EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

10 May 2018

Report by Director of Education

FUTURE NON-DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF NEILSTON PRIMARY AND MADRAS FAMILY CENTRE; AND FUTURE DENOMINATIONAL (ROMAN CATHOLIC) EDUCATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF ST THOMAS' PRIMARY, NEILSTON

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To seek approval to carry out a statutory education consultation on a proposal for *Learning in Neilston* to renew both Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools and Madras Family Centre on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras. It is noted that at present funding is not yet available, but the consultative proposal is a necessary step in seeking to establish this new education provision and ensures the Council is prepared to benefit from potential funding opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2. Members are asked to:
 - i. approve that the Director of Education proceeds with a consultation on a proposal to establish a learning campus on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre as soon as is practically possible; and
 - ii. request that the Director of Education reports the results of this consultation exercise to the Education Committee on 4 October 2018.

BACKGROUND

- 3. The Council is required to formally consult on changes to a delineated catchment area, establishing new schools and changes to the admission arrangements or the relocation of any school. How this is carried out and who must be consulted is clearly set out in the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.
- 4. There are two primary schools in Neilston village, Neilston Primary School and St Thomas' Primary School. Both school buildings have been categorised as poor in terms of condition and suitability indicating that the buildings require major refurbishment and remodelling.
- 5. Madras Family Centre is a separate building providing early learning and childcare for children of Neilston and Uplawmoor villages. The centre is under the management and leadership of the head teacher of Neilston Primary School. Although the building was extended in 2016 by re-using an available temporary accommodation unit from another site, there would be benefits to modernising the whole family centre as well as adjoining it with primary provision.

- 6. East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust (ERCL) currently operates 3 facilities in Neilston village that are in immediate proximity to each other: Glen Halls, Neilston Leisure Centre and Neilston Library. All of these properties are also in need of investment given their condition and to bring up to a modern standard.
- 7. There is a programme of investment under support from the Scottish Government through the auspices of the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) to help fund the shared commitment to improve the learning environment by replacing or refurbishing the worst condition schools. Barrhead and Eastwood high schools and Crookfur Primary School have benefited from such investment. Like Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools they were all condition and suitability levels C (poor).
- 8. Improving the built environment for Neilston and St Thomas' is recognised as a priority for investment that the Council is intent on addressing. It is hoped that there will be further funding made available to continue to support this programme and renew school buildings. Details are awaited and education statutory consultation is an important and necessary stage in seeking to take forward improved education provision.

REPORT

- 9. A detailed condition survey of Neilston Primary School found the school overall to be in condition C (poor- showing major defects and/or not operating adequately) with a backlog maintenance of £1,546,673. The overall suitability rating of the school is also C (poor-showing major problems and/or not operating optimally).
- 10. Taking into account the number of known planned additional residential units in Neilston Primary School's delineated catchment area, a roll projection for the school shows that the number of anticipated pupils slightly increases over the period to 2023-24. The resultant occupancy rate is 73% with a 2 class P1-intake providing sufficient places to accommodate needs (i.e. 2-stream primary as per the existing provision).
- 11. Likewise a detailed condition survey of St Thomas' Primary School found the school overall to be in condition C with a backlog maintenance of £1,132,158. The overall suitability rating of the school is also C.
- 12. Taking into account the number of known planned additional residential units in St Thomas' Primary School's delineated catchment area, a roll projection for the school shows that the number of anticipated pupils steadily increases over the period to 2023-24. The resultant occupancy rate is 71% with a 1 class P1-intake providing sufficient places to accommodate needs (i.e. 1-stream primary as per the existing provision).
- 13. Madras Family Centre has overall condition and suitability ratings of B (fair/satisfactory-performing adequately) with a backlog maintenance of £123,135. The centre was extended in 2016 to increase the number of places and currently the capacity at any one time is 80 3 and 4 year old children and 15 2-year old children. Future early learning and childcare places will be provided under the Council's proposed delivery model for 1,140 hours entitlement from 2020, which maximises places by offering extended hours/full days and encourages mixed modes of delivery using partner provider provision (private/voluntary sectors) as well as child minders. This approach provides additional early years places and offers families more choice and will meet the needs of the local community.

- 14. In seeking to take forward improvements to the education provision, in 2017 the Education Department undertook an informal consultation with the Parent Councils of Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools to gauge interest in the potential to establish a campus approach to *Learning in Neilston* should a funding opportunity arise. During discussions the prospect of the campus accommodating other local community facilities arose. The department was also invited along to the Neilston Town Charter Advisory Group.
- 15. It should be noted that in the informal consultation the proposed site for the campus was not yet known. The informal consultation has received positive interest and has informed proceeding with this statutory consultation.
- 16. In addition to the detailed condition surveys noted above, this was also undertaken for the 3 ERCL trust operated facilities (Glen Halls, Neilston Leisure Centre and Neilston Library) in the village, which confirmed that all properties would benefit from new build replacements to modernise and address maintenance issues.
- 17. A site option appraisal was commissioned as part of the asset management feasibility study. The sites chosen for appraisal were the existing sites of Neilston Primary and St Thomas' Primary; given that they would be easier to develop within a set timeframe should that be necessary. The review was also to consider the potential to co-locate library and leisure provision in Neilston with aspirations to improve them should investment be forthcoming.
- 18. The outcome of the review showed that it was possible to establish a joint site in the locale of Neilston Primary and Madras Family Centre and that there were opportunities to include the library and sports centre on site. The St Thomas' Primary School site, whilst flatter, was not of sufficient area to accommodate both schools and the family centre.
- 19. It is proposed that the campus approach joint site for *Learning in Neilston* would comprise one building, but two schools each having their own head teacher and Parent Councils. Madras Family would remain as at present under the leadership and management of the head teacher of Neilston Primary School and be part of the same new building.
- 20. Under the proposal there would be no change to admissions arrangements and it would not affect any change to the associated secondary schools. Madras Family Centre would also still serve the same community in the Barrhead/Neilston/Uplawmoor early years neighbourhood area.
- 21. Should the *Learning in Neilston* consultative proposal receive approval, the feasibility study illustrates possible opportunities that could be progressed subject to sufficient financial resources being secured and necessary subsequent approvals e.g. planning. The ultimate design of any resulting facilities would of course take place with stakeholders and the community to establish new provision. Going forward traffic management would be well considered recognising more facilities in the one locale.
- 22. It is considered that the proposal has a number of educational benefits which are outlined in the Educational Benefits Statement section (paragraphs 58 to 86) in the attached consultative proposal document.
- 23. The operational detail as it is known to date and timescales of the consultation are also set out in the consultative document.
- 24. The consultation period will last from Friday 11 May 2018 to midnight on Tuesday 26 June 2018.

FINANCIAL AND EFFICIENCY IMPLICATIONS

- 25. At present there is no identified finance to take forward the proposal to provide the new schools and family centre, *Learning in Neilston*. The consultative proposal is a necessary step in seeking to establish this new education provision. The Council must be ready to take advantage of any investment programme to support such a development should, among other things, the financial circumstances at that time prove favourable.
- 26. Learning in Neilston would be of a similar size to the Faith Schools' Joint Campus (St Clare's Primary and Calderwood Lodge Primary and Nursery Class) established recently at Newton Mearns, which opened in August 2017 at a total capital cost of £17 million. This capital cost is provided for illustration purposes only, since the specifics of the Neilston proposal is not yet developed. Additional resources would be required, as well as obtaining the necessary approvals, to establish the wider campus approach to Learning and Leisure in Neilston.
- 27. The Financial Considerations section in paragraphs 95 to 101 of the attached consultative proposal document provides some further information.

CONSULTATION

- 28. The purpose of this paper is to seek elected member approval to undertake a consultation exercise as is required by the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.
- 29. Note on Corrections: If any inaccuracy or omission was discovered in the Proposal Document either by the Education Department, or any person, the department would determine if relevant information has been omitted or, if there had been an inaccuracy. The Education Department would then take appropriate action which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the Proposal paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period as appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland would be advised.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

- 30. The implications of the proposal await the outcome of the consultation. The Director of Education will report the results of this consultation exercise, including the report submitted by Education Scotland, to the Education Committee on 4 October 2018.
- 31. If, following the consultation exercise the decision is made to agree the proposal, then as soon as practically possible the new provision would be established. This would be taken forward when sufficient financial resources became available. The Council will continue to explore opportunities for investment to take forward improved provision.
- 32. Once enabling finances are secured, a paper would be taken to Cabinet which would include the timeframe to establish the new provision and the anticipated academic year the facilities would be open. This would be communicated to stakeholders, in particular to pupils, parents/carers, staff and unions. Thereafter engagement over the design of the new campus build for *Learning in Neilston* would take place with its stakeholders and the community.

- 33. In establishing the new education provision, St Thomas Primary School would be relocated to the site in the locale of Neilston and Madras. Once the new campus build for *Learning in Neilston* is operational, the existing family centre and school buildings would be closed.
- 34. This proposal is not subject to ministerial call in.
- 35. East Renfrewshire Council's legal section has been fully involved and is aware of the proposal and consequential outcomes for the Council.

CONCLUSIONS

- 36. The school buildings in Neilston are in need of investment given their poor condition and suitability. This is recognised as a priority for investment, which the Council is intending to address. The family centre would also benefit from integration with the primaries. Subject to necessary approvals and investment being secured, it is possible to establish a new campus approach joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras to provide new build replacement provision, *Learning in Neilston*. This is the consultative proposal.
- 37. Legislation requires the Council undertake a statutory consultation on the proposed changes. This is a step to seeking to sustain and improve educational provision in the village of Neilston for the foreseeable future.
- 38. In addition, subject to finance and necessary approvals, there would be the prospect of relocating local library and leisure facilities on the same site area aka *Learning and Leisure in Neilston*.

RECOMMENDATION

- 39. Members are asked to:
 - i. approve that the Director of Education proceeds with a consultation on a proposal to establish a learning campus on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre as soon as is practically possible; and
 - ii. request that the Director of Education reports the results of this consultation exercise to the Education Committee on 4 October 2018.

Mhairi Shaw Director of Education 10 May 2018

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APPENDIX 1

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

THIS IS A FORMAL CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT

FUTURE NON-DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF NEILSTON PRIMARY AND MADRAS FAMILY CENTRE; AND FUTURE DENOMINATIONAL (ROMAN CATHOLIC) EDUCATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF ST THOMAS' PRIMARY, NEILSTON

MAY 2018

This document has been issued by the Education Committee of East Renfrewshire Council for consultation in terms of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.



EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

FUTURE NON-DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF NEILSTON PRIMARY AND MADRAS FAMILY CENTRE; AND FUTURE DENOMINATIONAL (ROMAN CATHOLIC) EDUCATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF ST THOMAS' PRIMARY, NEILSTON

- There are two primary schools in Neilston village, Neilston Primary School and St Thomas' Primary School. Both school buildings have been categorised as poor in terms of condition and suitability indicating that the buildings require major refurbishment and remodelling. This is recognised as a priority for investment, which the Council is intending to address.
- 2. In addition Madras Family Centre is a separate building providing early learning and childcare for children of Neilston and Uplawmoor villages within the Barrhead/Neilston/Uplawmoor early years community area. The centre is under the management and leadership of the head teacher of Neilston Primary School. Although the building was extended in 2016 by re-using an available temporary accommodation unit from another site, there would be benefits to modernising the whole family centre as well as adjoining it with primary provision.
- 3. East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust (ERCL) currently operates 3 facilities in Neilston village that are in immediate proximity to each other: Glen Halls, Neilston Leisure Centre and Neilston Library. All of these properties are also in need of investment given their condition and to bring them up to a modern standard.

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION

4. The purpose is:

- (a) To consult on the proposal to establish a learning campus on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre.
- (b) To note that the new build Neilston Primary School would be 2-stream (i.e. 2 class P1-intake); St Thomas would be 1-stream (i.e. 1 class P1-intake); and Madras Family Centre would have places for 100 three and four year olds and 15 two year olds.
- (c) To note that at present funding is not yet available to undertake new education build in the village of Neilston, but that the new replacement schools are a priority for investment, which the Council is intent on pursuing.
- (d) To note the possibility of the new learning campus also comprising a new library and sports centre including swimming pool be established at the site should there be sufficient resources made available recognising the synergies for education and benefit to the community. The new facility would then provide a learning and leisure campus.
- (e) To relocate St Thomas' Primary School to the new joint site and thereafter to close the existing St Thomas Primary School building; and note the closure of the existing library and sports centre should they be part of the proposed development.

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INTRODUCTION

Background

- 5. East Renfrewshire Education Department is committed to Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences, and has a well-earned reputation for providing an excellent education for children. This is borne out in the reports received on our schools following inspection by Education Scotland.
- 6. Our vision is supported by providing quality educational surroundings in which all children, young people and staff can excel, and ensuring facilities are also designed with and available to residents to help enrich the communities they serve and the lives of learners and families. The Council recognises that a quality built environment signals the value it places on learning and teaching and the experience of all who use the facilities.
- 7. The Scottish Government and local authorities' joint aspirations for the school estate are:
 - All children and young people will be educated in, and community users able to
 use, schools that are 'fit for purpose' in terms of condition (a safe, secure and well
 maintained environment), suitability (school building and grounds are fit for the
 purpose of delivering the curriculum) and sufficiency (schools that match demand);
 - Schools are well-designed, accessible, inclusive learning environments that inspire
 and drive new thinking and change and which support the delivery of high quality
 educational experiences through Curriculum for Excellence;
 - Schools are integral parts of the communities they serve, with pupils making use of community facilities and communities accessing school facilities;
 - Schools accommodate and provide a range of services, activities and facilities that make a difference to people's health and wellbeing, to sustaining economic growth and to the strength and vibrancy of communities;
 - A sustainable school estate whose design, construction and operation is environmentally and energy efficient; contributes directly to delivering the year-onyear reductions in greenhouse gas emissions introduced by the latest Climate Change (Scotland) Act, which is resilient to the impact of climate change and which leads by example in matters of environmental performance;
 - A school estate that is efficiently run and maximises value for money;
 - A school estate which is flexible and responsive both to changes in demand for school places and to learners' and teachers' requirements and wishes, and where the beneficial impact of change is maximised by thorough consultation and engagement with users and stakeholders.
- 8. All councils must ensure effective management of their school places and have a statutory duty to provide adequate and efficient provision of school education for their area.
- 9. Local authorities also have a "... duty to secure best value by continuous improvement in performance of the authority's functions, while maintaining an appropriate balance between quality and cost and having regard to economy, efficiency, effectiveness, equal opportunities and the achievement of sustainable development."
- 10. East Renfrewshire Council's Community Plan outlines the local outcomes that will be delivered for its residents. In particular this proposal would contribute to the realisation of the following outcomes:

- (a) Strategic Outcome: All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure childhood and succeed.
- (b) Strategic Outcome: East Renfrewshire residents are fit and active and have the skills for learning, life and work.
- 11. There are 5 capabilities (Prevention, Digital, Community Engagement, Data and Modernisation) that East Renfrewshire Council prioritises to develop excellence in as an organisation to further the vision: *A modern, ambitious council creating a fairer future with all.*
- 12. East Renfrewshire Council adheres to relevant legislation and guidance that underpins education provision, duties of best value and asset management. It recognises the importance of effective asset management with it being intrinsic to one of the council's 5 capabilities, *Modernising How We Work*.
- 13. Whilst increasing school and early learning and childcare places to ensure sufficient provision for the resident population has been the main priority in investing in East Renfrewshire's education estate to date, this investment also improves the condition and suitability of replacement schools.
- 14. In June 2015 a paper was taken to Council, 'Influencing the Future of East Renfrewshire', which noted eight key areas that the Council would like to have the powers or resources from central government to change to ensure the future prosperity of East Renfrewshire. One of the key areas was the need to refresh the school estate in the village of Neilston.
- 15. Scotland's Schools for the Future programme is part of the Scottish Government's and local government's shared commitment to improve the learning environment for Scotland's children by replacing or refurbishing the worst condition schools in Scotland. A key objective is to increase the proportion of schools in good (grade A) or satisfactory (grade B) condition and thereby remove children and young people from poor (grade C) condition schools. There is a programme of investment under support from the Scottish Government through the auspices of the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) to help fund this joint commitment. Barrhead and Eastwood high schools and Crookfur Primary School have benefited from investment released by the Scottish Government to improve the condition of schools. Like Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools they were all condition and suitability levels C (poor).
- 16. It is hoped that there will be further funding made available to continue to support this programme and renew school buildings. Details are awaited and in any event we must be ready to take advantage of such to take forward improved education provision for the village of Neilston.

PRESENT POSITION

Neilston Primary School; Madras Family Centre

17. Neilston Primary School is a non-denominational primary school that serves the village of Neilston. The school grounds are quite extensive albeit the site slopes quite steeply in a south easterly direction. The land surrounding Neilston Primary School site is predominantly residential and agricultural use.

- 18. A detailed condition survey of the school found the school overall to be in condition C (poor- showing major defects and/or not operating adequately). The overall suitability rating of Neilston Primary is also C (poor- showing major problems and/or not operating optimally). The backlog maintenance of the school is quantified as having a prospective cost of £1,546,673.
- 19. Neilston Primary School is associated with Eastwood High School where the pupils are transported to by train to Patterton Station, Crookfur. The location of Neilston Primary is shown on the map in *Appendix A*.
- 20. Neilston Primary School's catchment comprises a mix of housing and there are a number of new residential developments within the Local Development Plan. *Appendix B* shows the delineated catchment area of the school.
- 21. In primary schools, the planning capacity is used to determine the number of pupils that we can plan to take at all stages in the school based on a class size of 30 pupils in all classes. It is noted that from P4 onwards up to 33 pupils can be accepted at each stage and the maximum P1 class size is 25 in terms of pupil to teacher ratio. The planning capacity is used to help monitor provision and demand.
- 22. Neilston Primary School opened in 1968 and was extended in 1990 to its current 2-stream (2 class P1-intake) provision. The school's current planning capacity is 420 pupil places.
- 23. The Scottish Government requires that a census is carried out in all schools at a specific point each year. This is the officially recognised time period to record pupil and staff numbers. It informs funding and is used to compare annual variations. Schools' populations are dynamic and slight variations in the number of pupils during any one school session are to be expected.
- 24. The school roll history is shown in *Appendix D*. The roll of Neilston Primary has remained stable over the last four years at around 290 pupils following a period of decrease over 2009/10 to 2012/13.
- 25. In the latest official Scottish Government census (as measured at September for the academic year 2017-18), Neilston Primary School's total roll is 295, with almost all pupils being local residents. The school is presently at 70% occupancy of its planning capacity, a level it has been at over recent years as noted in the table below.

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
P1-P7 Roll	278	287	297	280	295
Occupancy%	66%	68%	71%	67%	70%

- 26. The crucial stage in a primary school in seeking to manage the roll is the P1-intake; it is the capacity / availability of places in this stage that best determines the potential for additional pupils to be taken throughout the school. The planned P1-intake capacity is the maximum number that the authority considers for planning purposes for 'catchment demand'. For Neilston this is 60 pupils; however recognising that the pupil: teacher ratio is 25:1 at the P1 stage, a maximum of 60 would require an additional P1 teacher. Although, it is noted that for a 2-stream school the P1-intake could be managed based on 50 pupils should that satisfy 'catchment demand'. The demand for catchment over recent years has been met within a limit of 50 P1 pupils.
- 27. Based on the current information provided by East Renfrewshire Council Planning Section and the current approved Local Development Plan, the number of known planned additional residential units that are in the Neilston Primary School delineated

- catchment area is around 150 until 2023 with approximately a further 380 beyond 2023. Up to 2023 this represents an increase of around 35 additional pupils or 5 per stage. The timeframe for those units beyond 2023 is not known and will be phased over later years.
- 28. Appendix E provides a roll projection for Neilston Primary School to 2023-24 taking into account this house building, which shows that the school roll slightly increases resulting in an occupancy rate of 73% over this period. Therefore, a 2-stream primary will provide sufficient places to accommodate needs.
- 29. Early learning and childcare is provided across four community areas in East Renfrewshire. Madras Family Centre provides early learning and childcare for 3, 4 year olds and certain 2-year olds for the Barrhead, Neilston and Uplawmoor community area-principally serving the villages of Neilston and Uplawmoor. Madras Family Centre is on a flat site adjacent to the grounds of Neilston Primary School, with frontage to High Street. The map on *Appendix A* shows the location of the centre.
- 30. A detailed condition survey of Madras Family Centre found the facility overall to be in condition B (fair/satisfactory- performing adequately but showing minor deterioration). The overall suitability rating of Madras Family Centre is also B (satisfactory- performing adequately but with minor problems). The backlog maintenance of the centre is quantified as having a prospective cost of £123,135.
- 31. Madras Family Centre opened in 1976 and was extended in 2016 to increase the number of places for 2 year old children. Based on current arrangements and entitled hours of early learning and childcare, the capacity at any one time is 80 3 and 4 year old children and 15 2-year old children meeting needs. Future early learning and childcare places will be provided under the Council's proposed delivery model for 1,140 hours entitlement from 2020, which maximises places by offering extended hours/full days and encourages mixed modes of delivery using partner provider provision (private/voluntary sectors) as well as child minders. This approach provides additional early years places and offers families more choice. As indicated in Para. 4(b) above, it is proposed to increase capacity to 100 places for 3 and 4 year olds to reflect the expected increased demand and the need for accessibility and flexibility in line with the principles of the national expansion programme.

St Thomas' Primary School

- 32. St Thomas' Primary School is a denominational (Roman Catholic) primary school that serves the villages of Neilston and Uplawmoor. The school grounds are approximately rectangular in shape, with a gentle slope from a central high point down to its northwest corner. St Thomas' Primary School is mainly surrounded by residential properties.
- 33. A detailed condition survey of the school found the school overall to be in condition C (poor- showing major defects and/or not operating adequately). The overall suitability rating of St Thomas' Primary is also C (poor- showing major problems and/or not operating optimally). The backlog maintenance of the school is quantified as having a prospective cost of £1,132,158.
- 34. St Thomas' Primary School is associated with St Luke's High School where the pupils are transported to by bus to Barrhead. The location of St Thomas' Primary is shown on the map in *Appendix A*.
- 35. St Thomas' Primary School's catchment comprises a mix of housing and there are a number of new residential developments within the Local Development Plan. *Appendix C* shows the delineated catchment area of the school.

- 36. St Thomas' Primary School opened in 1963. There was a minor extension in 2009 with the school being 1-stream provision (1 class P1-intake). The school's current planning capacity is 210 pupil places.
- 37. The school roll history is shown in *Appendix D*. The roll of St Thomas' Primary has decreased by 15% over the last 2 years after a period from 2010/11 to 2015/16 where the roll was stable averaging 154 pupils.
- 38. In the latest official Scottish Government census (as measured at September for the academic year 2017-18), St Thomas' Primary School's total roll is 130, with almost all pupils being local residents. The school is presently at 62% occupancy of its planning capacity, the lowest level over recent years; however as seen from the table below the average over the last 5 years is 70%.

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
P1-P7 Roll	154	152	153	142	130
Occupancy%	73%	72%	73%	68%	62%

- 39. For St Thomas' the planned P1-intake capacity is 30 pupils; however recognising that the pupil: teacher ratio is 25:1 at the P1 stage, a maximum of 30 would require an additional P1 teacher. Although, it is noted that for a 1-stream school the P1-intake could be managed based on 25 pupils that satisfy 'catchment demand'. The demand for catchment over recent years has been met within a limit of 25 P1 pupils.
- 40. Based on the current information provided by East Renfrewshire Council Planning Section and the current approved Local Development Plan, the number of known planned additional residential units that are in the St Thomas' Primary School delineated catchment area is around 190 until 2023 with approximately a further 380 beyond 2023. Up to 2023 this represents an increase of around 38 additional pupils or 5/6 per stage. The timeframe for those units beyond 2023 is not known and will be phased over later years.
- 41. Appendix E provides a roll projection for St Thomas' Primary School to 2023-24 taking into account this house building, which shows that the school roll steadily increases resulting in an occupancy rate of 71% over this period. Therefore, a 1-stream primary will provide sufficient places to accommodate needs.

Gauging Interest

- 42. In seeking to take forward improvements to the education provision, in 2017 the Education Department undertook an informal consultation with the Parent Councils of Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools to gauge interest in the potential to establish a campus approach to *Learning in Neilston* should a funding opportunity arise. During discussions the prospect of the campus accommodating other local community facilities arose.
- 43. Following this both Parent Councils decided to gather opinions from their Parent Forums as to whether there would be an appetite for moving forward with a proposal to establish a new educational campus comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary, Madras Family Centre and St. Thomas' Primary.
- 44. In their letters to their Parent Forums they rightly noted that: "... if the two primary schools and the family centre were located on a single campus they would retain their unique, individual identities and ethos and continue to have separate head teachers

- and parent councils. This would not be a merger. At the moment, no site has been identified for the campus. Funding for this proposal has still to be secured"; and "... the possibility of relocating the library and leisure centre on the same site."
- 45. In their responses the Parent Councils wished a note of any additional comments and questions to help inform their discussions with the Council and address the views expressed.
- 46. The survey of Neilston Primary and Madras Family Centre had a response rate of 58% of families expressing a view. The outcome showed that 90% of those families who made a response were in favour of the proposal. This represents 52% of all families who could respond agreed with the proposal.
- 47. The survey of St Thomas' Primary had a response rate of 80% of families expressing a view. The outcome showed that 76% of those families who made a response were in favour of the proposal. This represents 61% of all families who could respond agreed with the proposal.
- 48. To further explore the possibility of a campus approach, whether it included other community facilities or not, the Director of Education and Head of Education Service were invited along to the Neilston Town Charter Advisory Group. Again there was positive interest in the prospect with the group seeing benefits for the village of Neilston, whilst keen also to ensure proposals were seen as part of Neilston master planning and aspects such as traffic management would be looked at.
- 49. It should be noted that in the informal consultation the proposed site for the campus was not yet known.

Feasibility Study- Options Appraisal

- 50. As part of the 2017/18 Capital Plan, funding was allocated to undertake a feasibility study of building a new replacement for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre on either the existing site of Neilston Primary or the St Thomas' Primary site. These sites were chosen being central to the village, under council ownership and, being existing education sites, more easy to facilitate similar development within a set timeframe should that be necessary. The review was also to consider the potential to co-locate library and leisure provision in Neilston with aspirations to improve them should investment be forthcoming. The feasibility report is attached as *Appendix F* informing the asset management appraisal.
- 51. Detailed condition surveys were commissioned for the 3 education sites and the 3 ERCL trust operated facilities (Glen Halls, Neilston Leisure Centre and Neilston Library) as part of the study, which confirmed that all 6 properties would benefit from new build replacements to modernise and address maintenance issues.
- 52. The feasibility study summarises the options appraisal of the sites in terms of their suitability and potential to accommodate additional community facilities, the library and sports centre. It shows that there would be scope to rationalise all 6 buildings, which are in relatively close proximity and bring facilities up to a modern standard to better serve the schools and the community.
- 53. The outcome of the review showed that it was possible to establish a joint site in the locale of Neilston Primary and Madras Family Centre comprising these 2 establishments and St Thomas' Primary School. In addition it illustrated there were opportunities to

include the library and sports centre on site. The St Thomas' Primary School site, whilst flatter, was not of sufficient area to accommodate both schools and the family centre.

- 54. This consultative proposal concerns the required education statutory consultation about the schools and family centre coming together on a joint site (*Learning in Neilston*) whilst noting the potential for other local facilities to co-locate. The schools would continue to operate under separate headships and have separate Parent Councils, but would benefit from new build and shared facilities.
- 55. Should the *Learning in Neilston* consultative proposal receive approval, the feasibility study illustrates possible opportunities that could be progressed subject to sufficient financial resources being secured and necessary subsequent approvals e.g. planning. The ultimate design of any resulting facilities would of course take place with stakeholders and the community to establish new provision.
- 56. The Council is now formally consulting on *Learning in Neilston* which is an important stage in the drive to take forward investment for the schools and the local community- to be prepared to benefit from potential funding opportunities, which may also enable the Council to take forward the wider campus: *Learning and Leisure in Neilston*.

PROPOSAL

Learning in Neilston: (New Build Replacements for Neilston and St Thomas' Primary Schools and Madras Family Centre- Joint Site Approach in the Locale of Neilston and Madras); Note Potential of Learning and Leisure within Campus

57. The proposal is:

- (a) To consult on the proposal to establish a learning campus on a joint site in the locale of Neilston and Madras comprising new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre as soon as is practically possible.
- (b) To note that the new build Neilston Primary School would be 2-stream (i.e. 2 class P1-intake); St Thomas would be 1-stream (i.e. 1 class P1-intake); and Madras Family Centre would have places for 100 three and four year olds and 15 two year olds.
- (c) To note that at present funding is not yet available to undertake new education build in the village of Neilston, but that the new replacement schools are a priority for investment, which the Council is intent on pursuing.
- (d) To note the possibility of the new learning campus also comprising a new library and sports centre including swimming pool be established at the site should there be sufficient resources made available recognising the synergies for education and benefit to the community. The new facility would then provide a learning and leisure campus.
- (e) To relocate St Thomas' Primary School to the new joint site and thereafter to close the existing St Thomas Primary School building; and note the closure of the existing library and sports centre should they be part of the proposed development.

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EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

- 58. The vision of the Education Department *Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences*, is at the heart of the work that department and school staff undertake as they seek to provide the highest quality education and services to develop the whole individual.
- 59. Early learning and childcare and primary school experiences are fundamental to the delivery of a broad general education for all children. The aim of *Curriculum for Excellence* is to enable all children and young people to develop their capacities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to society. The Department's vision and values embody these aims, which are furthered by *Curriculum for Excellence and Getting it Right for Every Child*.
- 60. The establishment of new build replacements for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre on a joint site in the village of Neilston would result in a number of educational benefits, in particular providing excellent environments helps realise the department's vision for young children of Neilston and Uplawmoor.
- 61. The relocation of the schools and family centre to a new building would offer a better educational built environment than that currently. As noted previously the condition and suitability assessments of both school buildings are graded poor, whilst Madras is rated satisfactory. Overall the internal and external facilities of a new built joint campus would be superior and provide the best condition and suitability ratings (A). The new campus building would also be more energy and carbon efficient resulting in lower operational costs.
- 62. The accommodation and resources associated with the proposed new provision are likely to have a positive impact on the motivation, aspirations and enjoyment of children, staff and the wider schools community. At all stages, children would benefit from improved resources including science and technologies within flexible and fit for purpose learning areas.
- 63. Purpose built new facilities to provide flexible indoor and outdoor learning spaces would be a key aspect of the physical environment and enabling the school to respond to the demands of *Curriculum for Excellence*. The new campus site would be developed with a focus on outdoor learning, exercise and play for children in the natural environment. Such experiences are invaluable in improving health and wellbeing and resilience. In addition to the benefits of physical and mental development, high quality opportunities for children to learn outside will develop, for example, their understanding of the natural world, science skills and creativity.
- 64. The existing schools were built in the 1960s over 50 years ago and have not been designed to best meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. In particular Neilston Primary School has many changes in levels and difficult circulation routes. A new built environment well considered from the outset to take account of site typographies and varying needs of building users would improve accessibility for children, staff, parents and the wider community. For children (staff and all building users) with additional support needs the new physical environment would be fully compliant in terms of the Equality Act 2010.
- 65. Madras Family Centre would be integrated as part of the build enabling access to wider and better facilities and resources. It would also improve the transitions from nursery to both primary schools with the aim of securing for children continuous and progressive learning experiences that build on prior learning helping them become successful learners.

- 66. The transitions of children from Neilston Primary School and St Thomas' Primary School to their respective associated secondary schools, Eastwood High School and St Luke's High School, would remain at a high standard, and would be unaffected by the proposal.
- 67. The increase in the number of staff from the two schools working within the one campus building would be advantageous and provide more effective support to the career-long professional learning of staff. This includes opportunities across Curriculum for Excellence Early Level (nursery to P1 stages). In particular it would allow staff across both schools to reflect, share and develop good practice with a stage focus, to learn together and plan for improvement. This would lead to improved quality of learning, teaching and achievement for all children.
- 68. Having the two schools on the one site would provide further opportunities for both to foster good community relations. It would make it easier to establish joint activities and events such as sports teams, charity fundraising and after school clubs. Families with children at both St Thomas' Primary and Madras FC would find it more convenient to take their children to the one locale.
- 69. Local authorities are charged with delivering excellence and equity. Investing in making the schools more suitable for learning and teaching in a modern and future looking society would be equitable to the children and young people of Neilston in helping them get the best start in life, fulfil their learning potential and realise their ambitions for life and work.
- 70. The campus building and its grounds would be designed to encourage community use. It would be expected that the facilities would be used extensively out with school hours providing benefit to the local community.
- 71. Whilst recognising it would require sufficient resources to be made available to take forward the culture and leisure facilities in addition to the schools and early years centre, there would be synergies for education and benefit to the community in a campus approach to improve *Learning and Leisure in Neilston*.
- 72. The pupils could use a modern vibrant library and renewed leisure facilities on site with improved community facilities for the village. The wider campus would also provide a holistic setting where it would be easier to meet the needs of children and their families. Families could more easily be supported with skills they need such as literacy, including digital skills so that they can better support their children's learning. Families would also benefit from improved health and wellbeing at the on-site leisure facilities for example whilst their children were at school/nursery, or after school/nursery with their children. All this would give children a strong foundation enabling them to get the most out of their future years at school and beyond. A campus facilitates community cohesion by providing a locale for all generations to be able to engage, help one another and a means of sustaining a healthy and vibrant community for young children to prosper.
- 73. The Education Department has given emphasis to monitoring and evaluating transitions, as children move from nursery to primary and from primary to the secondary sector to ensure that these are smooth, and that learning is continuous and progressive. This is a key requirement of *Curriculum for Excellence*. This careful planning is also required as children move from one stage to the next in any one school. The considerable experience of department and school staff in managing transitions will ensure that the transfer of younger children and pupils would be carefully planned and they would be appropriately supported through the transition so they are not disadvantaged by any change and that continuity and progression will be maintained.

- 74. The department is recognised as having excellent quality management procedures and practices and the Director of Education is confident that the establishment of the campus approach to *Learning in Neilston* would be successfully implemented with no detriment to the quality of education delivered.
- 75. Under the proposal both Neilston Primary and Madras Family Centre would be relocated but within their same locale and it is not envisaged that in relocating St Thomas' Primary School there would be any material changes to walking/cycling distances to school and consequently improved opportunities to promote positive attitudes to health and wellbeing. Nor would there be any changes to free school transport. However in designing and building a new campus, traffic management (car, pedestrian, cycling) would be improved for both schools and the family centre, benefitting education and the wider community.
- 76. The proposed new building would be built with modern design principles that include efficient energy usage and maintenance and thereby providing educational places in a sustainable and cost effective way.
- 77. Under the proposal there would be no detriment to other users of Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools and Madras Family Centre. There would be no change to any existing community use of the affected schools. Indeed with the improved facilities there would be further opportunities for community use/lets.
- 78. Education Scotland inspections (HMIE) last published evaluations of St Thomas' Primary in August 2010, Neilston Primary School in June 2007 and Madras Family Centre in December 2008. These reports are not currently available on-line at https://education.gov.scot. They can however be requested via the schools or the Education Department.
- 79. The authority supports and challenges schools to continue to improve. On an annual basis, establishments prepare a school improvement plan which sets out the actions they will take to improve experiences, provision, attainment and achievement. Establishments also produce an annual Standards and Quality Report which provides information about their progress with the improvement plan and the impact made in bringing about the desired improvements.
- 80. The authority has an important role to play in the planning for improvement; in particular working with individual establishments in their evaluation of performance and provision and assisting with the identification of areas for improvement through self-evaluation activities. Improvement Plans along with current evaluations of key quality indicators for Neilston Primary School and Madras Family Centre are available at https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Neilston/madras-family-centre/how-are-we-doing/ with the equivalent information available at https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StThomas/information/how-are-we-doing/ for St Thomas' Primary School. For all quality indicators the establishments are rated as good or better.
- 81. It is not considered that there would be any adverse impacts on children attending the affected schools by implementing the proposal. As at present, the authority will continue to monitor the provision in schools and early learning and childcare centres in accordance with established procedures and will provide support and challenge in order to secure continuous improvement in the quality of education.
- 82. Should the proposed new campus approach to *Learning in Neilston* be approved the department would ensure that standards and quality would continue to improve for all learners.

- 83. The Education Department considers that the proposals would not have an adverse impact on any child or staff member in terms of age, gender, religion, race, and disability. Every child and staff member who attends/works in Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools and Madras Family Centre, whatever their background, nationality, or needs, would continue to be given support to participate in the school curriculum and activities including during the establishment of the new schools and family centre. The department and schools have been successfully evaluated in terms of equality and fairness and meeting learners' needs.
- 84. An equality impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the consultation exercise. In carrying out this assessment the department will take account of (or address) any equality issues raised as part of the consultation process. The equality impact assessment will be included in the consultation report on the results.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

Admissions and Transfer Arrangements

85. Under the proposal, there would be no change to admissions arrangements and it would not affect any change to the associated secondary schools. Madras Family Centre would also still serve the same community in the Barrhead/Neilston/Uplawmoor early years neighbourhood area.

Traffic Management

- 86. As noted in the educational benefits section above, it is not envisaged that there would be any material changes to walking/cycling distances to school as a consequence of this proposal. It is recognised that there is some congestion at peak times around Neilston Primary School in particular.
- 87. In designing and building a new campus, traffic management (car, pedestrian, cycling) would be well considered to improve arrangements for both schools and the family centre and the community in general. This would include the site itself, the general road layout and entrance to mitigate and minimise any traffic congestion around the site at the start and end of the school day. In addition, as part of the planning process, a Transport Assessment would be undertaken for the new campus. The schools would also develop their School Travel Plans for the new campus. School crossing patrols would be reviewed to ensure pupil safety and effective traffic management.

Timescale, Transition, Management Arrangements and Support

88. If the proposed new campus approach for *Learning in Neilston* is ultimately approved by Education Committee when they consider the outcome of this consultation, and financial resources become available to enable the campus build to proceed, then transition and support would be carefully considered to manage the transfer to and the establishment of the new provision. There would be support from the Quality Improvement team working with senior school staff to ensure that the young children and pupils are not disadvantaged during the transition. For some children who require additional support there may be the need for an extended period of transition with staff working with parents/carers to ensure that the transfer is as smooth as possible.

- 89. Were the proposal to receive approval and necessary finance to proceed, a paper would be taken to Cabinet which would include the timeframe to establish the new provision and the anticipated academic year the facilities would be open. This would be communicated to stakeholders, in particular to pupils, parents/carers, staff and Trade Unions. Thereafter, engagement over the design of the new campus build for *Learning in Neilston* would take place with its stakeholders and the community to help establish the new provision. In taking forward a new build as part of the transition process, children, parents and staff would have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the building including social areas, classrooms, play areas and entry/exit points.
- 90. There are no implications for lets as any current lets at Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools could continue, with the proposed additional school provision providing further opportunities for lets.

Current & Future Provision

- 91. Should the proposal be accepted East Renfrewshire Council would be able to plan school places effectively, be ready to take advantage of potential funding opportunities to consolidate and improve educational provision in the village of Neilston for the foreseeable future. In addition, subject to finance and necessary approvals there would be the prospect of relocating other community facilities on the site which could be known as *Learning and Leisure in Neilston*.
- 92. In determining this consultative proposal account has been taken of relevant current information including the presently approved Local Development Plan and the number of known planned additional residential units. It is noted that the availability of and demand for educational places throughout the authority is subject to regular monitoring and review. Examining future provision will continue to be undertaken to ensure there are sufficient educational places in all areas of the Council. This will take into account future local planning processes and resultant new housing land supplies, other demographic changes and relevant modifications to the educational estate as a consequence of local/national educational policy such as expansion of early years, changes in class sizes. Any future changes to the school/ early learning and childcare estate would be subject of future committee and council reports and any necessary consultation.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 93. At present there is no identified finance to take forward the *Learning in Neilston* proposal to provide the new schools and family centre. As noted earlier this consultative proposal is a necessary step in seeking to establish this new education provision. The Council must be ready to take advantage of any programme of investment with support from the Scottish Government/ Scottish Futures Trust to take forward any improved education provision should, among other things, the financial circumstances at that time prove favourable.
- 94. The new schools and family centre campus would be of a similar size to the Faith Schools' Joint Campus (St Clare's Primary and Calderwood Lodge Primary and Nursery Class) established recently at Newton Mearns, which opened in August 2017 at a total capital cost of £17 million. This capital cost is provided for illustrative purposes only, since the specifics of the Neilston proposal are not yet developed. Additional resources would be required, as well as obtaining the necessary approvals, to establish the wider campus approach to *Learning and Leisure in Neilston*.

- 95. Depending on investment needs and available funding, it might take some years for such to evolve. Should the *Learning in Neilston* consultative proposal ultimately be approved in principle to go forward, then when necessary investment is secured the new schools and family centre could be progressed on the Neilston and Madras locale in such a way to leave open the possibility of adding the learning and leisure facilities at a future date to realise the wider campus.
- 96. With the proposal there would be the closure of 3 separate older establishments and resulting removal of backlog maintenance totaling approximately £2.8 million. There would also be a reduction in the overall carbon footprint of the Council as a result of energy saving in heating, lighting and other electrical equipment.
- 97. The property costs such as rates for the 3 establishments total around £0.2 million per annum. The above would be used to contribute to the running costs of the larger albeit more energy efficient unified campus building.
- 98. Whilst all 3 establishments would be demolished, the existing site of St Thomas' Primary School would be surplus to education requirements and would be considered as part of the Council's corporate asset management, possibly raising a capital receipt.
- 99. As noted in paragraph 75, there are no additional transport costs associated with this proposal.

CONSULTATION

- 100. The Council is required to formally consult on changes to a delineated catchment area, establishing new schools and changes to the admission arrangements or the relocation of any school. How this is carried out and who must be consulted is clearly set out in the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.
- 101. This report is issued as a formal consultative document and will be made available to all interested parties. A copy of the report is available for inspection at the affected schools including the family centre and at the Council's Head Office, Eastwood Park, Rouken Glen Road, Giffnock, East Renfrewshire, G46 6UG; and at the Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 1SY. An electronic version can be accessed at the East Renfrewshire Council website

(www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/schoolconsultation).

Schools Affected

102. The schools affected by the proposals are St Thomas' Primary School, Neilston Primary School and Madras Family Centre.

Period of Consultation

103. The consultation period will last from Friday 11 May 2018 to midnight on Tuesday 26 June 2018.

Relevant Consultees

- 104. We will consult with the following:
 - parents/ carers of all children/ pupils in the affected schools
 - Parent Councils of the affected schools
 - parents/ carers of any child(ren)/ pupil(s) expected to attend an affected school within the next 2 school years
 - pupils of each affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity)
 - school staff (teaching and otherwise) of each affected school
 - trade unions representing staff employed in the affected schools
 - the Catholic Church
 - East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership
 - local community councils
 - local elected members
 - local Members of Parliament and local Members of Scottish Parliament
 - members of East Renfrewshire Council's Education Committee
 - · current community users of the affected schools
 - Education Scotland
- 105. During the consultation period a public meeting will be held in Glen Halls, Main Street, Neilston at 7:00 pm on Tuesday 5 June 2018. Elected members and senior officers of East Renfrewshire Council will be present to discuss the proposal and there will be an opportunity to ask questions at the meeting.
- 106. Note on Corrections: If any possible inaccuracy or omission in the Consultative Document is discovered by the Education Department or is suggested by any other person, the department will determine if relevant information has been omitted or if there has been an inaccuracy. The Education Department will then take appropriate action that may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the Proposal paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period as appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised.

Responding to the Consultation

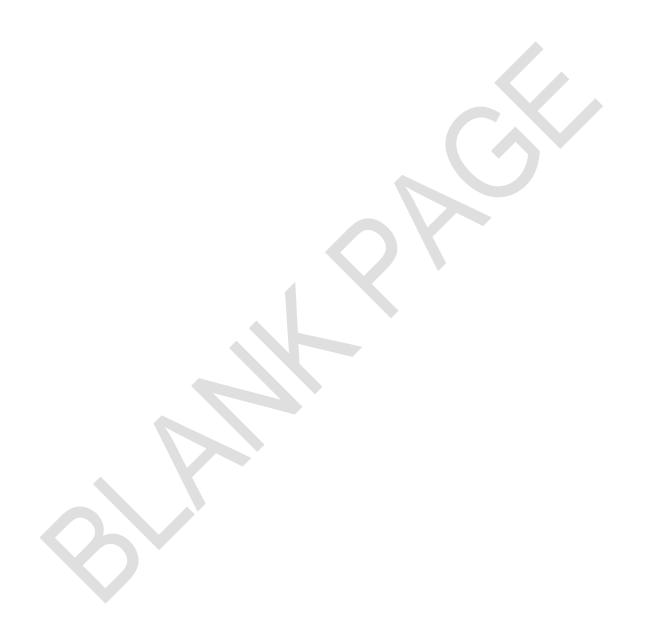
107. East Renfrewshire Council invites all interested parties to make written representation on the consultative proposal. Interested parties are encouraged to provide feedback on East Renfrewshire Council's website www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/schoolconsultation; or alternatively citizens can complete and return the consultation response proforma attached in *Appendix G*.

- 108. Written responses regarding the proposal will also be accepted by post. Such responses should be clear about who you are, where you live, why you are interested including your relationship with the affected schools (e.g. parent/ carer of pupil in an affected school, member of staff at an affected school, relative of a pupil at an affected school etc.) and whether or not you agree with the proposal, or have any alternative solutions or comments. Petitions will be treated as a single response.
- 109. Careful consideration will be given to the views of the Catholic Church regarding this proposal.
- 110. Education Scotland is entitled to copies of all responses received. We would therefore advise that your personal information will be supplied to Education Scotland if they request it. Separately other interested parties may also seek sight of the responses received and accordingly you should advise if you wish your personal details withheld in respect of these requests.
- 111. Please send all written representation on the proposal to East Renfrewshire Council no later than midnight on Tuesday 26 June 2018 via the Council's consultation website, or postal address for hard copies to East Renfrewshire Council, Education Department, Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 1SY.
- 112. Education Scotland will be sent details of the consultation responses including issues raised at the public meeting and other relevant documentation. Education Scotland will then prepare and submit a report to the Director of Education within three weeks. In preparing their report Education Scotland may visit the affected schools.
- 113. The Director of Education will report the results of this consultation exercise including the report submitted by Education Scotland to the Education Committee on 4 October 2018. The consultation report on the results will be available for public inspection at least 3 weeks before that date. The report will be available at all reasonable times at Council Offices at Eastwood Park, and Barrhead Main Street, in the affected schools, local library and published on the Council's website.
- 114. Reasonable requests for alternative forms of consultation papers or response documents will be accommodated wherever possible e.g. audio support or language translations. For this support please contact Mary Hart (0141 577 3435) or email Mary.Hart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk or write to the address in paragraph 111 above.
- 115. The final report and the decision taken by the Education Committee will be made available on the Council's website. Printed copies of the report will be made available on request to anyone who has responded to the consultative document.

Appendices

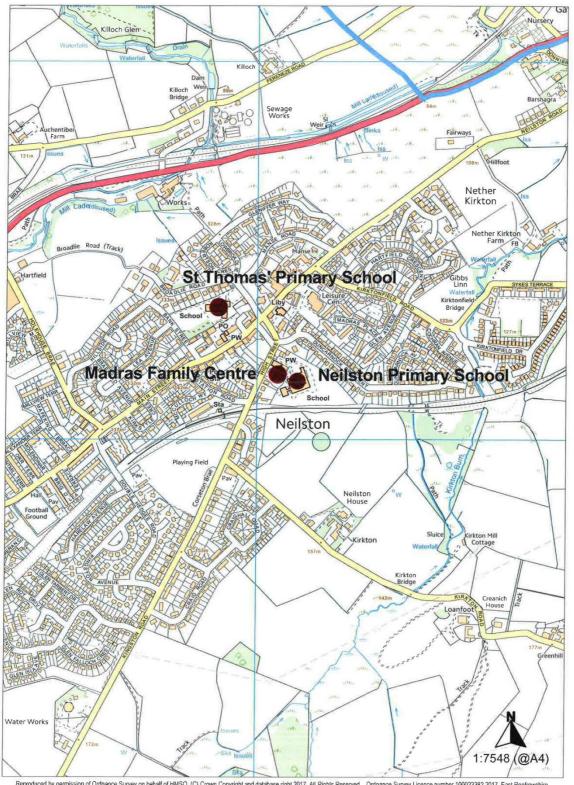
Appendices- Content

- A. Location of Neilston and St Thomas' Primary Schools and Madras Family Centre
- B. Delineated Catchment Area for Neilston Primary School
- C. Delineated Catchment Area for St Thomas' Primary School
- D. School Roll History: Neilston and St Thomas' Primary Schools
- E. School Roll Projections: Neilston and St Thomas' Primary Schools
- F. Feasibility Study Informing Asset Management Appraisal
- G. Consultation Response Form

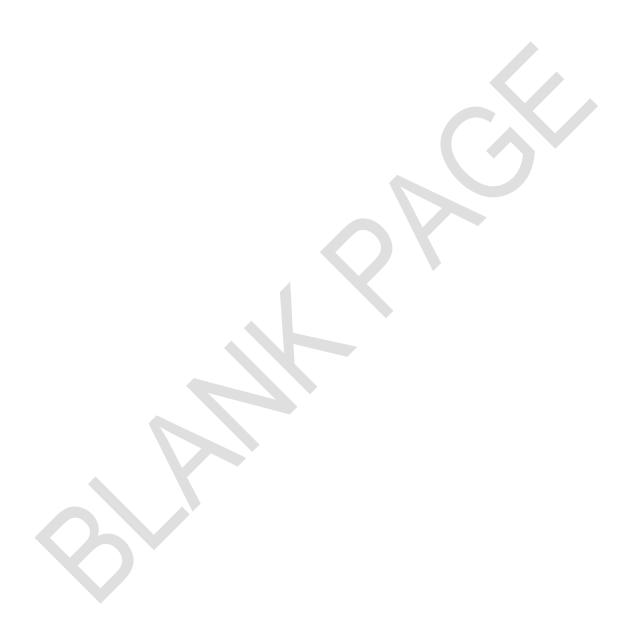


Appendix A

Location of Neilston and St Thomas' Primary Schools and Madras Family Centre

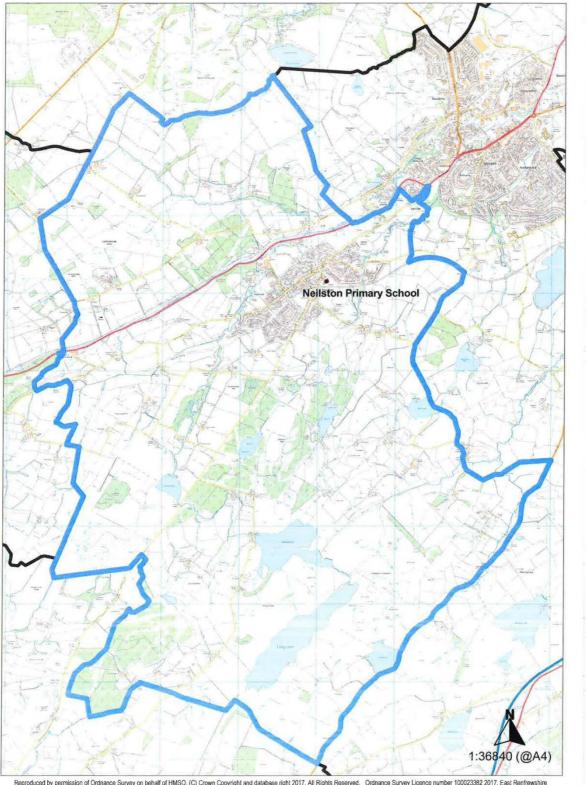


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Appendix B

Delineated Catchment Area for Neilston Primary School

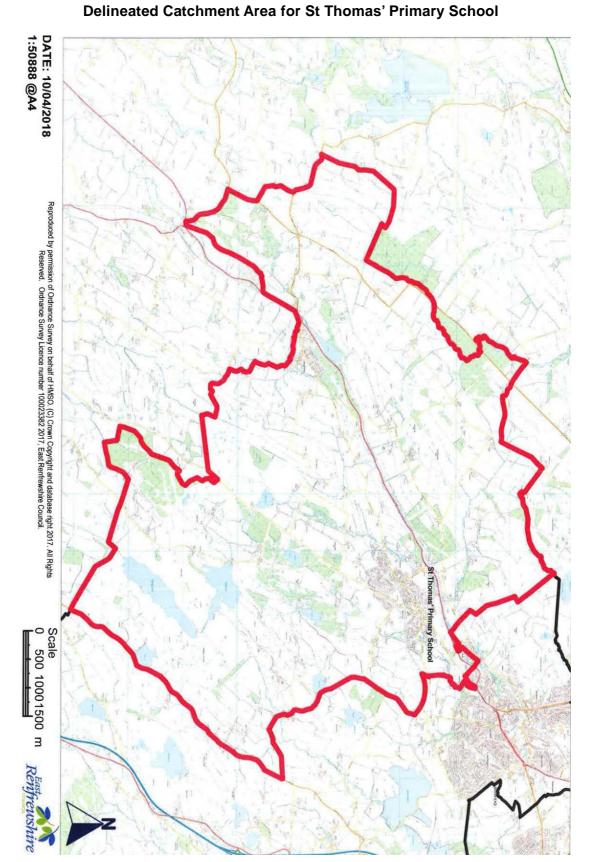


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A very small number of properties shown in these delineated areas have an option to attend a neighbouring school, similarly some properties out with the delineated areas may have the option to attend these schools. These are mostly farms. Details are available on request.



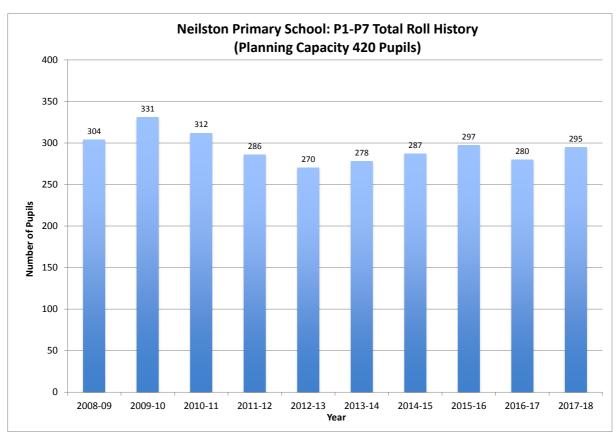
Appendix C

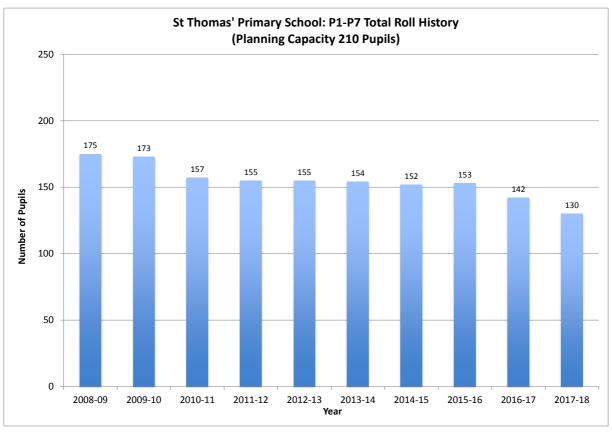


A very small number of properties shown in these delineated areas have an option to attend a neighbouring school, similarly some properties out with the delineated areas may have the option to attend these schools. These are mostly farms. Details are available on request.



Appendix D







Appendix E

Neilston Primary School: Roll Projection

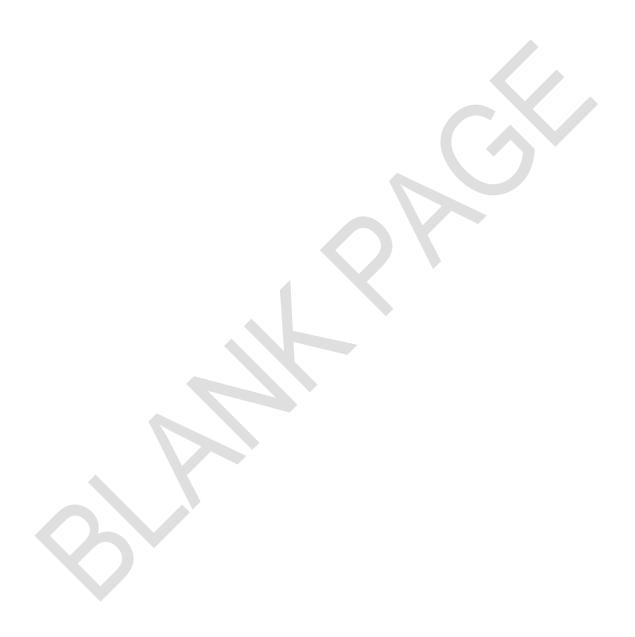
				То	Total Planning Capacity			420		
					P1-Intake Capacity			50/60		
		Rolls by Stage								
	P1	P2	Р3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P1-P7 (Excluding Housing)	Pupils from New Housing	P1-P7 (Including Housing)
Sep 2017	39	33	42	44	40	52	45	295		295
Aug 2018	41	39	33	42	44	40	52	291	2	293
Aug 2019	38	41	39	33	42	44	40	277	11	288
Aug 2020	38	38	41	39	33	42	44	275	19	294
Aug 2021	38	38	38	41	39	33	42	269	27	296
Aug 2022	38	38	38	38	41	39	33	265	34	299
Aug 2023	38	38	38	38	38	41	39	270	35	305

St Thomas' Primary School: Roll Projection

						Total Planning Capacity			210		
					P1-Intake Capacity			25/30			
	Rolls by Stage										
	P1	P2	Р3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P1-P7 (Excluding Housing)	Pupils from New Housing	P1-P7 (Including Housing)	
Sep 2017	9	14	19	27	22	19	20	130	2	132	
Aug 2018	20	9	14	19	27	22	19	130	6	136	
Aug 2019	16	20	9	14	19	27	22	127	14	141	
Aug 2020	16	16	20	9	14	19	27	122	22	143	
Aug 2021	16	16	16	20	9	14	19	111	30	141	
Aug 2022	16	16	16	16	20	9	14	108	37	146	
Aug 2023	16	16	16	16	16	20	9	111	38	149	

Notes

- ➤ The September 2017 figures are actual rolls per the official census.
- > P1 intakes are based on average P1 enrolments.
- ➤ The projections take account of pupils expected from current known planned new residential development within East Renfrewshire. The anticipated additional pupils from new housing are not allocated by stage, but as a total for the school roll. The projected pupil numbers by stage will therefore be higher.
- ➤ The roll projection is undertaken to monitor demand and availability of places for local residents and does not reflect any available places that may subsequently be filled through for example future placing requests from outwith the local/Council area. Placing request allocations are managed should there be spaces available following catchment allocations.



Learning and Leisure in NeilstonFeasibility Study







Contents

- 01 Introduction
- The Sites
- 03 Options Appraisal04 Schedule of Accommodation



Introduction

The purpose of this report is to review the feasibility of building a new replacement for Neilston Primary School, St Thomas' Primary School and Madras Family Centre on either the existing site of Neilston Primary or the St Thomas' Primary site, situated in the village of Neilston in East Renfrewshire.

The report seeks to present a number of design options which test the viability of the sites to accommodate these new education establishments and identifies opportunities to colocate new build replacements for other council run facilities, the library and sports centre including swimming pool where there are synergies for education and benefit to the community.

The Council has identified that both Neilston and St Thomas' primary school buildings are in need of new build replacement given their poor condition and not being most suitable for a modern curricular experience.

The library and leisure centre would also benefit from new build replacements to modernise and address maintenance issues. As part of good asset management and based on detailed condition survey information on all of these facilities the Council has taken the opportunity to reconsider learning and leisure provision in Neilston with aspirations to improve them should investment be forthcoming.



- 1. Neilston Primary School Site
- 2. St Thomas' Primary School Site
- 3. Madras Family Centre Site
- 4. Neilston Leisure Centre
- 5. Neilston Library

Neilston

Neilston is a village and parish in East Renfrewshire in the west central Lowlands of Scotland. It is in the Levern Valley, 2 miles (3.2 km) southwest of Barrhead, 3.8 miles (6.1 km) south of Paisley, and 5.7 miles (9.2 km) south-southwest of Renfrew, at the southwestern fringe of the Greater Glasgow conurbation. Neilston village has a resident population of just over 5,000 people.

Neilston History

Before industrialisation, Neilston comprised farming settlements, many of them with single storey thatched houses. Some domestic weaving was carried out using local flax. Water power from nearby streams ground corn and provided a suitable environment for bleaching the flax.

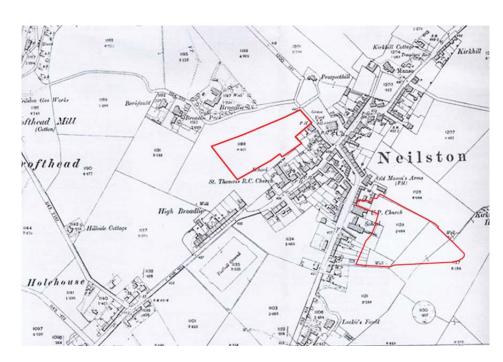
The urbanisation and development of Neilston came largely with the Industrial Revolution. Industrial scale textile processing was introduced to Neilston around the middle of the 18th century with the building of several cotton mills. Neilston became a centre for cotton and calico bleaching and printing in the 18th century, which developed into a spinning and dying industry, and continued into the early 20th century. Whilst Neilston is known as a former milling village, agriculture has played, and continues to play, an economic role.

Although heavy industry died out in the latter half of the 20th century, as part of Scotland's densely populated Central Belt, Neilston has continued to grow as a commuter village, supported by its position between Paisley and Glasgow, from roughly 1,000 people in 1800 to 5,168 in 2001 and 5,440 in 2014. Expansion continues due to several new housing developments.

The annual Neilston Agricultural Show is an important trading and cultural event for farmers from southwest Scotland each spring.



Historical Map from 1850's, sites indicated



Historical Map, early 1900's, sites indicated



Crofthead Mill, Neilston



Crofthead Mills, Neilston circa 1950

Surrounding Land Use

The land surrounding Neilston Primary School site is predominantly residential and agricultural use.

The site is bound by the railway line to the south, residential developments to the north, east and west. To the immediate west is Neilston Parish Church and associated church hall. Kirkstyle Lane/Pig Square open space is across the High Street to the west. There are approximately 14 car parking spaces on the eastern edge of Pig Square.

Kingston Playing fields are located to the west on the other side of the railway track. These contain 2 full size playing fields, a playground and some open green space.

St Thomas' Primary School is mainly surrounded by residential properties. St Thomas' RC Church is located in the centre of the town block bounding the southern edge, whilst Neilston Parish Church is opposite the north east boundary. There is a small, cleared brownfield site bounding the eastern edge of the site.



Land Use Diagram

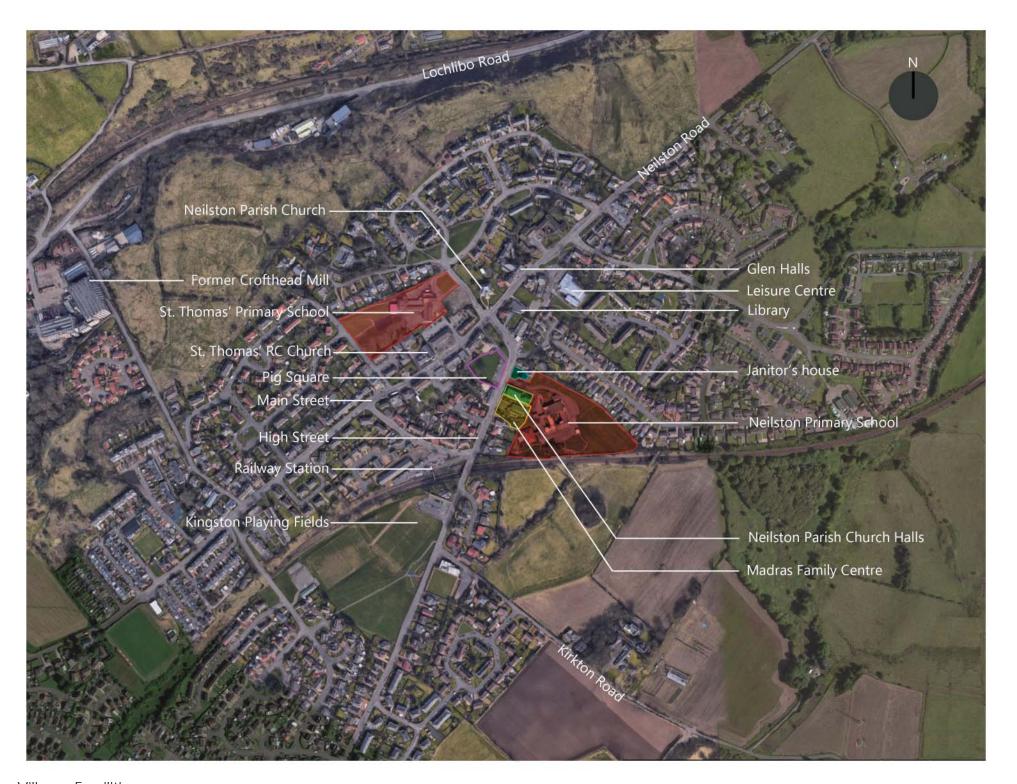
Village Facilities

Located in the centre of the village, the Neilston Primary site is ideally situated on the High Street. The library, leisure centre, train station and playing fields are all within a short walk of the site.

Kirkstyle Lane/Pig Square is situated across the High Street from the site. This is a local amenity green space, which is currently used for local community events. This site has been reviewed by others for future housing development.

St Thomas' Primary School is centrally located behind St Thomas' RC Church accessed from Broadlie Road.

The Madras Family Centre is situated next to Neilston Primary School, with both facilities led by the same Head Teacher. Children between the ages of two and school age attend. It is non-denominational. There are places for eighty morning and eighty afternoon three to five year olds and fifteen morning and afternoon places for two year olds. The Centre serves the villages of Neilston and Uplawmoor and children progress to St Thomas' Primary, Neilston Primary and Uplawmoor Primary.



Village Facilities

Neilston Condition Surveys 2017 Executive Summary

1.0 Introduction and Background

Further to instructions received from the hub West Scotland Limited, an inspection was undertaken of various East Renfrewshire Council properties in the Neilston Area with a view to reporting on the condition of their property assets.

The survey comprised an inspection of six individual buildings including comment on site wide elements ie. hard landscaping to each building. The buildings inspected were as follows:

- Glen Halls
- Neilston Leisure Centre
- Madras Family Centre
- Neilston Library
- Neilston Primary School
- St Thomas' Primary School

The inspections were undertaken during the month of August 2017 and were subject to audit and peer review to ensure that the information presented was robust.

The final individual building reports were issued in September 2017 and this executive summary is an outline of the key findings in respect of the information collated.

2.0 Detailed Survey Methodology

Condition ranking protocol

Each of the building elements and sub-elements were the subject of a visual non-disruptive inspection where accessible, appraised and allocated a condition ranking based on the table opposite.

117 02 The Sites



East Renfrewshire Council Properties Surveyed

	Condition Rating	Description
A	As new: full service life remaining no works required within 5 Years	Good
В	Sound: operationally safe element is exhibiting only minor deterioration, more than 50% service life remains	Fair
С	Operational: less than 50% service life remaining before major repair or replacement of the element is required	Poor
D	Inoperable: no service life remaining; serious risk of major failure or breakdown	Bad
DX	Statutory: health and safety risk and/or failure to comply with statutory requirements	Bad/H&S

Learning and Leisure in Neilston Feasibility Study 7

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Neilston Condition Surveys 2017 Executive Summary - continued

3.0 Building Condition Summary

3.1 Glen Halls

Building Fabric

Glen Halls is generally in fair to poor condition with various issues highlighted which require to be addressed in the short to medium term. Roof coverings to the flat roof sections at the rear elevation have exceeded their economic life along with localised instances of water ingress internally. External windows to the original building have suffered from a lack of basic decoration and maintenance over the years and, as a result, require to be replaced along with decayed doors. Internally, cyclical redecoration works are required throughout with refurbishment of both the male and female toilets and WC's required in the medium term.

3.2 Madras Family Centre

Building Fabric

No significant defects noted to the building fabric. Localised repairs and cyclical maintenance required. During the inspection of external areas, cracking and bowed sections were noted to the boundary wall at the side (north) elevation.

3.3 Neilston Leisure Centre

Building Fabric

External elements are typically in poor condition; particularly the roof covering and areas of the plinth brickwork. The atrium construction and external doors are also defective. Internally the primary concern relates to significant cracking, mostly in the Staff Office and Pool Store. Internal decoration is required to much of the building.

3.4 Neilston Library

Building Fabric

Neilston library is generally in a fair condition. The steel cowl on the roof construction is severely corroded and appears to suffer from fair anchorage. The metal fascia to the perimeter is in fair condition for the most part. Most windows to the building are timber frame with perspex infill, these are in fair condition. Internal ceilings with artex finish are suffering from saturation/staining. Internal plaster to walls is defective in areas, particularly in the children's section. Floor coverings throughout are fair/poor.

3.5 Neilston Primary School

Building Fabric

Neilston Primary School is in poor condition throughout with a number of issues highlighted which require to be addressed in the short to medium term. This rating concurs with the annual Scottish Government statistical return on the school estate. Roof coverings to the main flat roof structures have exceeded economic life with water ingress noted in various locations internally. External windows have suffered from a lack of basic decoration and maintenance over the years and, as a result, require to be replaced in areas along with decayed doors. Cracking and loose sections of brickwork and precast concrete panelling was noted with ongoing maintenance and previous patch repairs evident. Furthermore, it was noted during inspection of the external areas that there is significant Japanese Knotweed growth to soft landscaping areas adjacent to the boiler house. Internal redecoration works are required throughout in the short to medium term. In addition, replacement of fire rated doors within the main corridors/ circulation areas is required throughout.

3.6 St Thomas' Primary School

Building Fabric

Generally, the building is in a poor condition overall. This rating concurs with the annual Scottish Government statistical return on the school estate. Although there have been some recent upgrading works to areas, and patch repairs are evident, there are some fundamental items of disrepair. The roof covering and roof lights require renewal, as do many of the internal finishes.

4.0 Property Condition and Cost Summaries

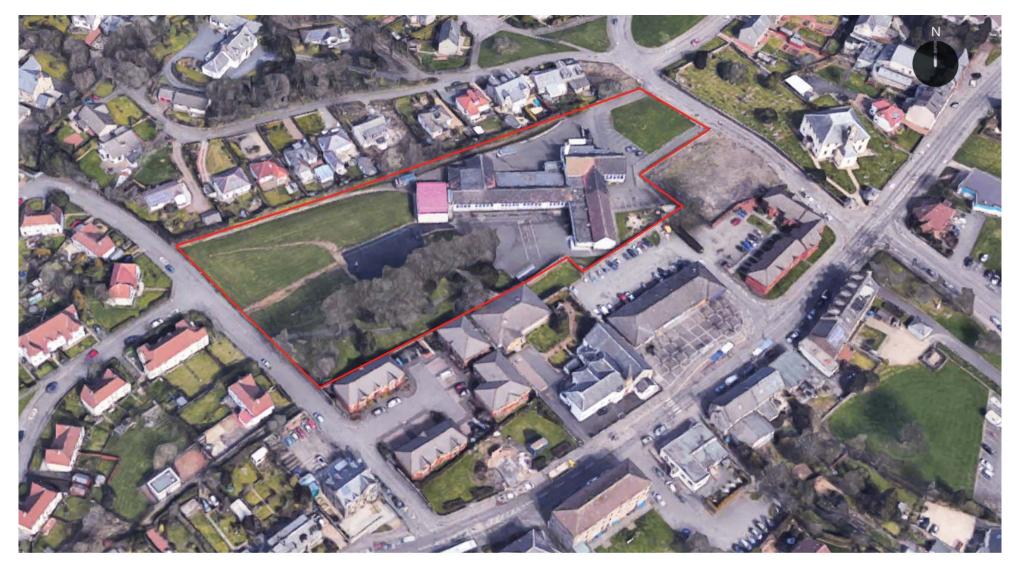
	Property	Building Condition Fabric	Building Condition M&E	Building Cost Summary	Key Priority Cost Items
1	Glen Halls	B/C	С	£436,970.00	£313,700.00
2	Madras Family Centre	В	B/C	£123,135.00	£19,400.00
3	Neilston Leisure Centre	С	С	£1,002,274.00	£611,764.00
4	Neilston Library	В	В	£225,900.00	£58,440.00
5	Neilston Primary School	С	С	£1,546,673.00	£1,173,166.00
6	St Thomas Primary School	С	С	£1,132,158.00	£720,858.00
	TOTALS			£4,467,110.00	£2,897,328.00

The Sites - St Thomas' Primary School

The site is approximately rectangular in shape, with a gentle slope from a central high point down to its north west corner. The existing school building is single storey and is situated to the eastern half of the site whilst the western half is external play area accommodating a hard sports court and grassed areas. A bank of mature trees within the site, occupying the south west edge, screen adjacent residential properties.

The long north facing edge of the site is bounded by the rear gardens of residential properties. The south east facing edge is bounded by a mix of residential courts, church property and car parking. There is no access along either of the long sides.

Vehicular and pedestrian access is off Broadlie Road which bounds the north east side of the site. Bank Street, running along the western boundary provides additional pedestrian access in to the site.



Aerial view of the site.

Indicative Site Boundary St Thomas' Primary School



View across Main Street looking north



Broadlie Road looking south



Entrance to St Thomas' Primary School from Broadlie Road



Bank Street looking north west



Bank Street looking south east towards Main Street



Lea Avenue looking east



View from Broadlie Court car park looking north

Site Analysis - St Thomas' Primary School

Strengths

- Well located and close to local amenities.
- Good south facing aspect.

Weaknesses

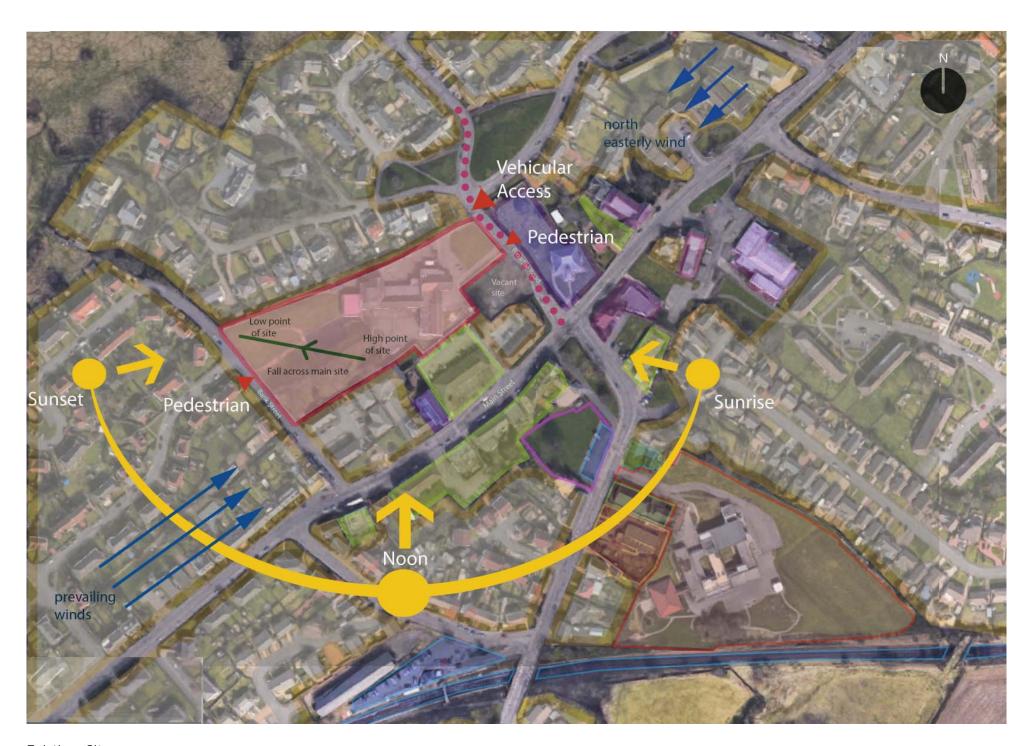
- Site area is small.
- Awkward, narrow shape.
- Close proximity to residential properties.

Opportunities

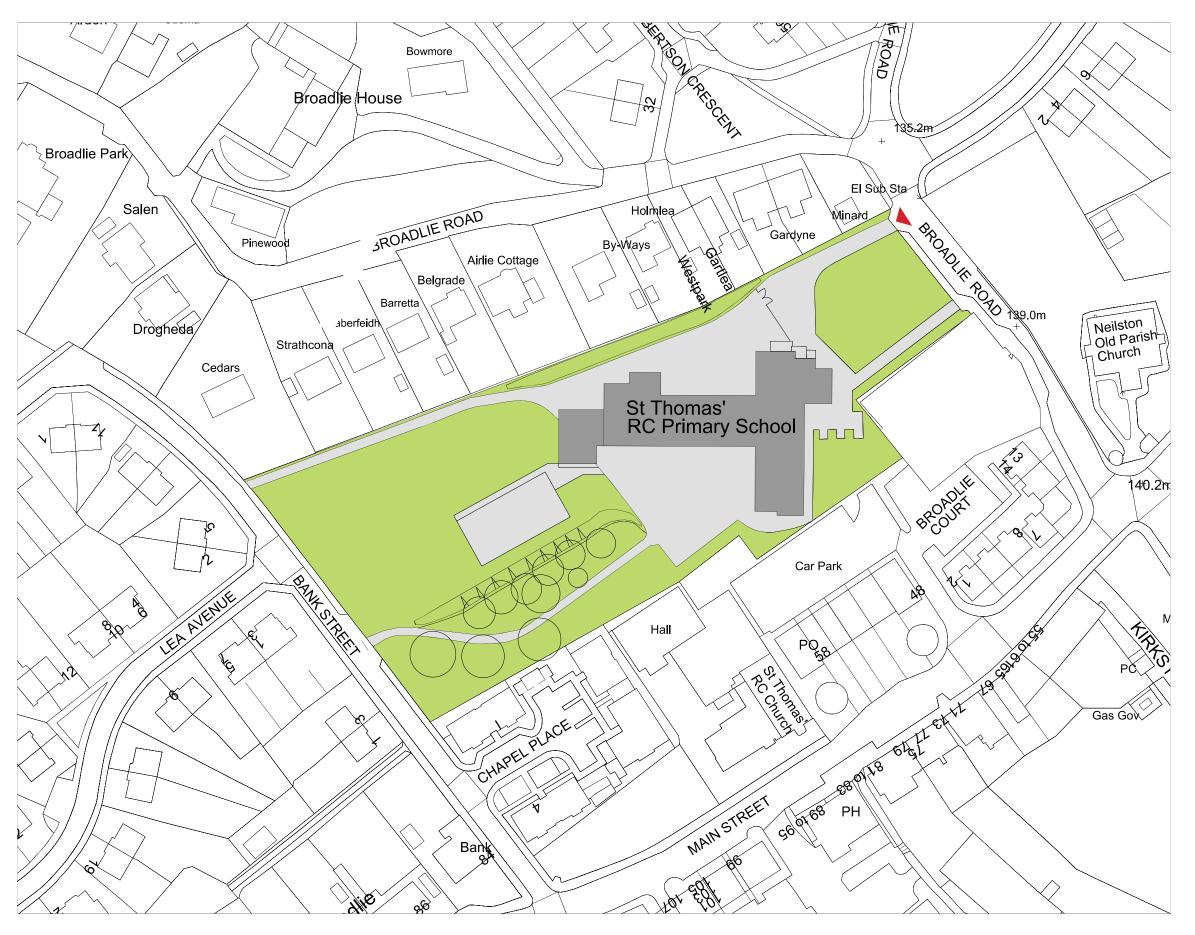
• Adjacent site on Broadlie Road would increase overall area.

Threats

- Planning Approvals.
- Adjacent site not available for development.
- Insufficient site area for school buildings and outdoor space.
 Insufficient site area for additional community facilities.



Existing Site



Existing Site

The Sites - Neilston Primary School

The site has good open aspect to the south and is predominantly south facing. The Neilston Primary site has a small frontage onto the High Street. The Madras Family Centre site, which is also considered within the options in this feasibility study, has a more extensive frontage onto the High Street. The Janitor's accommodation site also offers good frontage. All of these elements are proposed to be within the development site.

The Neilston Parish Church Halls also fronts on to the High Street and its potential reuse has been considered within the options should it be available.

The Neilston Primary site slopes from the High Street down towards the railway. There is a steep retained embankment to the north of the existing school. The site has potential intermittent noise from the adjacent railway.

Open agricultural land is located to the south west of the site which is the direction of the prevailing winds.

The Neilston Primary site is accessed via a road from the west directly off the High Street.



Aerial view of the site.

Indicative Site Boundary Neilston Primary
Indicative Site Boundary Madras Centre
Indicative Site Boundary Neilston Parish Church Halls
 Indicative Site Boundary Kirkstone Lane /Pig Square
Indicative Site Boundary Janitor's Accommodation



Current entrance off High Street to Neilston Primary School



Madras Family Centre frontage to High Street



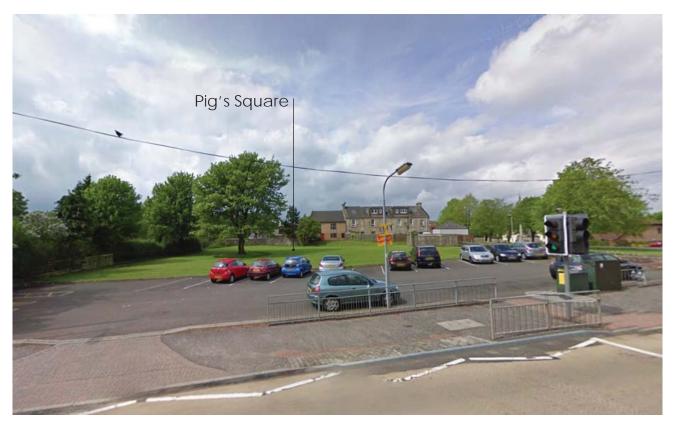
High Street looking north



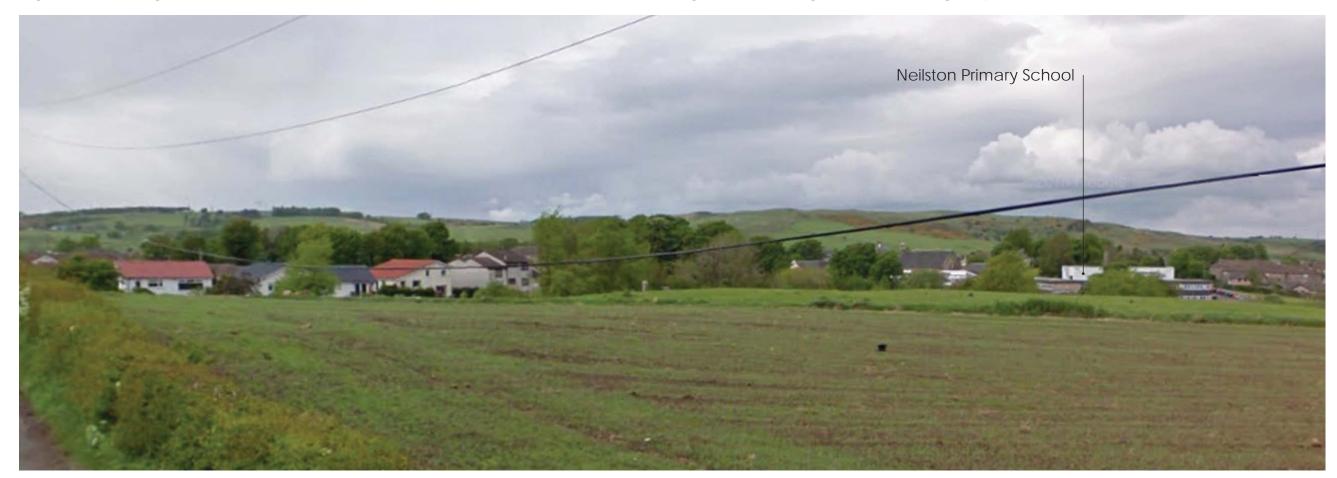
High Street looking west towards Pig's Square and Kirkstyle Lane



High Street looking south



High Street looking west towards Pig's Square



View from Kirkton Road looking north towards the site

Site Analysis - Neilston Primary School

Strengths

- Well located and close to local amenities.
- Good south facing aspect.

Weaknesses

- Sloping Site.
- Awkward shape.
- Proximity to railway.
- Current poor entrance.

- Opportunities
 Combined sites offer good frontage.
 Adjacent sites (Church Halls) would offer increased opportunity for development.
- Kirkstyle Lane/Pig Square proximity would offer opportunity for associated development.

Threats

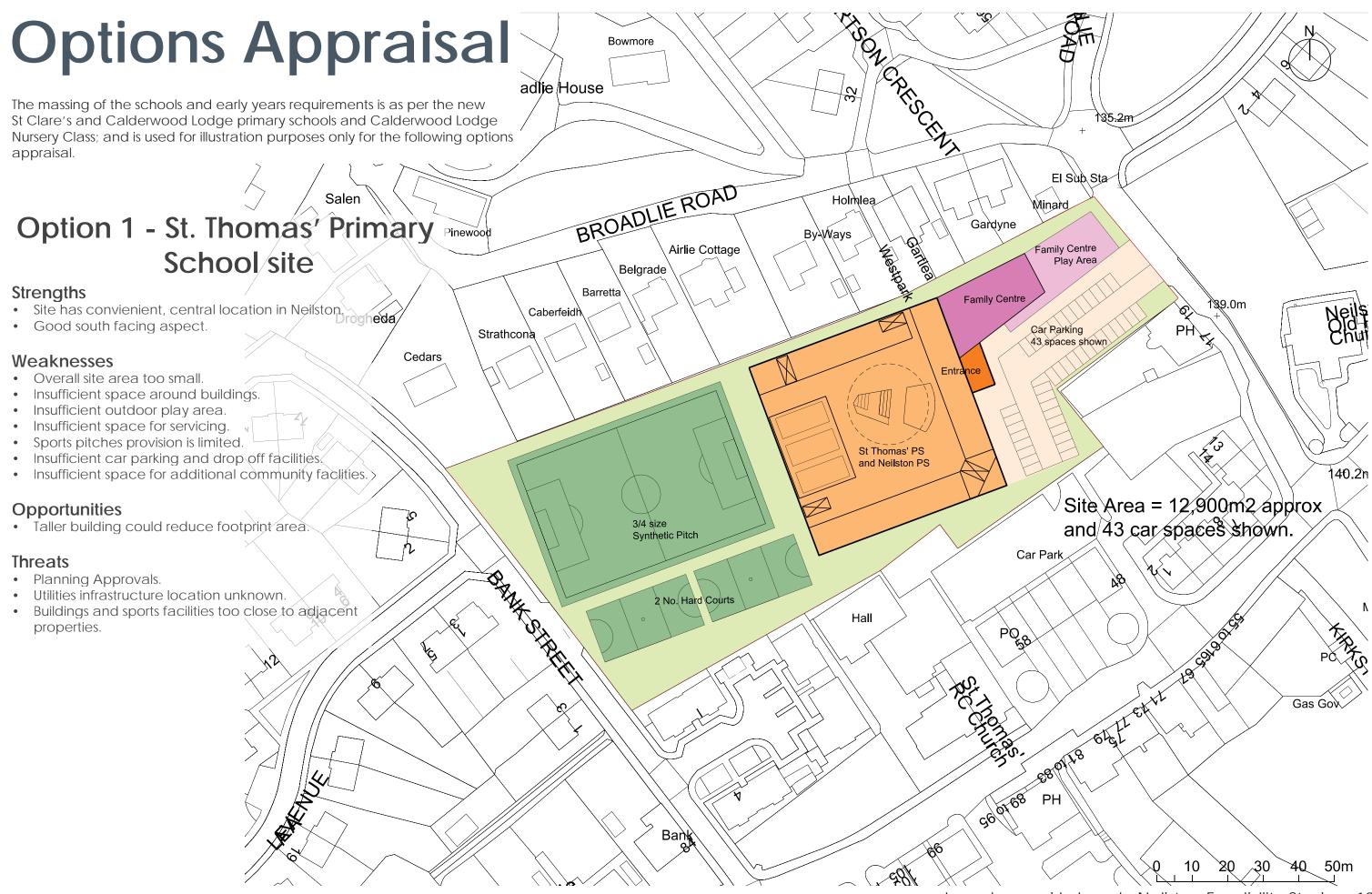
- Planning Approvals
- Adjacent sites not available for development.

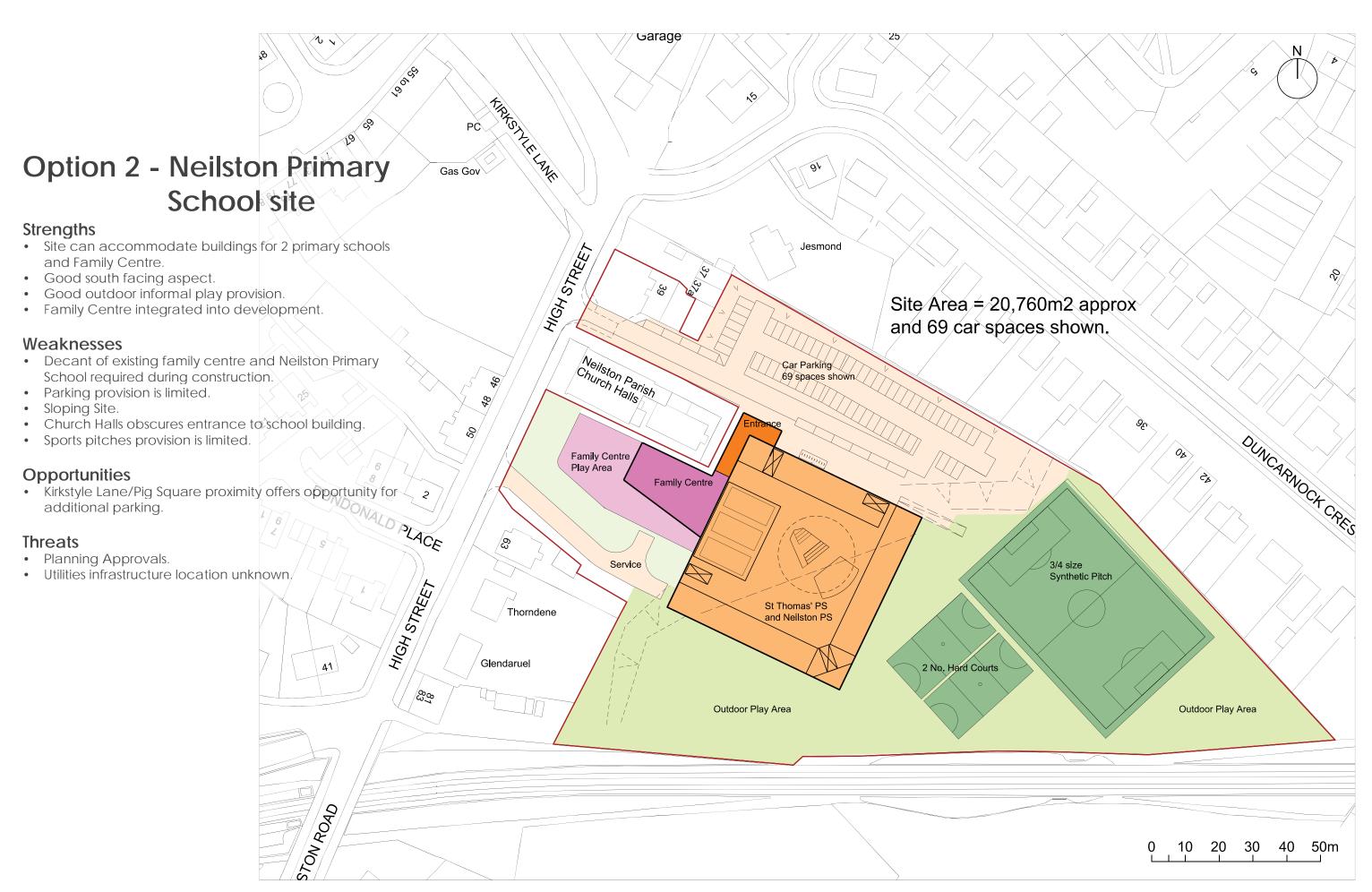


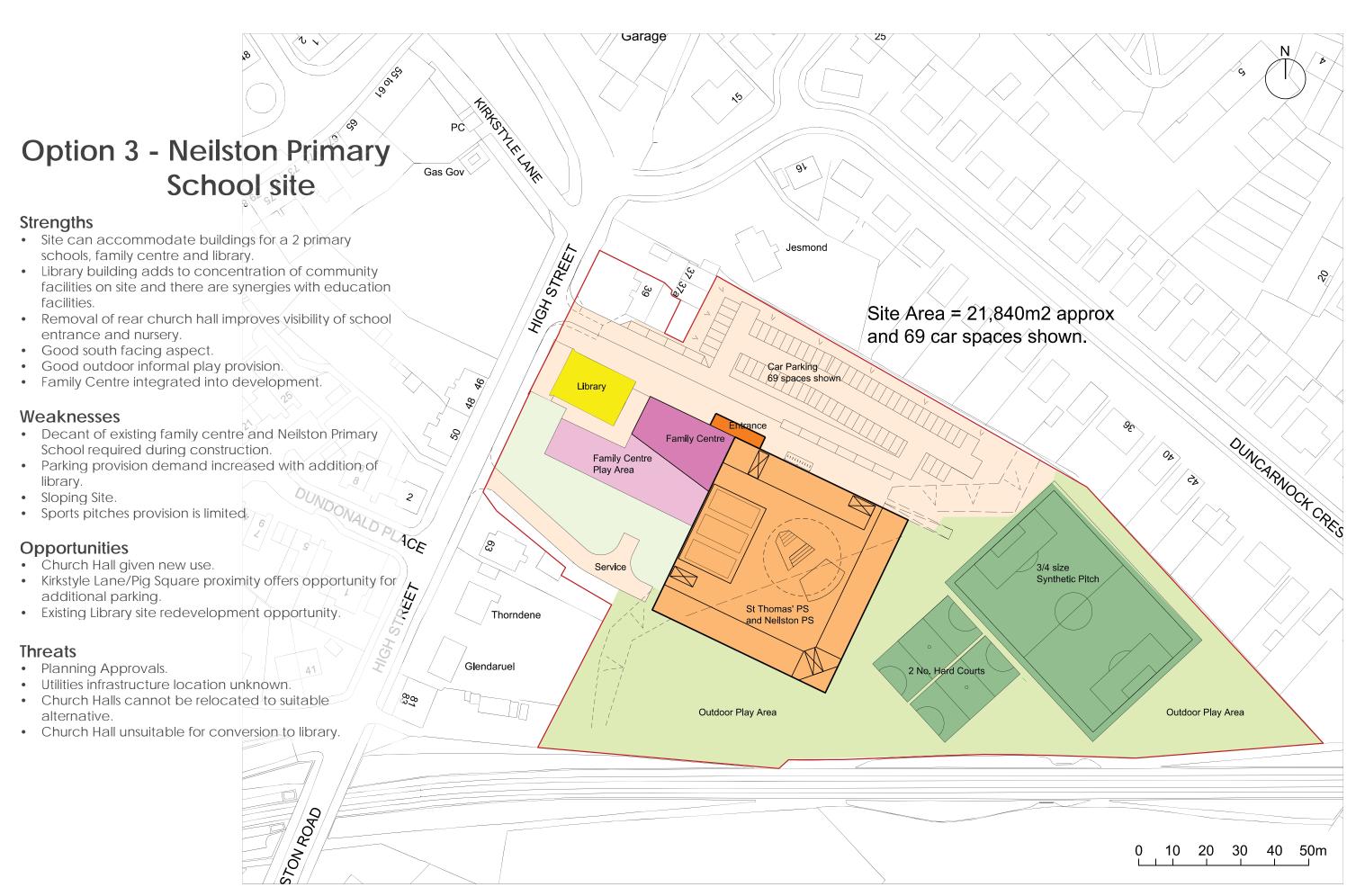
Existing Site



Existing Site











Option 6 - Neilston Primary School site

Strengths

- Allows existing Neilston Primary School and Madras Gas Gov Family Centre to remain in operation through the construction process.
- Avoids costly decant accommodation and related disruption to St Thomas' Primary School.
- Avoids costly and disruptive double decant for Neilston Primary School.
- Creates cohesive, multi-use community campus in the heart of the village.
- Community facilities are located close to the entrance for public profile and ease of access. The schools and family centre are therefore afforded greater privacy and security.

Weaknesses

- Requires more prolonged, phased construction programme than would be the case in a full decant.
- Noise and disruption for Neilston Primary School during construction phases - needs very careful management.
- Visual impact of new school building on neighbouring residential properties to northern boundary.
- Although there is some increase in car parking and improvements in traffic management, demand has increased with the addition of sports facility.
- Sports pitches provision is limited.

Opportunities

- Kirkstyle Lane/Pig Square proximity offers opportunity for additional parking.
- Existing library site redevelopment opportunity.
- Existing sports centre site redevelopment opportunity.
- Church Hall given new use.

Threats

- Planning Approvals.
- Utilities infrastructure location unknown,
- Church halls cannot be relocated to suitable alternative.
- Church hall unsuitable for conversion to library.
- More complex to accommodate multiple user groups within one large building.

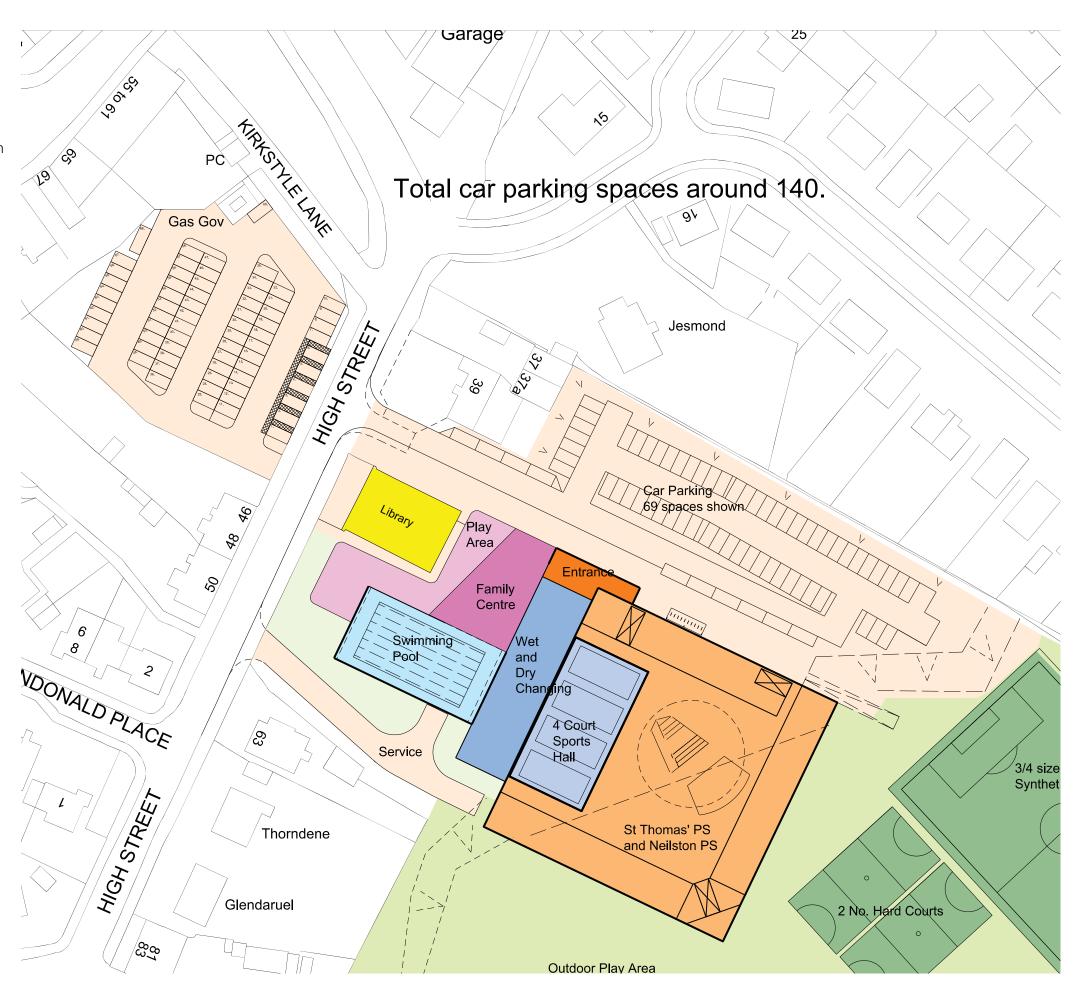


Parking

Option 2-5 above identify a parking provision of 69 spaces on the Neilston Primary School site. A traffic impact assessment would be undertaken, however it is anticipated that additional parking would be required.

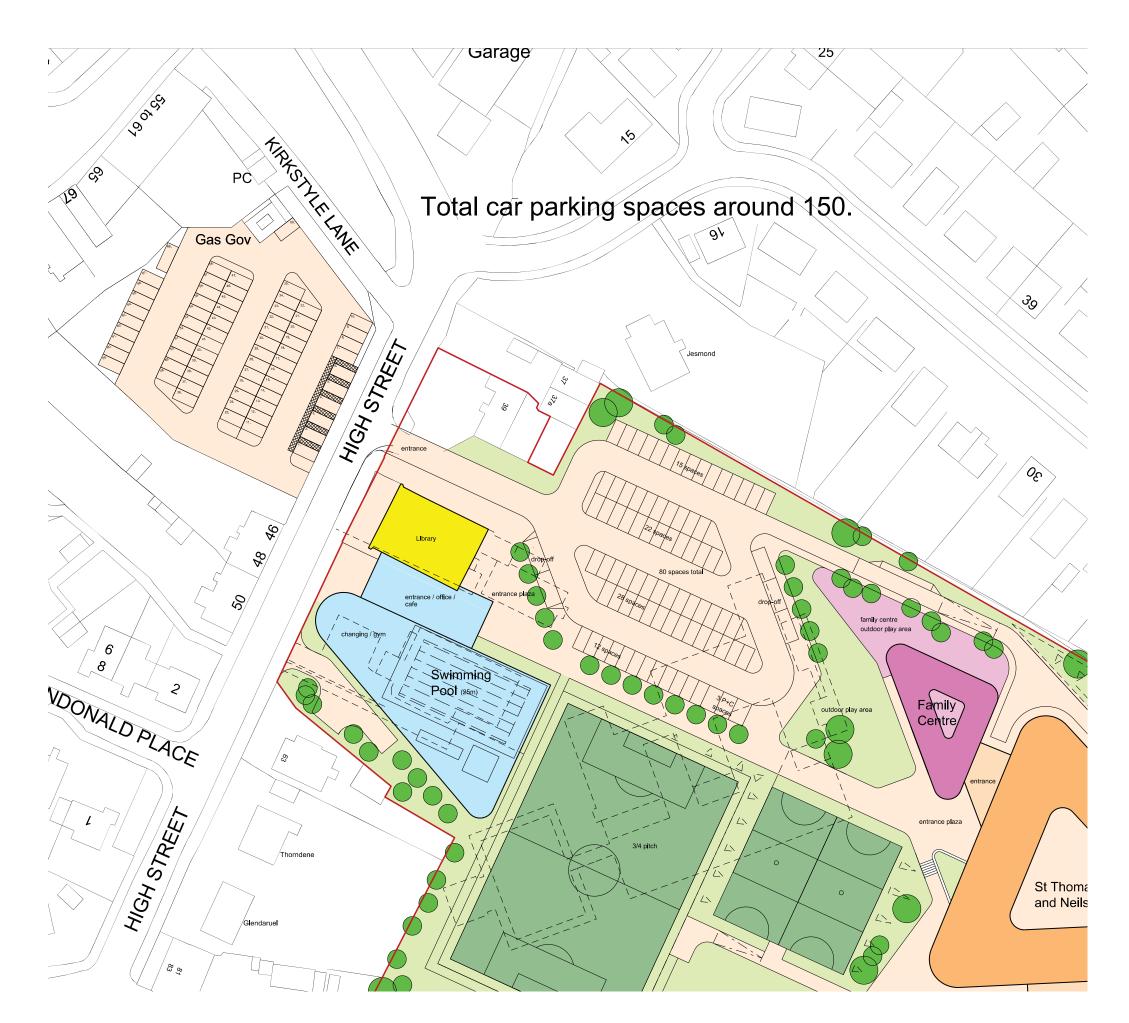
A study has been carried out to ascertain the potential for additional parking on Pig Square, Kirkstyle Lane.

The car park would be accessed off High Street and would provide in the region of 70 spaces, including 6 accessible parking spaces. This option would result in a total of around 140 spaces. Indicative car parking layouts shown.



Parking - Option 6

Option 6 provides 80 car parking spaces on the Neilston Primary School site. Adding the 70 spaces provided at Pig Square would result in a total of around 150 spaces. Indicative car parking layouts shown.



Schedule of Accommodation

The proposals illustrated in this report have been based on the areas identified in the table opposite.

The St Clare's PS (2 stream primary) and Calderwood Lodge PS (1 stream primary) and Nursery at Faith Schools' Joint Campus in Newton Mearns, have been used merely as comparator with regard to footprint and overall area.

There is a significant slope in the Neilston site and it is envisaged a step in the ground floor plane will be required to accommodate this. The ultimate design would creatively take account of the slope.

A new library facility is proposed in options 3, 5 and 6 with the possible conversion of the existing Neilston Parish Church hall into a public access library.

Options 4, 5 and 6 use the footprint of Lasswade High School (Mid Lothian) swimming pool facility to test the initial feasibility of siting a pool within the development.

Primary Schools	The proposal consists of a two stream non-denominational primary with 444 pupils and single stream denominational school with 222 pupils.	5635m2 (based on JFSC model)
Family Centre	An early years family centre facility.	370m2 (based on JFSC model)
Library	Required area to be confirmed. Proposed area shown is approximately 265m2 . Note the area of the existing facility is approximately 285m2.	TBC
Sports Facility	Required area to be confirmed. Proposal shown includes a 4 court games hall, 25 metre 6 lane swimming pool and associated wet and dry changing areas. Any additional facilities to be confirmed. Proposed area shown is approximately 1550m2. Note the area of the existing facility is approximately 1220m2, however this does not include a games hall.	TBC

Primary School External Space

The external space on the site has been assessed against BB103 guidance. The adjacent table shows the maximum and minimum requirements.

In the proposals illustrated in this report, the combined Hard and Soft Informal Social spaces, Hard Outdoor PE and Habitat space are well above the minimum guidance. The Hard Outdoor PE provision currently sits below the minimum BB103 guidance but aligns with the provision at Faith Schools' Joint Campus, which was approved and with the whole campus on-site provision provides good overall facilities. The distribution of these elements will be reviewed as the feasibility proposals progress.

Sports Scotland guidance on sports pitches (soft outdoor) takes precedence over BB103 as it is based on curriculum use and requirements. Further discussion on the sports provision for this site is required with Sport Scotland as local area provision will be taken into consideration.

Primary School	BB103 Guidance (Maximum) m2	BB103 Guidance (Minimum) m2	Proposed m2	
Hard Informal & Social Areas	1,932	866	TBC	
Soft Informal Social Areas	2,998	1,932	TBC	
Habitat	1,399 333		TBC	
Total	6,329	3,131	2,880 Option 1	
			5,090 Option 2-5	
			4,000 Option 6	

Primary School	BB103 Guidance (Maximum) m2	BB103 Guidance (Minimum) m2	Proposed m2
Soft Outdoor Pitches	14,962	13,321	2,820 (60 x 40m pitch)
Hard Outdoor PE	2,465	1,399	1,200*
Total Outdoor PE	17,427	14,720	4,020

Primary School	Sports Scotland Guidance	Proposed m2
Soft Outdoor Pitches	1 synthetic + 1 grass (60 x40m)	1 synthetic 60 x 40m pitch

^{*} This matches the Hard Outdoor PE provision at Faith Schools' Joint Campus

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

FUTURE NON-DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF NEILSTON PRIMARY AND MADRAS FAMILY CENTRE; AND FUTURE DENOMINATIONAL (ROMAN CATHOLIC) EDUCATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF ST THOMAS' PRIMARY, NEILSTON:

FORM FOR YOUR RESPONSE

ABOU	T YOU					
	Name:					
	Address:					
				Post Coo	е	
	Tick the box	if we should kee	ep your name and	d address confidential		
Please	e select all th	at apply and co	mplete as appro	opriate:		
				en attending an <i>affected school</i> on the young person lives)	(s) as not	ed below.
	☐ Neils	ston Primary		St Thomas' Primary		Madras FC
	□ Му с	child/ children res	side(s) in the deli	neated catchment area(s) of th	e school	(s) attended above
	Name(s) of i	my child(ren):				
	I am a pupil	at				
	I am a mem	ber of staff at				
		ding on behalf of		nisation.		
	Name of gro	oup/organisation				
	I am related	to a young perso	on attending one	of the affected schools		
	I provide car	e to a young per	son attending or	e of the affected schools		
	I reside with	in East Renfrews	shire			
	Other (pleas	se specify				

Please provide information to all sections. Should you not wish to specify some of the details in the ABOUT YOU section, we will still take your response into account.

WHAT	YOU THINK (tick only one box)
	I agree with the proposal.
	I do not agree with the proposal.
PLEAS	SE WRITE YOUR REASON(S)/ COMMENTS BELOW
The rea	ason(s) I have for reaching my decision is/are:
Any oth	ner additional comment:

Send your reply to East Renfrewshire Council, via the online consultation website or post to Education Department, Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 1SY, no later than midnight <u>Tuesday 26 June 2018.</u>

Signed