

West Lothian Council

Public Consultation Meeting

Proposal to Review Non-Denominational
Primary to Secondary School Alignment in
the Livingston and Almond Valley Core
Development Area



Introductions

Councillor Andrew McGuire – Executive Councillor for Education

Andrew Cotton – Senior Education Planning Officer

Lisamaria Purdie – Interim Head of Education (Primary, Early Learning and Resources)

Siobhan McGarty – Head of Education (Secondary, Community Learning and Inclusion)

Catherine Campbell – Education Officer



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Aims of Session
- Summary of Proposal
- Rationale for Change
- Planning Background
- Consultation Options
- Admission Arrangements
- School Transport
- Status of Proposals
- Next Steps
- Discussion Opportunity



Aims of Consultation Meeting

- Non-statutory pre-consultation
- Information sharing opportunity
- Capture views from consultees



Summary of Proposal

West Lothian Council's proposals to address the projected capacity deficit at West Calder High School.

Enable consultees to understand potential costs and risks of the alternative options.

Help decide on what option(s) statutory consultation should be undertaken in 2026.



Rationale for change

West Calder High School has an extended capacity of 1320, which is based on an S1 intake of 240.

The six associated primary schools have a total year group capacity of 310, significantly in excess of the maximum year group capacities at West Calder High School of 240.

Current year group rolls across the feeder primary schools, plus St Mary's (Polbeth) are already in excess of this 240 yeargroup capacity and forecast to grow.



School Roll Forecasts

West Lothian Council Education Executive approves School Roll Forecasts each year based on actual children attending school; past school choice demand patterns; NHS data on pre school aged children; and expected house building completions.

Forecast S1 and Total demand at West Calder High School with no intervention:

Year	S1	Total
2025	244	1253
2026	293	1316
2027	290	1363
2028	342	1487
2029	316	1593

The projected roll is forecast to rise to 2146 by 2034, the end of the current forecast period, if no action is taken.



Planning Background

The Calderwood, Raw Holdings, Mossend, Cleugh Brae and Gavieside areas have been allocated for development since the 2009 Local Plan and are expected to jointly deliver additional non-denominational secondary capacity.

One infrastructure investment option identified in the Local Plan was a new Secondary School in East Calder.

In 2013 Calderwood was consented for 2300 units. Consents have also been issued for 680 units at Raw Holdings (2012-2021) and 330 units at Mossend (2016-2022). Cleuch Brae and Gavieside do not yet have consents.



Planning Background

£10.8M of non-denominational secondary contributions have been collected so far:

- £4.5M from Raw Holdings (East Calder PS catchment)
- £3.8M from Calderwood (Calderwood PS catchment)
- £2.1M from Mossend (Parkhead PS catchment)
- £0.4M from New Calder Paper Mill (Mid Calder PS catchment)

A further £38.5M of non-denominational secondary contributions may be collected in future if consented and allocated sites build out as expected:

- £2.9M from Raw Holdings / Oakbank (East Calder PS catchment)
- £14.3M from Calderwood (Calderwood PS catchment)
- £2.1M from Mossend / Cleuch Brae (Parkhead PS catchment)
- £1.2M from Mid Calder Riverside (Mid Calder PS catchment)
- £18M from Gavieside (Meldrum PS / Gavieside PS catchment)



West Calder High School Extension

- A decision to spend the non-denominational secondary contributions on an extension at West Calder High School was made by councillors at a meeting of West Lothian Council on 21 February 2023 that specified the 10 Year Capital Investment Strategy 2023/24 to 2032/33.
- The extension opened in August 2025 with a project budget of £11.2M, fully utilising all non-denominational secondary contributions collected to date. It gives an extended capacity of 1320 (up from 1100 pupils).

Option 1 - Move Calderwood Primary School Catchment to The James Young High School

- The catchment of Calderwood Primary School would be removed from West Calder High School and instead associated with The James Young High School.
- Additional accommodation at The James Young High School may be required to accommodate the children from Calderwood Primary School.

School	Capacity	Planned S1 Entry	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35
West Calder High School	1,320	240	782	810	861	893	965	1,018	1,054	1,110	1,164	1,192	1,228
Inveralmond High School	1,320	240	1,364	1,362	1,342	1,333	1,285	1,260	1,225	1,217	1,207	1,190	1,164
James Young High School	1210/1650	220 / 300	1,102	1,161	1,230	1,322	1,440	1,530	1,581	1,619	1,639	1,646	1,670
Winchburgh Academy	660	120	280	330	387	460	550	645	723	800	866	910	952
Total in above schools	4510 / 4950	820 / 900	3,528	3,663	3,820	4,008	4,240	4,453	4,582	4,746	4,875	4,938	5,014
Total West Lothian	14960 / 15400	2720 / 2800	12,364	12,475	12,649	12,766	12,928	13,058	13,092	13,058	13,039	12,966	12,940

This table shows the number of children forecast to live in each school catchment with a split of 80%/20% between the non-denominational and denominational sectors. It is not a forecast scenario.

- A potential extension of 440 pupils has been modelled with an opening date of 2029. This can be delivered within existing school grounds and initial assessment shows likely compliance with planning and education requirements can be achieved.

Option 1 - Costs

- An indicative capital cost of £25M has been calculated based on an indicative floorspace and using Scottish Futures Trust metrics and construction inflation assumptions.
- As current non-denominational secondary contributions are fully assigned this capital cost would require borrowing by the council.
 - 15 years borrowing £38m total borrowing cost
 - 25 years borrowing £49M total borrowing cost.
- Total costs of £38M are potentially fundable entirely from developer contributions if borrowed over 15 years.
- Additional revenue costs of an extended school are estimated at £0.7M per year.
- Transportation costs similar to West Calder High School.

Option 2 - Move Calderwood Primary School Catchment to Winchburgh Academy

- The catchment of Calderwood Primary School would be removed from West Calder High School and instead associated with Winchburgh Academy.
- Additional accommodation at Winchburgh Academy will be required to accommodate the children from Calderwood Primary School.

School	Capacity	Planned S1 Entry	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35
West Calder High School	1,320	240	782	810	861	893	965	1,018	1,054	1,110	1,164	1,192	1,228
Inveralmond High School	1,320	240	1,364	1,362	1,342	1,333	1,285	1,260	1,225	1,217	1,207	1,190	1,164
James Young High School	1,210	220	926	940	960	979	1,020	1,054	1,050	1,031	999	980	947
Winchburgh Academy	660 / 1100	120 / 200	456	551	657	803	970	1,122	1,253	1,388	1,505	1,577	1,675
Total in above schools	4510 / 4950	820 / 900	3,528	3,663	3,820	4,008	4,240	4,453	4,582	4,746	4,875	4,938	5,014
Total West Lothian	14960 / 15400	2720 / 2800	12,364	12,475	12,649	12,766	12,928	13,058	13,092	13,058	13,039	12,966	12,940

This table shows the number of children forecast to live in each school catchment with a split of 80%/20% between the non-denominational and denominational sectors. It is not a forecast scenario.

- A potential extension of 440 pupils has been modelled with an opening date of 2029. This can be delivered within existing school grounds and initial assessment shows likely compliance with planning and education requirements can be achieved.

Option 2 - Costs

- An indicative capital cost of £25M has been calculated based on an indicative floorspace and using Scottish Futures Trust metrics and construction inflation assumptions.
- As current non-denominational secondary contributions are fully assigned this capital cost would require borrowing by the council.
 - 15 years borrowing £38m total borrowing cost
 - 25 years borrowing £49M total borrowing cost.
- Total costs of £38M are potentially fundable entirely from developer contributions if borrowed over 15 years.
- Additional revenue costs of an extended school are estimated at £0.7M per year.
- Transportation costs £8K-£40K more per year than West Calder High School.

Option 3 – Establish a new East Calder High School

- The catchment of Calderwood Primary School would be removed from West Calder High School and instead associated with a new East Calder High School. In addition, East Calder Primary School and/or Mid Calder Primary School could also be associated with a new East Calder High School.

School	Capacity	Planned S1 Entry	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35
West Calder High School	1,320	240	474	497	529	548	581	589	593	606	627	644	683
Inveralmond High School	1,320	240	1,364	1,362	1,342	1,333	1,285	1,260	1,225	1,217	1,207	1,190	1,164
James Young High School	1,210	220	926	940	960	979	1,020	1,054	1,050	1,031	999	980	947
Winchburgh Academy	660	120	280	330	387	460	550	645	723	800	866	910	952
new East Calder HS	660 / 990	120 / 180	484	533	602	689	805	906	991	1,092	1,177	1,215	1,268
Total in above schools	5170 / 5500	940 / 1000	3,528	3,663	3,820	4,008	4,240	4,453	4,582	4,746	4,875	4,938	5,014
Total West Lothian	15620 / 15950	2840 / 2900	12,364	12,475	12,649	12,766	12,928	13,058	13,092	13,058	13,039	12,966	12,940

This table shows the number of children forecast to live in each school catchment with a split of 80%/20% between the non-denominational and denominational sectors. It is not a forecast scenario.

- Potential new school options of 660 and 990 pupils have been modelled with an opening date of 2030.
- The child address data scenario table above shows that a 990 school would be immediately under capacity pressure from the date of opening in 2030 and would have insufficient capacity to accommodate all non-denominational children from Mid Calder, East Calder and Calderwood.
- It is likely that either Mid Calder PS or East Calder PS children (or both) would have to remain associated with West Calder High School.

Option 3 - Costs

- Indicative capital costs of £82M (660) and £90M (990) have been calculated based on an indicative floorspace and using Scottish Futures Trust metrics and construction inflation assumptions.
- As current non-denominational secondary contributions are fully assigned this capital cost would require borrowing by the council.
15 years borrowing £124M for 660 and £160M for 990 - total borrowing cost.
25 years borrowing £136M for 660 and £175M for 990 - total borrowing cost.
- Total costs are not fundable from future developer contributions and would require a financial contribution from the council of £85M - £136M in addition to future developer contributions.
- Additional revenue costs of an extended school are estimated at £2.9M per year for a 660 school and £4.3M for a 990 school.
- Transportation costs could eventually be £500K per year less than West Calder High School by 2036-2038.

Option 3 – Implications for West Calder High School

- If the new East Calder High School were to include Mid Calder and East Calder children as well as Calderwood it would lead to West Calder High School having an excess of capacity. West Calder High School would only have sufficient catchment children to operate at 51% capacity and across the south Livingston / Calders area there would be 950 surplus secondary school spaces.
- If just a 660 school were built in East Calder it could accommodate only some of the Calderwood children and West Calder High School would remain more sustainable but East Calder and Mid Calder children would still have to be bussed to West Calder High School.

Option 4 - West Calder High School – Further Extension

- No catchment review would be undertaken and instead West Calder High School would be further extended.

School	Capacity	Planned S1 Entry	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35
West Calder High School	1320 / 1990	240 / 360	958	1,030	1,132	1,237	1,386	1,495	1,584	1,698	1,804	1,858	1,951
Inveralmond High School	1,320	240	1,364	1,362	1,342	1,333	1,285	1,260	1,225	1,217	1,207	1,190	1,164
James Young High School	1,210	220	926	940	960	979	1,020	1,054	1,050	1,031	999	980	947
Winchburgh Academy	660	120	280	330	387	460	550	645	723	800	866	910	952
Total in above schools	4510 / 5170	820 / 940	3,528	3,663	3,820	4,008	4,240	4,453	4,582	4,746	4,875	4,938	5,014
Total West Lothian	14960 / 15620	2720 / 2840	12,364	12,475	12,649	12,766	12,928	13,058	13,092	13,058	13,039	12,966	12,940

This table shows the number of children forecast to live in each school catchment with a split of 80%/20% between the non-denominational and denominational sectors. It is not a forecast scenario.

- A potential extension of 660 pupils has been modelled with an opening date of 2029.
- The child address data scenario table above shows a larger extension (660 vs 440) would be required than at JYHS or Winchburgh Academy because no existing capacity is available to be used by Calderwood pupils.

Option 4 - Costs

- An indicative capital cost of £50M has been calculated based on an indicative floorspace and using Scottish Futures Trust metrics and construction inflation assumptions.
- As current non-denominational secondary contributions are fully assigned this capital cost would require borrowing by the council.
 - 15 years borrowing £75M total borrowing cost
 - 25 years borrowing £97M total borrowing cost.
- Total costs are not fundable from future developer contributions and would require a financial contribution from the council of £36.5M - £58.5M in addition to future developer contributions.
- Additional revenue costs of an extended school are estimated at £0.9M per year.
- Transportation costs are unchanged.

Admission Arrangements

- There will be no impact to pupils currently in attendance at West Lothian secondary schools as a result of the options identified.
- It is proposed that, if approved, Options 1 and 2 would be implemented from 27 June 2026. The current P7 cohort will not be affected and will be placed under existing catchment arrangements. The current P6 cohort would then be able to have certainty of catchment school for their S1 applications in session 2027/28.
- Under Options 1 and 2, younger siblings of pupils currently attending schools would retain the catchment status of the older sibling and would be permitted to attend the existing catchment school if parents wish siblings to attend the same secondary school. This catchment status would remain until such times that the sibling link is broken i.e., should the elder sibling leave secondary stage education prior to commencement of the younger sibling at secondary school.
- If approved, Option 3 will require interim arrangements, given the lead time for construction of a new East Calder Secondary school and the forecast capacity pressures at West Calder High School in the period 2027-2031. An interim catchment review to remove the current Calderwood P2-P6 from West Calder High School would still be required. This could follow option 1 or 2 above. This option could, therefore, result in two changes of catchment school and admission.

School Transport

- There will be no alteration to current policy on home to school transport as a result of these proposals.
- Any requests for school transport provisions will be considered in accordance with West Lothian Council's School Transport Policy.
- Option 1 would result in a shorter journey to school than that currently undertaken by pupils as The James Young High School is closer in proximity. This could result in increased time available for extra-curricular activities.
- Option 2 would result in a slightly longer journey to school than that currently undertaken by pupils.
- Option 3 would result in the lowest cost for pupil transport, and the shortest journey times. This could result in increased time for extra-curricular activities.

Status of Proposal

- November 2025 Education Executive approved commencement of non-statutory pre-consultation.
- Non-statutory pre-consultation 17 November 2025 – 12 December 2025.



Next Steps

- Collate and review feedback received during non-statutory pre-consultation period.
- West Lothian Council Education Executive meet on 13 January 2026 to decide what statutory consultation should be undertaken.
- If Statutory Consultation is approved to commence it is currently expected to be during January – March 2026.
- Final decision on any Statutory catchment review proposal would be at Education Executive in June 2026.



Discussion Opportunity

Views and questions welcomed

Responses can also be made by e-mail to
Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk

The Council website will contain information on the consultation. The web address is: www.westlothian.gov.uk/education

