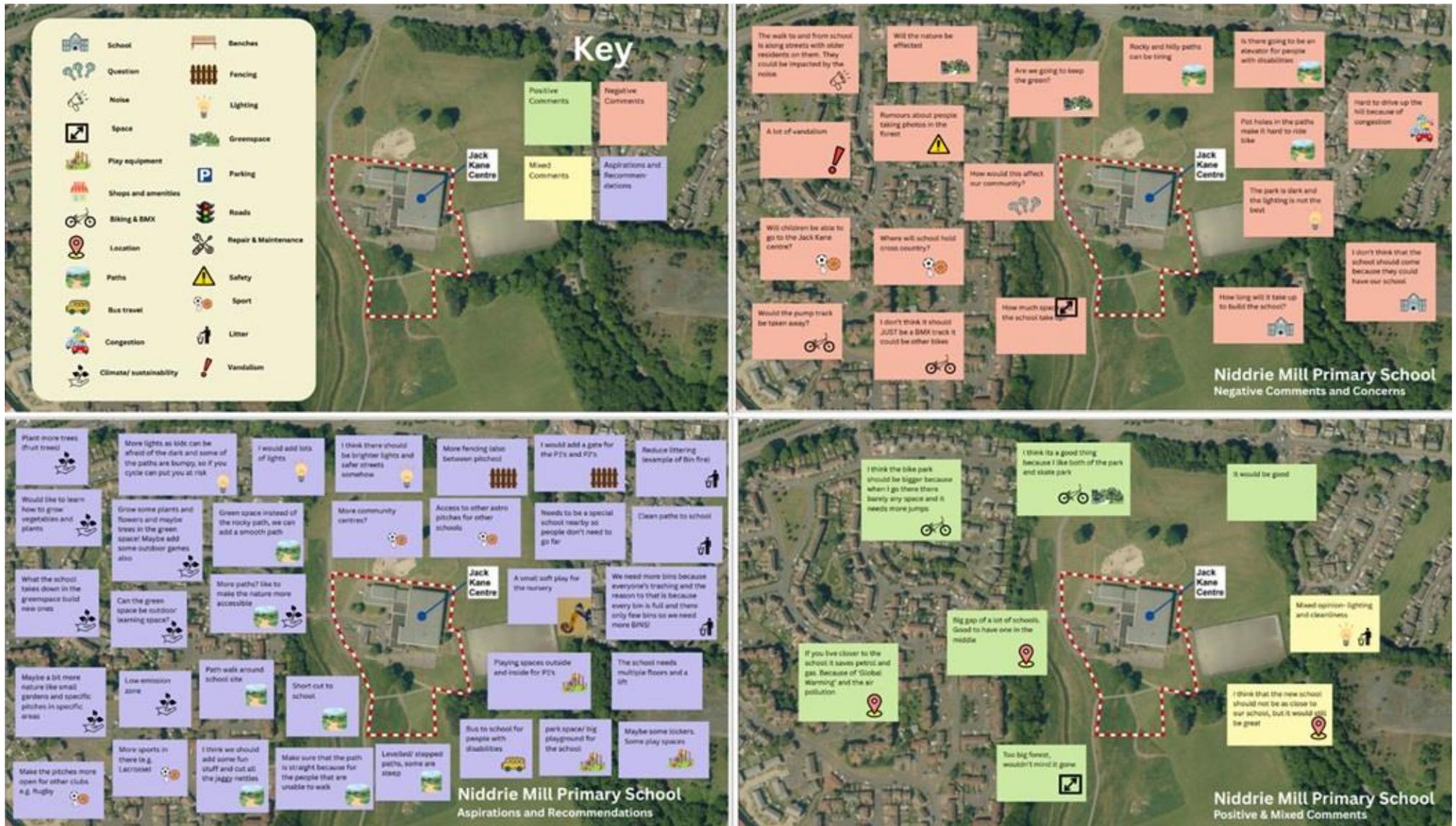


Figure 4: Niddrie Mill Primary School Pupil Feedback

# Activity 1 Feedback: St Francis RC Primary School

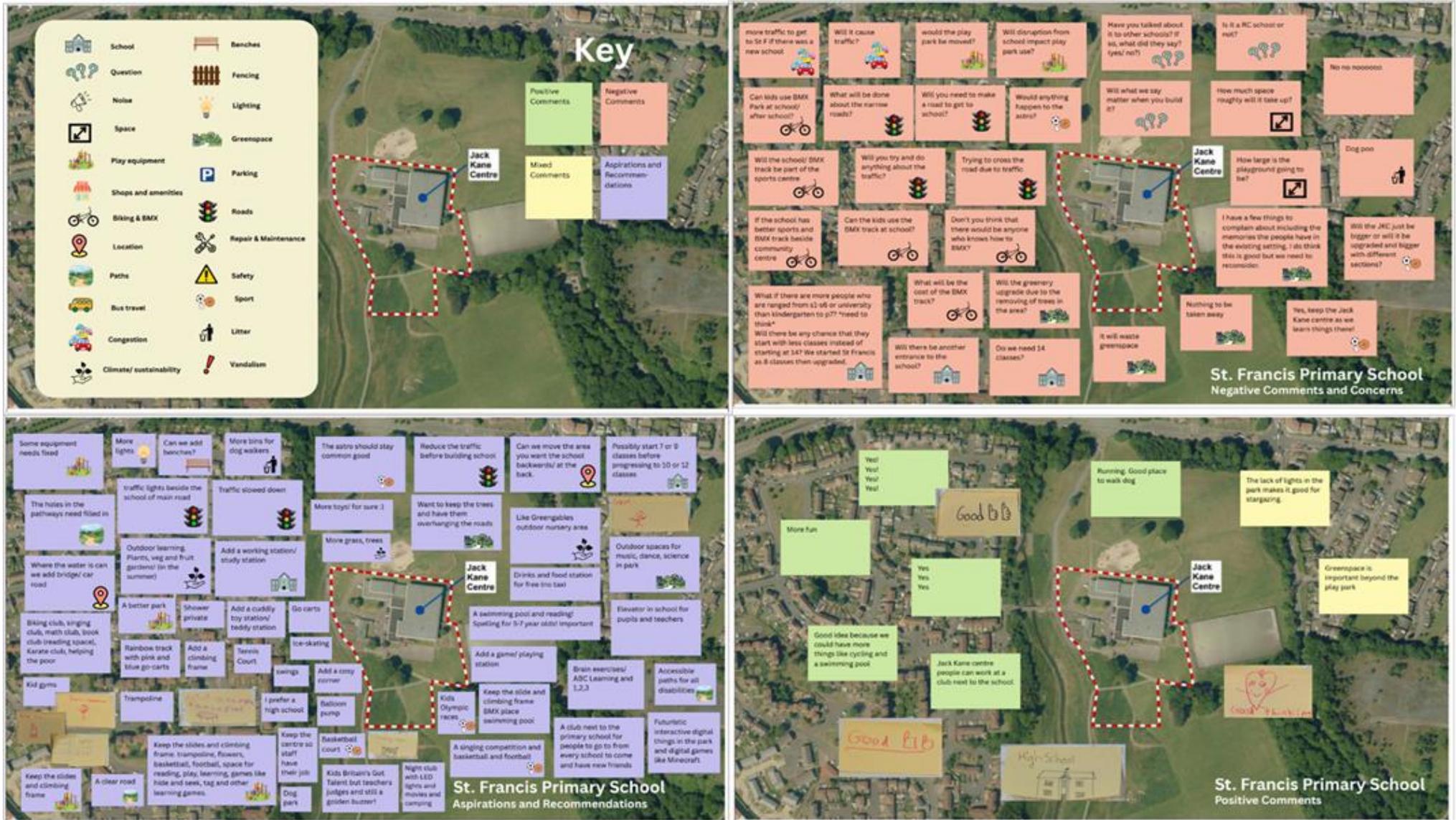


Figure 5: St. Francis RC Primary School Pupil Feedback

# Activity 1 Feedback: Castlebrae Community Campus



Figure 6: Castlebrae Community Campus Pupil Feedback



# Activity 1 Summary

## Castleview Primary School

Most pupils were generally supportive of the proposal to build a BMX track in the park as they felt it would provide an additional activity venue for them in the local community. Pupils had queries about access, cost and equipment, with some expressing the desire to use their own mountain bikes on the track.

Pupils commented on the need for a new primary school, sharing their thoughts that the current schools are reaching capacity, new housing is being built in the area, and the importance of education for local children. However, there were mixed opinions about the proposed location of the school. While some pupils shared that the proposed location would be a good use of space and convenient for play, others shared that they would prefer that part of the park was not taken away as it is a space used and enjoyed by the community. Some pupils suggested improvements to their own school, rather than building a new facility.

## Niddrie Mill Primary School

While a small number of pupils shared positive comments, several pupils wrote down questions about the proposals on their post it notes. Pupils asked how the proposed school and BMX track would impact nature, access to the Jack Kane Centre, the existing pump track, local cross-country races, and the wider community.

When discussing the suitability of the park location, pupils commented on congestion and the condition of the current paths. Pupils also shared concerns about safety, noise, vandalism, and poor lighting in the park.

## Castlebrae Community Campus

While some pupils commented on the need for a new primary school in response to population growth, others shared that they don't see the need due to the number of existing schools nearby.

Opinions on the BMX track were varied, some pupils thought it was a good idea and commented that the track could offer an opportunity to learn a new sport, attract visitors and improve the look of the park. Others had questions about cost, access, and shared concerns that the track could be distracting for pupils in the school.

When discussing the location of the school in the park, pupils shared comments about safety, particularly the proximity of the schools to roads and the need for fencing to separate the school from the park. Pupils also shared comments relating to vandalism and littering in the park and the impact this could have on the primary school. Pupils commented on the potential loss of greenspace and shared that the park is a place that is enjoyed by the community.

## St. Francis Primary School

Pupils at St Francis shared several aspirations and recommendations for what they would like to see in the park. These suggestions varied greatly, some comments

mentioned the desire for more play equipment, a basketball court, outdoor spaces for learning and play, and the reduction in traffic in and around the park.

When discussing the proposals, pupils shared the impact the proposed new school could have on traffic, congestion and crossing roads. Pupils also had queries about access to the BMX track and the associated costs.

Finally, pupils noted down questions about how much space the school and BMX track would take up, and whether this would have an impact on greenspace, the play park, astro turf pitch, and the Jack Kane Centre.

## Activity 2 Comments

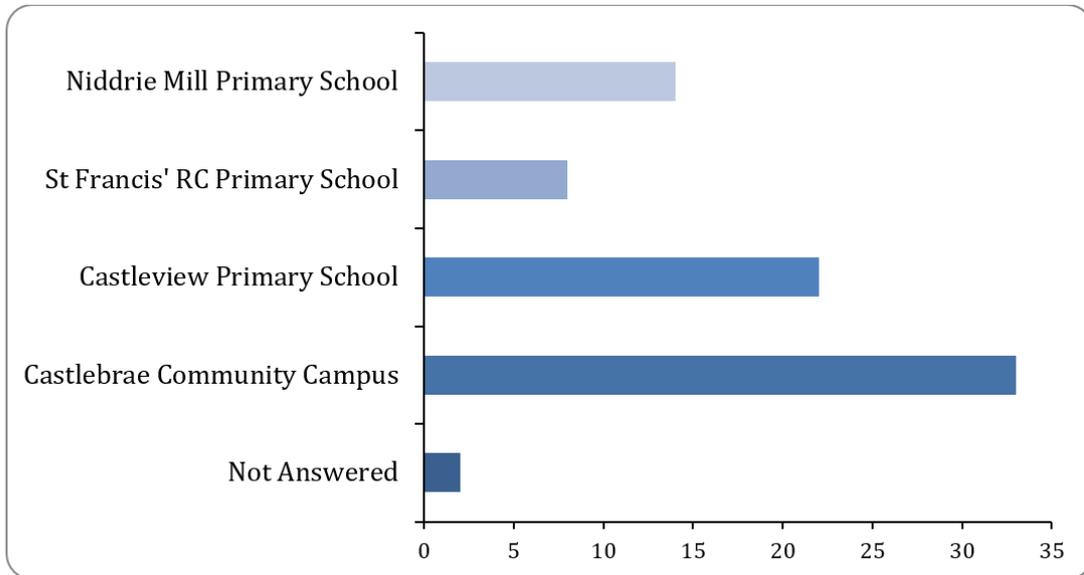


Figure 8: Comments from pupils regarding how they would like to get to the park. Comments have been collated from all schools.

## Activity 3 Survey Findings

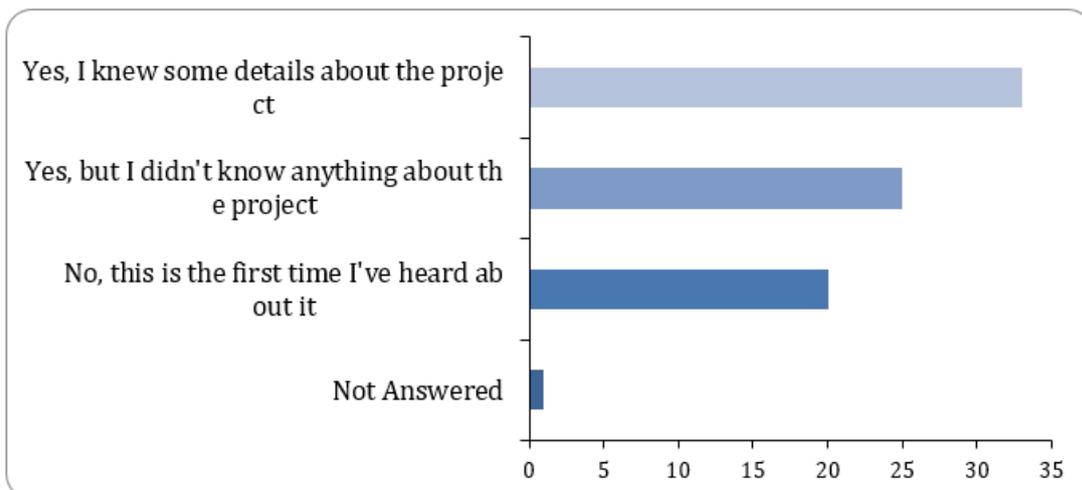
79 paper surveys were completed by pupils from the groups that were consulted.

The table below indicates which school the pupils attend.



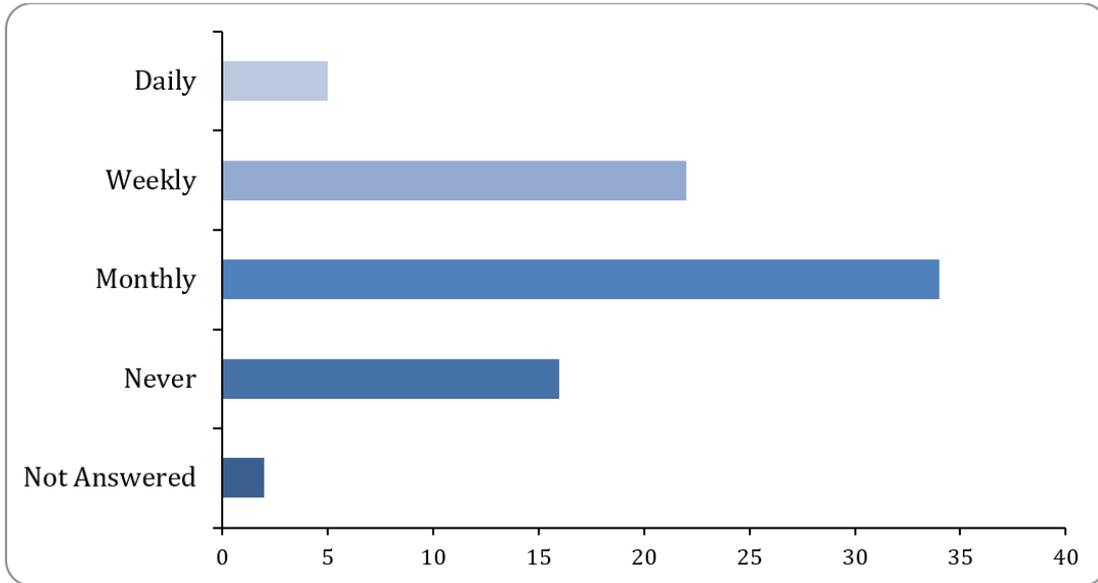
### Before today, did you know about our plans to build a new primary school and BMX track at Hunters Hall Park?

79 pupils responded to this question and 42% said they knew some details about the project, 32% said they were aware but didn't know anything about the project, 25% confirmed that this was the first time they had heard about it and 1% didn't answer.



### How often do you visit Hunter's Hall Park?

79 pupils responded to this question. 6% indicated they went daily, 28% indicated they went weekly, 43% indicated they went monthly, 20% indicated they never went and 3% did not answer.



### What do you use the park for?

We had a number of different responses to this question. Some of the most popular responses have been listed below:

- Playing
- The park
- Football
- Walking
- Meeting friends
- Meet family
- Don't use the park
- Pump track

**Pupils were asked how much they agree or disagree with the statements listed below.**

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Answered
My school has enough space for more pupils coming from the new homes being built in the area.	7.6%	19.0%	36.7%	16.5%	19.0%	1.3%
A new primary school is needed in the area	24.1%	29.1%	22.8%	13.9%	8.9%	1.3%
Hunter's Hall Park is the right place for a new primary school to be built	11.4%	24.1%	29.1%	20.3%	13.9%	1.3%
It's important for me to be able to bus, walk, wheel and cycle to school	51.9%	26.6%	12.7%	1.3%	5.1%	2.5%
If a new primary school is built at Hunter's Hall Park, pupils should go to Castlebrae Community Campus	12.7%	26.6%	26.6%	13.9%	19.0%	1.3%
I like the idea of having a BMX track at Hunter's Hall Park	46.8%	26.6%	12.7%	7.6%	3.8%	2.5%
I would be affected by the change in greenspace if a new school and BMX track was built at Hunter's Hall Park	10.1%	16.5%	20.3%	31.7%	20.3%	1.3%

**Other Comments - 11 of the 79 pupils responded to this part of the survey and their comments are shown below**

'Can you make a road where the water is bridge/water/road.'

'the astro should be open before 7am'

'Make BMX track double as a motorcross on the school days'

'The people need to take into account how much Niddrie is attached to it and how it has been expanding for so long.'

'I grew up in Jack Kane. I don't think I would like it as a school. No thanks.'

'I don't see the point of a new primary school tbh.'

'Just a bit of tidying and a river for the school kids and nursery'

'Will the greenery be upgraded due to the removing of trees in the area.'

'I don't want the school to take the play park'

'I don't know if there should be a new school'

'There could be more roads preventing traffic.'

## **Appendix 5. Sibling Guarantee**

A sibling guarantee is a guarantee that a pupil living in an area of catchment that has been realigned with a different primary school or secondary school; but who wishes to attend their original catchment school because they have a sibling already attending that school; will be afforded the same rights as a pupil living in the catchment area of their original schools if:

- they can demonstrate that they were resident in the realigned catchment area at the time the catchment changes were implemented; and
- that they continue to reside in the area of realigned catchment area; and
- that they have an older sibling who will be attending the school they wish to attend at the time they would start in P1 or S1 at that school; and
- the older sibling was placed in the school as a catchment pupil; or received a place due to an older sibling attending that school.

Additionally, it should be noted that:

- a sibling guarantee only applies to pupils entering school at P1 or S1 stages;
- any requests for places at stages other than P1 or S1 will be subject to standard placing processes and will be dependent on the requested stage being offered at that school;
- all other requests for places not covered by the criteria above will be subject to standard placing processes.

## **Appendix 6. His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland Report**



# **Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**

**Report by HMIE addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The City of Edinburgh Council to remove Common Good status from sections of Hunter's Hall Park, establish a new non-denominational primary school and nursery and early years services (incorporating the existing Greengables Nursery) and close Greengables Nursery School.**

December 2025

## 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 The City of Edinburgh Council to remove the Common Good status from sections of Hunter's Hall Park, establish a new non-denominational primary school with nursery and early years services (incorporating the existing Greengables Nursery) and close Greengables Nursery 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 nursery and schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

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

- attendance at the public meetings held on 13 and 25 November 2025 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 Castlebrae High School, Castlevie Primary School, Niddrie Mill Primary School and Greengables Nursery School including discussion with relevant consultees.

## 2. Consultation process

2.1 The City of Edinburgh Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The consultation ran from 7 October until 9 December 2025. Two public meetings were held on 13 and 25 November 2025 and were attended by eight members of the public in total.

Three information sessions were also offered to the public. There were 92 responses to the public consultation. In addition, the council received one email response and 21 comments via flyers distributed to the public. There are mixed views about the proposals from the respondents. Whilst the majority are in favour of a new school being built on the proposed site, many respondents expressed concern about the loss of the Common Good status and green space. Several respondents also expressed concerns about increases in traffic in the area, and the establishment of the BMX track.

### **3. Educational aspects of proposal**

3.1 The principal educational benefit outlined by the council is that the proposal addresses future sufficiency and sustainability issues at Castleview and Niddrie Mill Primary Schools. This is part of the council's aim to provide primary school places for all catchment children. Should the proposal go ahead, there will be a reduction in pupils in the longer term at Castleview Primary School, allowing for the removal of temporary accommodation currently in place. The educational benefit to pupils outlined by the council is that they will benefit from a state of the art learning environment designed to be accessible to all. The council also thinks that the amended catchments allow for a better distribution of pupils between the three primary schools whilst maintaining the socio-economic diversity of the area. The council thinks that establishing of nursery accommodation could provide children at Greengables Nursery School with opportunities for more varied learning experiences in a larger peer group. It may also provide a seamless transition from nursery to primary one.

3.2 HM Inspectors agree that there are potential educational benefits to the proposal. Extensive housebuilding is impacting heavily on the wider Craigmillar area which, unlike other parts of Edinburgh, has an increasing birth rate. Whilst primary school rolls across Edinburgh are falling, the rolls of Craigmillar primary schools are projected to rise. The construction of a new primary school should go some way to ensuring that children are educated in their local area and in the longer term, reduce the pressure on existing primary schools. A new building with up to date facilities also has the potential to provide a high quality learning environment for children and staff. HM Inspectors also agree that the inclusion of Greengables Nursery School on the same site as the new school should help to facilitate a smooth transition into primary one. Whilst Greengables Nursery School currently provides a positive learning experience for pre-school children, the building is outdated and requires some upgrading.

3.3 Almost all stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors agree with the proposal to establish a new primary school at Hunter's Hall Park. Stakeholders from Castleview and Niddrie Mill Primary Schools welcome the move. Headteachers and staff recognise the potential pressure on school rolls in future should the proposal not go ahead. This is of particular concern at Castleview Primary School where teaching and learning space is at a premium. Staff at Castleview feel they have very strong relationships with children and parents. They are concerned that if pupil numbers continue to increase, the scope for nurture and other support may be limited by the size of the building.

3.4 Stakeholders at Greengables Nursery School who met with HM Inspectors agree with the proposal. Staff and parents recognise the potential of a new nursery building attached to Hunter's Hall Primary School. They think it will help with the transition from nursery to primary one. Although a few staff feel that the use of the garden at the current site would be a loss, they

recognise that there is potential to make use of the green space around the proposed location of the new school.

3.5 Almost all stakeholders agree with the proposal to amend the school catchments. Staff and a few parents who met with HM Inspectors agree that, in the longer term, this should lead to a more equitable distribution of children and young people across Craigmillar schools. Staff at Castlebrae High School welcome the proposal. They feel it is important that children and young people are educated within their community and that there is potential to strengthen already positive cluster working between schools. Young people at Castlebrae High School are mostly positive about the proposals. They are proud of their school and want it to continue to grow.

3.6 Whilst almost all stakeholders that met with HM Inspectors are in favour of the council's proposals to establish the new school, a few are concerned about the removal of the Common Good status. A significant number of those who responded to the public consultation also expressed concerns. Although most of those who responded see the benefits of upgrading the Jack Kane Centre, several members of the public have reservations about the development of the BMX track and potential anti-social behaviour. A few stakeholders are also concerned about traffic congestion on the main road through Craigmillar.

## **4. Summary**

HM Inspectors agree that there are potential educational benefits to this proposal. The majority of stakeholders are positive about the establishment of the new primary school and recognise that, in the longer term, it should help address future sustainability issues in primary schools. The inclusion of Greengables Nursery School on the same site as the new primary school is welcomed by almost all stakeholders. HM Inspectors agree that there are potential educational benefits for the nursery to be located on the new site, particularly in relation to transition arrangements. Realigning school catchments is also broadly welcomed by stakeholders. HM Inspectors agree that this has the potential to provide school places for all catchment children. Whilst not related directly to educational benefits, the council should have regard to the strong local feeling about the removal of the Common Good status, traffic congestion and the establishment of the BMX track.

**HM Inspectors**

**December 2025**