



CONSULTATION REPORT

Proposal Report (Appendix 1) Closure of Eddleston Primary School and rezone of Catchment Area

We invite you to share your views or comments on the proposals by midnight on Sunday 14th June 2026 :-

Eddleston Primary School Closure and Rezone of Catchment Consultation

Education and Children's Services

Scottish Borders Council Headquarters

Newtown St Boswells

Melrose TD6 0SA

Email: schoolestates@scotborders.gov.uk

Online: <https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/regulatory-services/eddeleston-consultation-report-2026/>

This Consultation Report has been issued by Education and Children's Services Department of Scottish Borders Council in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (As Amended).

****SUMMARY OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS****

****Introduction****

1.1 This Consultation Report has been prepared as part of a Statutory Consultation process mandated by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (As Amended). The Act outlines the consultation procedures that Local Authorities must adhere to when proposing a permanent change to schools, including school closures, relocations, or significant changes such as alterations to catchment areas.

1.2 The Statutory Consultation process was initiated following a decision by Scottish Borders Council on 25th September 2025 to advance to a Statutory Consultation regarding the proposal for the permanent closure of Eddleston Primary School and rezoning of the catchment area. This decision followed a three-year period of mothball (temporary closed) status, and two mothball status reviews which were undertaken in conjunction with the local community of Eddleston. The collaboration with the local Community Council helped draft and agree appropriate surveys, helped to cascade those surveys and communication relaying information throughout the process of mothball status and reviews, and through appropriate council communication channels both during the temporary mothball status period, and during the Statutory Consultation Process.

1.3 This Consultation Report, along with the Proposal Paper (Appendix 1), provides a comprehensive account of the Council's adherence to the stipulations of the 2010 Act.

Proposal Paper

1.4 A Proposal Paper, detailing the proposals and the Council's reasons for making the proposals, was published and agreed by Full Council on 4th December 2025. The Statutory Consultation commenced from 8th December 2025 to 13th February 2026 inclusive(however noting that the consultation in fact closed online to comments midnight on Sunday 15th February due to the use of a digital platform and this was felt helpful to encourage and enable as much engagement as possible over the weekend period)

The Proposals are:-

Eddleston Primary School, Burnside, Eddleston, Peebles EH45 8RH (currently mothballed or temporarily closed) is permanently closed; and if it is decided to

permanently close Eddleston Primary School, that the catchment area is permanently rezoned to either Newlands Primary School, Romanno Bridge, Peeblesshire, EH46 7BZ (current temporary catchment school) or Kingsland Primary School, Neidpath Road, Peebles EH45 8NN. It was also stated that should other suggestions in relation to catchment re zone be made by respondents these would be duly considered also.

1.6. A copy of the Proposal Paper was to be available free of charge in these locations upon request :-

A. Council Headquarters, Newton St Boswells, TD6 0SA

B. All SBC primary and secondary schools within the Scottish Borders.

C. Link to consultation was published on the Scottish Borders Council Website and advertised on SBC Social Media.

D. Copies of the Proposal Paper were also available on request from: - The Eddleston Primary School Closure Proposal, Education and Children's Services Scottish Borders Council Headquarters Newtown St Boswells Melrose TD6 0SA Telephone: 01893 582 4000 Or by E-mail to:- schoolestates@scotborders.gov.uk at Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells,TD6 0SA and statutory Consultation was published on the Scottish Borders Council website at :-

1.7 A formal public Notice was published in the Border Telegraph and associated local Newspapers following the decision to move to a Statutory Consultation and a further Public notice was published following the agreement of the Proposal paper and the commencement of the Statutory Consultation. The publication of the Proposal Paper was advertised in Border Telegraph/ Peeblesshire News, the week commencing providing the dates for the consultation period and date for the public meeting. There were also press releases, group call announcements and social media postings at the start of the consultation process, before the public meeting and before the end of the consultation period to continuously advertise and publicise the Statutory Consultation to ensure as wide and active engagement in the Statutory process as possible. An advert was placed on Scottish Borders Council website and social media to advise and provide a link to the Proposal Document which was published on Citizen Space when the Statutory Consultation opened on 8th December 2025 inviting views and comments on the Proposals. Press releases were published in local media outlets to give advanced notice and to provide more information about the availability of the Proposal online and in paper format as soon as Scottish Borders Council approved the Proposal Paper on 4th December 2025. There was also widespread publication of the Consultation within Local Government briefings and widespread publications on website and SBC social media accounts picked up by local media outlets to inform and to continue to inform people of the Statutory Consultation to ensure as wide engagement as possible every step of the Statutory Consultation.

1.8 Formal notice of the proposal was sent by Email and Group call message system to:-

1. Parents/ Carers at the affected Schools (Newlands Primary, being temporary catchment school for Eddleston Primary (mothballed) and Kingsland Primary School, Peebles (as possible new catchment school) but also notification of the Citizen Space Link was sent by Group Call notification to **all** Parents and Carers within Tweeddale Cluster Schools and ELC setting, and on SBC social media/ SBC website as well as local media press release given the engagement regarding possible catchment change to ensure as wide as possible knowledge and thus engagement of the Consultation.

2. Parents/ carers of children expected to attend the affected schools (Newlands being temporary catchment school and Kingsland Primary School, Peebles) and any Parents or Carers living within Eddleston Catchment area who may have wanted their children to attend the Mothballed Eddleston primary or Kingsland or Newlands, within 2 years of the date of publication of this proposal document as relevant Consultee. In addition, All ELC being private and local authority run, were contacted and were given notice of the Statutory Consultation by way of Group call and were sent the Consultation Citizen space link. It was the clear intention of Officers to try and consult with a large selection of Newlands Primary and Kingsland Primary School Pupils to try and obtain views from as many young people across the Tweeddale area as possible. Officers therefore also undertook to consult with pupils within Priorsford Primary School Peebles in view of the fact that some children attending lived within the current Eddleston Catchment area and keeping in mind that some parents may have wanted Priorsford -as the alternative Peebles non-denominational primary school in Peebles- to be considered as a possible re zone catchment school. Officers had originally wished to try and consult with all schools within Tweeddale Cluster including St Ronan's, West Linton , Walkerburn and Broughton Primary School as well as Halyrude RC Primary Peebles, to ensure as wide engagement as possible given that some children attending these schools may live or have lived in the Eddleston catchment, but Officers required to take a pragmatic approach to try to engage as many Pupil Councils/ focus groups from the Tweeddale schools as much as possible to obtain their views on the Proposal taking cognisance of UNCRC in particular. It was therefore decided that a pragmatic approach needed to be adopted for this and decision was taken to consult with just the affected Schools being Newlands, Kingsland and to also include Priorsford pupils groups directly, but not Halyrude Primary (due to its denominational status) in the knowledge that *all* Tweeddale schools including staff, pupils, and parents/carers had been properly notified of the Statutory Consultation and could provide views to the Statutory Consultation direct should they wish to do so. Information obtained and a note of views of each pupil focus group meeting is noted and reported within this Consultation Report document at **section 3.1.**

3. The Staff of Newlands (currently temporary catchment zone School) and Kingsland Primary Schools (possible new catchment school) as affected schools.
4. Any trade Union which is representative of the staff of the affected schools as above.
5. The Community Council of Eddleston (and any Community Council of any further Borders area upon request) All Community Councils will be advised by media publishing and Statutory Notice of the Consultation process in any event, and encouraged to participate in the statutory consultation.
6. Community Planning Partnership named Partners
7. The constituency member of the Scottish Parliament
8. The constituency member of Parliament
9. The List members of the Scottish Parliament
10. Councillors of Scottish Borders Council

1.9 Length of Consultation period

The Statutory Consultation period for the proposal ran online on citizen space from 8th December 2025 -13th February 2025 (noting that online citizen space link closure until midnight on Sunday 15th February 2026) to adhere to the requirement of 6 weeks and at least 30 school days. This period allowed for the statutory minimum of 30 school days. There were **47 total responses (46 online and 1 emailed response to separate School Estate email address)** responses received in respect of the Statutory Consultation both online in the survey attached to the documents, and in writing by email to consultation email address. There was an additional 1 further follow up email to a response already submitted to the online forum. The additional email comment was added to the responders online response to make sure there was not a duplicate response collated. The responses are included below as is a statutory requirement and responded to in Section 4 below. The guidance suggests this can be summarised but Officers decided to include verbatim where possible – incorporating summaries if was required for privacy / data protection concerns.

Public meetings

1.10 A public meeting was held on: - **Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 6pm.** 18 members of the public attended, Two officers of the Council, along with one representative of Education Scotland, HM Inspector of Education, and elected members. Minutes were taken at the meeting, and views were sought following a short introduction by both officers of the Council. Copies of the meeting minutes are included as **Appendix 2.**

Meetings with Pupils and Staff

1.11 Discussions were held with pupils (considered to be of a suitable age and maturity) and relevance with emphasis on encouraging those who lived in Eddleston Catchment area to attend, and staff in a broad selection of primary schools of Tweeddale as per The

Proposal Report detail as relevant Consultees. Details of these discussions can be found in **Section 3 of this report.**

Involvement of Education Scotland

1.12 Education Scotland was notified in advance of this Statutory Consultation process being approved. On completion of the Statutory Consultation period, a copy of the Proposal Paper was sent by Scottish Borders Council to Education Scotland. Education Scotland also received a copy of all additional materials such as minutes of the public meeting, a full copy of the written representations in terms of the online Citizen Space survey responses and the one responders email received to the School Estates email address during the consultation period, along with minutes of meetings with children copies of all responses from the mothball status reviews over the last few years and any other relevant documents including Power Point presentations at the Pupil Engagement Meetings and any other relevant documents to document the Statutory Consultation Process.

1.13 Education Scotland prepared a report on the educational aspects of The Proposal, based on the representations and documents mentioned above as well as their own interviews with pupils, parents, staff, and several primary and secondary school to include Peebles High School. In preparing their report, Education Scotland also visited Eddleston Primary School building and made reasonable enquiries as they considered appropriate to The Education Service of Scottish Borders Council. Their report can be found at **Appendix 3** and on the Education Scotland Website under Education Scotland Consultation Reports- where it is published. Education Scotland state in their report that the proposal to close Eddleston Primary School permanently and to rezone the catchment is of potential educational benefit.

1.14 The comments made by Education Scotland Report with regards to Eddleston Primary School being permanently closed and the Council's response to that report are set out in **Section 5 and Section 6 of this Consultation Report.**

2.Preparation of Public Consultation Report

2.1 Council officers have reviewed the proposals having regard to the Education Scotland Report, the discussions from the public meeting, comments from pupils and staff and all the responses received during the Consultation period online and written to the school estates email address. This Consultation Report has been prepared by Scottish Borders Council Children and Young People's Services team as a result. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats. It will be available on the Council website and from Council Headquarters, including the public library Peebles as well as all SBC schools (upon request) free of charge. All who made representations about the Proposal Report and provided their email address, will be emailed to be advised about the Consultation Report being published on **19th May until 14th June**

2026. There will be wide publication of the Consultation report to enable feedback on it. This time period is to take into account the school holiday periods. The reasoning being that the Statutory required Period for the Consultation report to be published is 3 weeks for further feedback to be obtained. Due to school holidays for the Scottish parliamentary Elections and other bank holidays it is the intention that the Consultation report shall be published for a full 4 weeks.

2.2 Background to the Proposal

2.3 The Proposal Report recommended the permanent closure of Eddleston Primary School, citing the educational benefits associated with it. After three years of temporary mothballing and two reviews, the community wants to see more certainty and have a resolution to temporary closure mothball situation, seeing continued mothballing for any further time as a waste of public funds. Officers understand these views and recognise the broader challenges facing rural areas in Scotland also. The school community first approached education officers to mothball the school to see if the demand could increase when the level of pupils had fallen to just four pupils.

2.4 The demand unfortunately has not materially increased sufficiently to justify continuing to mothball or reinstalling the primary school as was. Currently, permanent closure of the Primary School as Eddleston catchment school as it stands, is regarded as the favoured option to provide clarity and certainty where numbers within the catchment are still relatively static, and there is no clear case for the numbers of children in the catchment who crucially would wish to attend a re-established local primary catchment school in the village, rising to a sustainable level as the demand is still very low. In single figures and being indicative of about 6 pupils, for a theoretical reinstatement in August 2026. Even with possible significant housebuilding within the village area to come in the next few years as per planning and development, the numbers who would wish to attend a village school (if families move into new builds and wish to enrol in the village school) are speculative and the demand increasing substantially has not borne out over the last three years as was hoped by Officers and the Community, when the school was first temporarily closed for this reason.

2.5 The educational benefits of closing and rezoning to Kingsland or continuing with Newlands as the primary catchment school, outweighs the significant educational drawbacks of reinstating the school given the Options Analysis undertaken within the Options Appraisal Mothball Review Report 2025. The Eddleston community have been clear about the challenges they face with fewer families who wish to utilise a village school given the move to other schools out with the village, before mothballing, and the demonstrable fact that there are children within Eddleston catchment who do not currently utilise the smaller more rural, temporary catchment school of Newlands Primary, with some choosing the larger town Peebles primaries, and the educational benefits of the close market town primaries, such as the inclusion in the Peebles March

Riding and Beltane Queen Festival and the sports clubs and facilities that the town of Peebles provides. Community voices have also been positive generally about the possibilities and opportunities which could be created, if the school building were freed up to be used by the community, developed or sold post successful statutory Consultation to close. Some community voices have expressed a desire that such a closure consultation should have happened some years before now and that continuing to mothball in the hope that demand and numbers increased was a wasteful use of public funds.

2.6 Due to the school's rural designation, there is also a presumption against closure of the school, so all potential alternatives to closure require to be assessed during the appraisal process, and discounted as not viable for cogent reasons, before such a proposal for permanent change to the school in the form of closure, was progressed under the 2010 Act. This has been adhered to in respect of the Options Appraisal 2nd Mothball Review Report 2025 and as discussed within the Proposal Paper for closure.

2.7 The proposal report therefore recommends permanent closure of Eddleston Primary School (temporarily closed) and rezoning of the catchment therefore to either Newlands or Kingsland or another catchment option as maybe mooted by the community, and the report was submitted as part of the Statutory Consultation process mandated by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended. This Act delineates the consultation procedures that local authorities are required to adhere to when proposing permanent modifications to their schools, including closures, relocations, or changes to catchment areas.

3. Pupil Focus Groups

3.1 Within the Statutory Consultation, discussions were conducted with Focus groups of mainly Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils (but also with children who were younger but who lived within the Eddleston Catchment area if they wished to take part to ensure emphasis on Eddleston catchment children) from Newlands Primary School, Kingsland Primary Peebles and Priorsford Primary School (as the other non-denominational primary in Peebles).

3.2 These focus groups were held in person and led by an Officer of Council and attended by a teacher within the schools. The primary objective of these focus groups was to gather insights from children and young people who may live in the catchment area, have had some knowledge of Eddleston Primary having previously attended or perhaps would have wished to attend the Eddleston Primary School, but for the temporary closure, and to obtain thoughts and views on the proposal to close the school permanently and rezone the catchment area.

3.3 In terms of UNCRC, emphasis was getting as much feedback as possible and to encourage less vocal participants and to include quieter voices, getting their chance to

say what they think of the proposals. Participants were presented with a PowerPoint presentation about UNCRC, their right to an opinion and for that opinion to be respected and taken account of, regarding the Eddleston Primary Proposal to close on a permanent basis and a rezone of the catchment to either Newlands or Kingsland or another option if the case was mooted within the Statutory Consultation. The presentation was followed by an open discussion about the proposals where the views of the children were anonymously noted.

3.4 An email address for the officer conducting the Consultation was also provided at the end of the focus group, along with the link to a short survey online as well, in case any pupils wished to reply or comment in a more confidential format and not in open forum. No survey responses or emailed comments were received by the officer conducting the Consultation. The children who took part participated in a meaningful and engaged manner and officers were impressed with the manner in which they took their role responsibly and sensibly.

3.5 Key points raised during the pupil focus group discussions included:-

3.6 A general reluctance on the part of all the young people from all schools, to the idea of closing any school building while also acknowledging the limitations and restrictions on Eddleston Primary particularly regarding the small numbers at the time of the temporary closure in June 2023 and the very small numbers who would be attending any reinstated school, plus the difficulties or lack of social benefits compared to the potential larger Peebles schools which offered an array of social interaction or Newlands Primary which although was still a smaller rural school could offer what some children had moved from Eddleston Primary to seek :-a smaller more rural school setting but with larger roll size with more age and stage experiences . In general, the social interaction and opportunities to have friendship groups and clubs and activities linked with school was most important for the children who took part.

3.7 Newlands children specifically expressed mixed views about the proposal. They were less clear to support permanent closure, expressing a desire to continue to keep the school temporarily closed on a longer-term basis, to see if the demand increased, valuing smaller class sizes, local access thoughts so remembering walking to school, and citing fond memories although there was a reluctance to move back to Eddleston Primary as they very much enjoyed their educational experience now at Newlands. Comments from children included desires for more pupils to sustain two classes for social benefits, comments that they believed that the village population is growing which could lead in time to more people wanting to use the school, and fond memories of the small, close-knit environment at Eddleston Primary, including unique experiences like walks to at a local country house hotel and horse riding as there were only a handful of children in the final

class before temporary closure. Many emphasised the importance of retaining playground facilities and play equipment currently used by village children within The Eddleston School Grounds such as a football pitch and basketball hoop within the playground area if it were to close permanently.

- 3.8 Kingsland children's responses were mixed, with many unsure; some felt small schools support social integration within a village/ community to keep that alive, others noted the need for larger groups within schools and expressed sadness for the village community if the school were to close permanently. Local children to the village valued the playground and football pitch at Eddleston PS , stressed the importance of keeping these if the school closed permanently and worried about the school building's future use, even if in community hands. Children generally noted that Newlands offered a smaller rural school experience noting it is also a smaller school with good outdoor facilities, though some concerns about composite classes were expressed and why they felt those were not preferable. One child expressed potential mental health impacts if children have to travel into Peebles schools and what they perceived as "needing a bigger school for better education and social and sporting opportunities" and they also noted future housing developments might increase village population in a few years to come.
- 3.9 Priorsford's children's responses suggested that the majority of children within the group disagreed with the permanent closure, preferring it to remain temporarily closed or expressed a preference for it to be reinstated to see if more children would enrol. Many acknowledged closure might be necessary due to low demand for the school but expressed sadness for the village. Key themes included the desire for more pupils, concerns about longer travel distances, and the social benefits of slightly larger town schools. Discussion noted that children from nearby villages might walk to a village school, but those living on farms or further away would require transport. The group suggested promoting the school to increase enrolment but recognized the challenges of managing small numbers and varied community preferences where some people wanted town schools and some preferred a very small rural school. Some children mentioned the possibility of new housing increasing demand in the future, while others felt it would take too long to grow pupil numbers and that keeping the school temporarily closed was a waste of money in the meantime. Children felt that that the smaller rural Newlands primary should be supported by including Eddleston village children in its catchment on a permanent basis. However, some stated they would prefer the larger Peebles schools for social and extracurricular activities, highlighting they also appreciated that this was down to personal preferences and the complexity of catchment decisions. also, sport support was discussed as a factor influencing school choice also and some felt that Eddleston was closer to Peebles schools so should be a factor which was taken into account.

4. Responses To Statutory Consultation

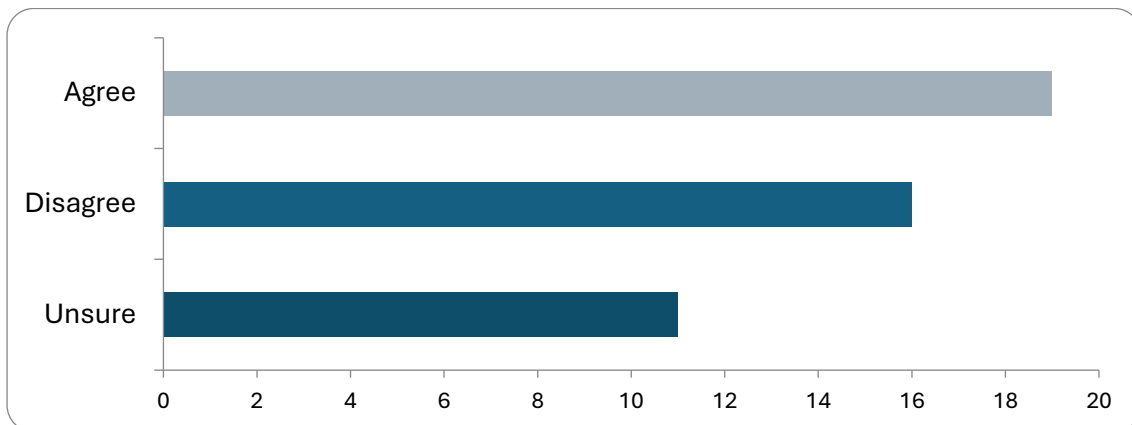
4.1 There were **47 total responses (46 online to Citizen Space and 1 written (emailed) response to school estate email address)** received in respect of the Statutory Consultation both online in the survey attached to the documents, and in writing by email to consultation email address. There was also 1 further follow up email to a response already submitted on the online forum. The additional email comment in relation to catchment was added to that responders online citizen space forum response to make sure there was not duplication.

4.2 The first question within the online survey on the consultation forum which was asked was: -

Do you agree with the proposal to permanently close Eddleston Primary School?

4.3 There were 46 online citizen space responses to this part of the question see below charts:-.

Note: The chart and table below present the results from the **46** responses submitted via the Citizen Space online survey only. The narrative analysis in this section refers to **47 total responses**, which includes **one additional emailed response** received separately.



Option	Total	Percent
Agree	19	41.30%
Disagree	16	34.78%
Unsure	11	23.91%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

4.4 There was one response to the school's estate email address which stated that the respondent reluctantly agreed with the proposal to close and provided a response in relation to catchment considerations for rezoning.

4.5 This brought the total number of responses supporting closure to 20 (including the emailed response), compared with 16 who disagreed.

4.6 All comments in relation to closure agreement/ disagreement/ unsure or not answered are below and they are grouped as to where the respondents indicated they lived. Some comments have been anonymised where appropriate to do so, to enable privacy, if they gave information in relation to their children for examples. All comments are produced verbatim wherever possible for transparency purposes.

4.7 Comments and Scottish Borders Council Response to the comment:-

Location and Closure Agree/ Disagree Comment	Scottish Borders Council Response
Those living within the Eddleston Catchment Area	
Comments agreeing with Closure Proposal Comment	
A good way to save money per head of child attending school. Very much hoping this helps protect music and libraries and other school provisions at risk.	Noted and accepted.
Given where we now are and the projected numbers of children, there is no other choice but to permanently close the school.	Noted and accepted
I would have liked to send my children to Eddleston PS. However, I agree with the closure as we need to be realistic, as there would not be the numbers involved to achieve this. In conjunction with this we have already sent our son to an alternative school and would not relocate back due to the disruption involved.	Noted and accepted
It is a shame that it has come to this, but unfortunately there doesn't seem to be a way to keep it open. My son was the last child to leave Eddleston before it closed. He started P1, when there were only 8 other children enrolled. By October break there were only 5 children left. He was not having a full and proper school experience due to the lack of peers, despite the great primary teacher (not the Head) and so we made the decision to move him after Christmas. Part of our reason for moving to Eddleston was the school, but it was very quickly apparent that the SBC decisions taken over moving the school to one class, had meant that it had lost the support of the community. I have 2 younger children, the youngest is due to start school in Sept. I would not move my older 2 now they are settled, so unfortunately would not use the school even if it reopened.	Noted and accepted.

<p>It was a very sad day when my child had to leave Eddleston due to the drop in numbers. There are unfortunately too many Peebles primary schools to compete leaving Eddleston primary little hope to stay open. It would be better if the school building could be used as a community asset to benefit Eddleston and Peeblesshire.</p>	<p>Noted and accepted</p>
<p>Most children in the village now travel to Kingsland Primary school. I sent my children to Kingsland for the following reasons: 1: when my first child was due to start she would of been the only child enrolling 2: I was having to travel to Peebles for nursery when first child due to start I was still having to travel with my second child so couldn't be in two places at once. 3: I didn't want them being in the same class together lol through their primary school years 4: all their friends they had made at nursery we're going to a Peebles school.</p>	<p>Notes and accepted.</p>
<p>Sadly, feel it would not be achievable to reopen the school</p>	<p>Noted and accepted.</p>
<p>Unfortunately, due to numbers this is the correct decision.</p>	<p>Noted and accepted .</p>
<p>While my preference would be for my children to attend Eddleston Primary School if its roll were sufficiently high (ideally above 30 pupils), current projections do not indicate this is feasible in the near future. Previous reviews and reports have not identified a realistic path to reopening, even initially as P1-3 only (which we would be in favour of). As such I am resigned to closure of Eddleston Primary School</p>	<p>Noted and accepted.</p>
<p>Disagree with closure proposal</p>	
<p>I believe when pupil numbers were declining there were issues with staffing at Eddleston school. For Eddleston to continue to flourish it seems incomprehensible to send pupils 12 miles away with a very early start when we have a great wee school on our doorstep. If the problem was with staffing then the solution is with staffing. Great teacher equals great school. We can't expect young families to move to Eddleston when there is no school, and we need more young families in the village.</p>	<p>Noted- and appreciated. Unfortunately, demand has not increased materially. Low demand for the school in single figures. Not enough demand to justify reopening This has been considered fully in the Proposal Report.</p>
<p>I feel the school could be used in a different way as a community hub for all the people of Eddleston, Another idea would be for all or part of it to be used for people with additional needs, particularly with the outdoor space and scenic, calming location. Could there be enough children to run it for part primary school years such as nursery and p1-3?</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Considered fully within the Proposal Report. see Alternatives to Proposal to Close in 15.12 of Proposal Report.</p>
<p>I find it absolutely abhorrent that the school is closing. I am pretty sure it is because of the new housing estate that conveniently also has now gone through.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>

<p>I have three children that would love to attend Eddleston primary if reopened and a baby on the way who would also attend the primary.</p> <p>There are new builds now in Eddleston which will bring more families and we have had an increase in children in the area since the school closed.</p> <p>The school is a huge asset to the area and it's ridiculous that it was closed leaving so many families with no school closed by when the conditions in the winter make travelling difficult for other schools available.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>
<p>It is disappointing that the village school has not remained open for children who live in the village. The lack of before and after school childcare seems to be the main reason for declining roll leading to closure. SBC has failed to meet the needs of families in the village.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>
<p>The closure of small rural schools inevitably leads to rural communities being eroded. Families will inevitably choose to buy homes in areas where their children can be educated and have a social network.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>
<p>The parents of Eddleston want the school reopened.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated. Please see results section 4.</p>
<p>The school could be reopened as a nursery/ P1 initially, and would grow year on year. I suggest that a new vision or focus for the school would make it attractive to families both in Eddleston and beyond. There is demand in the area for Gaelic Medium Education and once this gets going locally (the expectation is it will begin this August in Tweeddale), there may well be a need for an entire school building. Another focus for the school could be music or performing arts, or outdoor education.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p> <p>This has been considered In Proposal Report. see Alternatives to Proposal to Close s 15.10. This was discounted as unviable due to low numbers and weighing up educational benefits of the offering available locally. GME is being considered separately. Would require Stat consultation under the 2010 Act post Stat Con for closure of Eddleston Primary.</p>
<p>The school is the heart of the village and a lovely building. The school day in Eddleston was 8.30am to 3pm. Why don't you let parents from Peebles send their children to Eddleston? It would help with over subscription to Peebles schools and the start time works well for working parents.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p> <p>Parents have been entitled to submit placement requests Into Eddleston primary as out of catchment placements- No placement requests were submitted into Eddleston for years prior to temp closure June 2023.</p>
<p>The school is the heart of the village and so much of the community rotates around it. Permanent closure will lead to the area being deprived of any sense of community as well as stripping out a significant number of services, all whilst giving planning permission for many more homes. Feels very short sighted and doesn't consider the community, only looks at the financials.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated. The decision to recommend School closure is never taken likely. SBC is mindful of how it could affect communities and will try to mitigate all it can. It was temporarily closed for three years to see if demand for the school increased/ the community wants finality. SBC follows strict guidelines from Scottish Government and the 2010 Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.</p> <p>Noted and appreciated.</p> <p>This Statutory Process follows 2010 Act and ensures that Proposal to close is only proceeded with if all alternatives to closure have been identified and discounted. This has been adhered to in respect of the Options Appraisal 2nd Mothball Review Report 2025 And within the Proposal Paper.</p>

<p>We recently moved to Eddleston and wish to send our 8yr old daughter.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Unsure whether disagree or agree</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated. The build out rate and the time taken for the sites to come to fruition and completion- no real change to impact numbers and crucially demand. This process to propose closure has to follow The 2010 Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act which Provides a presumption against closure. This Statutory Process follows this and ensures that Proposal to close only proceeded with If all alternatives to closure have been identified And discounted. This has been adhered to in respect of the Options Appraisal 2nd Mothball Review Report 2025 Within the Proposal Paper for closure.</p>
<p>A number of large housing developments are underway in Peebles. It is also noted that improving the viability of the Eddleston Primary School was listed as a benefit in the planning process for the development of 26 new houses on Burnside (immediately adjacent to the school).</p>	
<p>I recognise that parents are only likely to commit to sending their children to the school if the number of pupils increases above some critical mass. Indeed, many parents withdrew their children when the numbers fell. However, this was now some years ago and I am concerned that the viability of the school has not been properly assessed based on the current school age population of the catchment areas. Similarly, adjustments to the catchment area could be considered.</p>	
<p>It should also be considered that the closure has increased vehicle traffic (for the school run) and negatively impacted the sense of community in the village. As a rural council, SBC should be considering these factors in their decisions.</p>	
<p>It's a shame to see a rural school be closed but unless it can be brought back into use with a sufficient number of children in all classes it would be difficult to support it.</p>	<p>Noted and accepted. This was fully discussed within Proposal Paper at 15.3. The setting up of a further ELC setting is not unfortunately seen as a viable option given the wide-ranging choice of ELC settings within the Tweeddale cluster already available.</p>
<p>I'd like my child to go to a rural school, but I'd also like them to get a well-rounded experience that will set them up for transitioning to high school.</p>	
<p>Unsure how you can restart a school from its current situation and be able to guarantee the pupil numbers. Perhaps if it had a nursery that might help?</p>	
<p>There is definitely enough children in the village and surrounding area to have a good school here. But unfortunately, people decided to send their kids to bigger schools in Peebles or Edinburgh.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed.</p>
<p>Comments from responders living elsewhere in the Scottish Borders</p>	
<p>Disagree with closure proposal</p>	<p>Noted. SBC follows strict guidelines from Scottish Government and the 2010 Schools Consultation Scotland Act 2010. This Statutory Process follows this and ensures that Proposal to close is only done if all alternatives To closure have been identified and discounted. This has been adhered to in respect of the Options Appraisal 2nd Mothball Review Report 2025 Within the Proposal Paper for closure. School was Temporarily closed for three years to try and see if demand Increased.</p>
<p>Change your fundamental policy and recognise that small village school roll numbers will rise and fall periodically. You are destroying small communities with your myopic one-dimensional perspective on the role of primary schools in small villages. Once you flag a school as mothballed, it follows that no-one will send their children there because they know you will ultimately close that school. The closure becomes a self-fulfilling prophesy. This is clearly a deliberate strategy by SBC education.</p>	

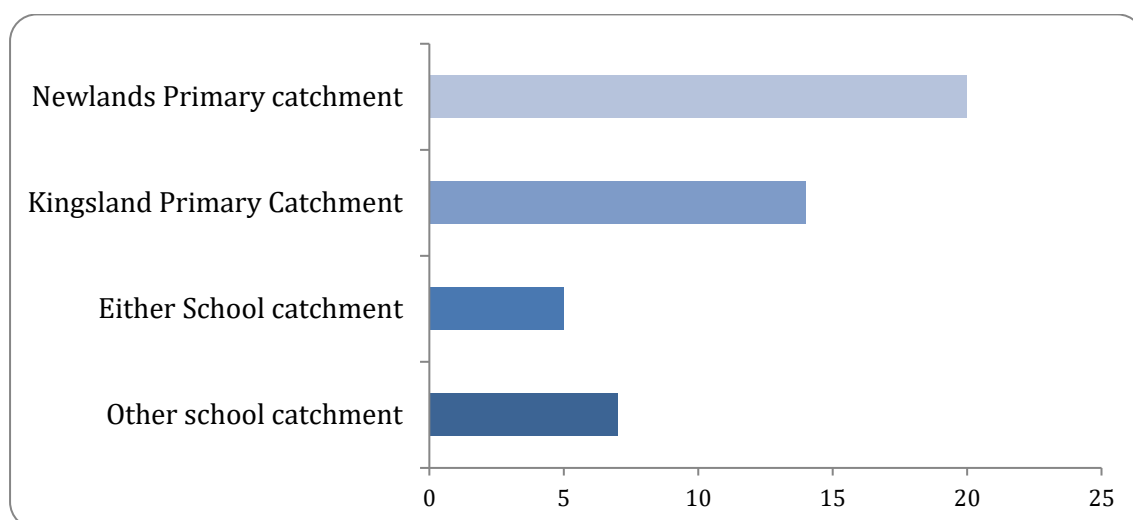
Unsure	
It is probably the best thing for the community to have clarity and the school role was too small to stay open but it is a shame for the village.	Noted and appreciated.
Comments from those living elsewhere in Tweeddale Area	
Agree	
It is a waste of money running a school for very few pupils. The quality of education these pupils receive will be of a better quality within another school. Being in a larger school will have huge social benefits for pupils.	Noted and appreciated.
Without a nursery the school fell into decline. Parents could not physically drop off at school in Eddleston and nursery in Peebles. The decision to make Newlands the catchment is ludicrous! Sending traffic over Lamalcha or a very long round trip on a main road compared to a 4mile drive to Peebles. Idiotic decision that needs rectified! Everyone knew it was down to money. No bus required if those in Eddleston wanted to go to a Peebles school. In the interest of safety, and common sense, change the catchment.	Noted and appreciated re catchment.
(blank)	
Disagree	
Rural schools are essential and Eddleston is a village full of families who need a school. The benefits of being able to walk to school and back are underestimated. Land in Eddleston is currently for sale with a view to developing more houses. A school will therefore be needed now and in the future.	Noted and appreciated.
Schools should not run at capacity at all times. Eddleston is a thriving village and those living there should have a school they can walk to. Areas of land are zoned and some are currently for sale, as development sites. These new houses will be for families who will use the school. If it is not used as a school it should be transformed into a special needs school.	Noted and appreciated. The build out rate and the time taken for the sites to come to fruition and completion- no real change to impact numbers and demand. This process to propose closure has to follow The 2010 Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act which Provides a presumption against closure. This Statutory Process follows this and ensures that Proposal to close is only done if all alternatives To closure have been identified and discounted. This has been adhered to in respect of the Options Appraisal 2 nd Mothball Review Report 2025 Within the Proposal Paper for closure. See below re Additional Needs

<p>This school is the perfect setting for an addition needs school! Leader valley Halyrude has limited spaces. There are also children who don't fall into the complex needs provision but who are struggling in a mainstream setting. This would be perfect as an in-between provision.</p> <p>Children with additional needs are being let down and schools within SBC cannot cope. It's unfair to expect teachers and pupils to just get on with it!</p> <p>SBC have the perfect opportunity to meet the needs of children within the Borders.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated. This was covered within Proposal Paper for closure at section 15.2. Subject to successful Statutory Consultation on Closure, this suggestion will be kept on review but this is currently not felt to be a viable option for the use of the school.</p>
<p>Unsure</p>	
<p>We don't feel it appropriate to comment on the closure decision of a fellow rural primary school</p>	<p>Noted and accepted.</p>
<p>Those living Out with the Scottish Borders</p>	
<p>Disagree</p>	
<p>The school should have not been allowed to close. Poor planning and a total lack of communication led to a mass exodus of pupils from the school. The appointment of a disastrous head teacher also contributed to this. SBC need to invest and allow the opportunity for future homes to be developed in the Eddleston catchment area. This would encourage families with young children to move to the area. The allowance of applications for a small convenience store would also help attract further people to the area.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p> <p>The build out rate and the time taken for the building / planning sites to come to fruition and completion- no real change to impact numbers and demand.</p>

4.8 The second question within the online survey asked was:-

In the event of closure of Eddleston Primary the catchment area would be rezoned to either Newlands primary (which is the current temporary primary school catchment) or Kingsland Primary School in Peebles. Which is your preference?

4.9 There were 46 responses to this part of the question and the results are below:- with Newlands primary being preferred by the majority of the respondents.



Option	Total	Percent
Newlands Primary catchment	20	43.48%
Kingsland Primary Catchment	14	30.43%
Either School catchment	5	10.87%
Other school catchment	7	15.22%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

4.10 There were 42 comments on this aspect. These are noted below verbatim from the online forum, however if were lengthy they have been summarised or abridged for the purposes of brevity and to ensure that privacy is paramount.

Rezone Comments by catchment and choice	Response from Scottish Borders Council
Comments from those living within the Eddleston Catchment Area	
Comments suggesting either school catchment or none as preference	
I do not have school aged children	Noted and accepted.

Neither are adequate given the extra time it puts on a child's day	Noted and accepted.
<p>Newlands appeals to me as a small rural school, and we have friends with kids there.</p> <p>However, Kingsland is the school that other parents in the village are sending kids to, and it feels important to stay connected with our neighbouring families. This is not just for the benefit of our family but for the benefit of the community as a whole.</p>	Noted and appreciated.
Kingsland Primary or other being preference	
<p>A great number of children, mine included, are happily settled at Kingsland Primary. Currently we all drive our children to school in individual cars, which is uneconomical and a negative environmental factor, and Kingsland does not have sufficient parking for the parents trying to bring their children to the school.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated re parking at Kingsland and also re separate cars. Only new enrolment would be entitled to transport provision on date of an official closure and rezone if the catchment were to change to Kingsland. Children currently attending Kingsland as out of catchment placements, would not be entitled to free transport. There may be an opportunity for parents to access any free seats on school transport provided. Would depend on numbers and costs.</p>
Closest school	Noted and accepted.
<p>Easy of transport from the village to the school, options for green travel (bicycle) via the new multi-use water path. Public transport is also available.</p> <p>Wraparound care for after school clubs. Options at Kingsland, they are connected to an after-school club - nothing available at Newlands.</p> <p>Most of the children are attending nursery in Peebles already so going to Kingsland primary means they will go with some of their peers.</p>	<p>Noted and accepted.</p> <p>Noted and accepted.</p>
I would continue to home educate as neither school is acceptable for my children and needs.	Noted and accepted.
<p>It is a lot closer and for our children Peebles has always been the town they have a lot more connection with. They go to nursery there do all their sports, clubs etc there, their social life is completely centred around Peebles. They have no connection whatsoever to Newlands PS or the surrounding area. Our oldest son went to Kingsland because our other children are at nursery in Peebles it would therefore be completely impractical as well as everything said above for families in Eddleston to have children at Newlands PS.</p> <p>When the catchment was rezoned to Newlands after the mothballing only the four families who still had pupils at the school were consulted. All of us</p>	Noted and appreciated.

preschool parents who had children starting in P1 the next year were not consulted. Five of them started at a Peebles school (4 at Kingsland) the following year with cars driving in and out every day.

Living in a very small village with no amenities means that we naturally link for the majority of our social, leisure, retail and schooling activities with the closest town - Peebles. Parties, clubs etc are all held in Peebles, and the majority of my children's friends live in Peebles. It makes sense therefore that the catchment school should be there.

There is no reason to travel to Romanno Bridge for retail, leisure etc, therefore having the children there makes little sense. It is further away, awkward to get to in the winter, and even with transport being provided - we require out of school care which means that we would still have to travel that distance daily.

More social for kids from Eddleston and means they get involved with things like Beltane

Noted and appreciated.

My children are already there along with many other children from the village

Noted and appreciated.

Newlands is in no way a practical option for primary school age children in Eddleston. I believe this is borne out by the number of parents who have opted to send their children to Peebles schools. While transport may be provided, a long cross-country journey is daunting, especially for very young children. It also makes emergency and after-school arrangements very difficult (especially when relying on family members and friends).

Noted and appreciated.

Peebles (and by extension Kingsland School) provides much more a connection in terms of "place" with Eddleston. It allows children to make social connections that they can maintain out of school, and also provides many more practical options in terms of after-school childcare provision. For children who may emotionally struggle bus transport (especially in younger years) it also gives a realistic option for other transport (e.g. car sharing).

Our child is currently in P3 in Kingsland and our youngest is due to start in August. Peebles is our

Noted and appreciated.

closest town so makes geographical sense to go to a Peebles school

Our child started primary school just after Eddleston was mothballed. We were not consulted on what our views were for the catchment school for Eddleston. We chose to apply to Kingsland as an out-of-catchment request for a number of reasons already went to nurse in Peebles and had built up a friendship group with other children who would be starting P1 in Kingsland with him. Had attended nurse in Peebles since we moved to Eddleston as this was the most convenient nursery to Eddleston. younger sibling was also attending nurse in Peebles. So, we would be in and out of Peebles for nursery drop off and pick up any way. Attended various clubs, groups and church in Peebles. As such joining a Peebles school felt like a natural extension to the community that he was already part of. 3 other families from Eddleston who had children starting P1 in the same year chose to attend Kingsland. 1 of these children had an older sibling at Kingsland. Both the sibling and the parents were very positive about the school. Never been to Newlands/Romanno bridge and only knew of 1 child who would be attending the school It is worth noting more generally that we chose a Peebles nurse for many of the same reasons we chose a Peebles school. Peebles is only 5 miles from Eddleston village. Good public transport links between Eddleston and Peebles. The cycle path gives opportunities for active travel between Eddleston and Peebles. There are lots of people traveling between Eddleston and Peebles every day so it's easy to get a lift or car share. We also feel part of the Peebles community by nature of Peebles being the local hub for leisure activities, amenities, clubs, groups, baby and toddler groups, and church as well as events such as Beltane, Highland games and the round table fireworks display. For us it was clear that, if we could not be part of a Eddleston school community, we wanted to be part of a Peebles school community. The other side of this is that we had no connection to Newlands school community. In the years leading up to the Eddleston school mothballing (and indeed the years since) we have had no interaction with

Noted and appreciated.

The decision to temporarily rezone to Newlands was taken in conjunction with the remaining Eddleston primary school parents at the time. It was felt it would be appropriate at the time to temporarily change the catchment zone to Newlands and officers were keen to support the preferences of the parents of the remaining children at Eddleston for a variety of reasons explained within the Proposal Report.

Newlands as an area or community. No relationship between Newlands and the Eddleston community. Newlands/Romanobridge is not a hub for Eddleston, we do not feel any connection to Newlands or attend any clubs or groups there. While it is very understandable that those who were at Eddleston Primary School when it was mothballed feel a connection to Newlands Primary School (due to the shared principal teacher and the time spent in that school in the lead up to the closure) and they were sufficiently vocal for this to continue, to the point that the Council did not ask for views from the rest of the community, this cannot be mistaken for a deep connection between Eddleston and Newlands the way that there is between Eddleston and Peebles. With regards to Newlands PS, it is also worth highlighting that only 6 out of 14 children were attending Newlands as of the time of the community survey. When typically, the vast majority of children in Scotland attend their catchment school. One can assume that some of those attending would have chosen to go to the catchment school, regardless of which school that was, as transportation would be a key factor. As such we can assume that less than 6 out of 14 Eddleston children have an active preference for Newlands as the catchment. On the other hand, 8 out of 14 children actively choose to not attend the catchment school, and choose to attend a school in Peebles. This preference for a Peebles school over Newlands is backed up by April 2022 data (Section 8.3 of the proposal paper) which shows 18 of 26 placement requests were for Peebles schools, while only 5 were for Newlands. There is a clear, consistent majority preference from the people of Eddleston for a Peebles catchment. There is a minority of those in Eddleston who have a preference for Newlands as the catchment, this preference is clearly driven by a preference for a smaller rural school. Attending Kingsland has been positive, offering a diverse friendship group, extracurricular opportunities, and excellent school facilities. Transport to Kingsland is easier, safer, and more sustainable compared to Newlands, with shorter distances and better public transport. Support rezoning

<p>Eddleston to Kingsland but suggests considering a split catchment for those in the more rural north, recognising differing preferences based on location if necessary.</p>	
<p>Newlands Primary is their catchment preference</p>	
<p>Because Newlands Primary is a rural school. If its enrolment falls, SBC will likely then move to close this school too. Re-zoning Eddleston to Newlands, and supporting Eddleston parents with this, ensures young families can still live in a rural community and send their children to a rural school.</p> <p>Kingsland is unlikely to face closures as a result of falling enrolment figures because it has a large town catchment.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated. Officers consider that the roll at Newlands is healthy and no suggestion that it is in danger of falling to an unsustainable roll. Parents have the right to express a preference for a particular school that they would like their children to attend. They can apply for an out of catchment placement request to apply for a place outside of their catchment area.</p>
<p>I think people choose to live in a smaller, close community to benefit their children being educated in that same type of nurturing environment that can't be accommodated in a larger school environment</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated</p>
<p>Newlands Primary is much closer in similarity to Eddleston Primary. Though it is slightly further it is much more suitable for children who don't like to be in the larger schools. If families move to a village they often like the option to send their children to a village school. Newlands is this option. Children at Newlands build confidence and resilience and it's a more personal approach. Kingsland is already the largest primary school in Peebles and does not require many other kids to join. Newlands on the other hand will benefit from new children joining.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>
<p>Newlands PS is also small, and growing it will help bring down the cost per head of pupil. Whereas Kingsland PS is at risk of becoming overcrowded and in need of expansion, which would cost SBC additional money. In either case, transport is required. Parents in Eddleston seem to want a smaller school and more rural school for their children so this might help appease them.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>

<p>Newlands should remain the catchment school. The reason we moved to a village was largely because of the school and the school setting. Why move to a village and send your kids to the biggest school in the next town where the classes are a lot bigger and your child won't get as much attention from teachers. Kingsland primary won't really notice a few extra pupils where Newlands will benefit massively from extra numbers.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>
<p>Rezoning the Eddleston catchment to Newlands Primary is the right decision because the two communities are closely aligned in character and values. Both serve rural areas with similar family demographics, strong community ties and shared expectations around education. Newlands also reflects the same emphasis on outdoor learning, making full use of its rural environment to enrich pupils' experiences and wellbeing. This continuity in ethos is important. A key attraction of moving to a rural community like Eddleston is access to a smaller school setting, where children benefit from close relationships with staff, personalised support and a strong sense of belonging. Newlands offers a similarly nurturing, small-school environment, ensuring children retain the advantages families value while providing long-term sustainability and stability.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>
<p>Village primary school environment for a village of people.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>
<p>Other school catchment preference</p>	
<p>Families already made decisions about which school to send children to years ago, without guidance from SBC, weighing the need for before and after school childcare, and childcare for younger children in their families. We decided to send our children to Priorsford and will not be moving our children again because of poor service provision and planning by SBC</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated. Parents have the right to express a preference for a particular school that they would like their children to attend. They can apply for an out of catchment placement request to apply for a place outside of their catchment area.</p>
<p>I didn't see anything in the proposal that explained the choice of Kingsland as the Peebles catchment option. The pupil figures were from 2022 and don't necessarily reflect the school used by children in the village. My children attend Priorsford, as do those of other families in the village and I feel the needs of our children should be considered also. When my oldest child applied to P1 there was no preferred Peebles school if you weren't going to the catchment school (Newlands) and so we had no opportunity to try and anticipate the SBC's change of catchment</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated. Kingsland was considered at the time of mothballing as temporary catchment, and for the permanent rezone, because it shares a border with the Eddleston catchment and is adjacent. In contrast, Priorsford catchment lies across the river; including it in the Eddleston catchment rezone would require bypassing or "jumping over" the Kingsland catchment to get to that catchment zone, which is not considered reasonable. Not favoured with catchment areas. Proximity is key with catchment areas.</p>

meaning we'll not be considered if the rezoning to Kingsland goes ahead.

I think Eddleston residents should be allowed to choose which catchment school their children attend. There are merits to both schools. Some wish for their children to attend a rural school whilst others provide a larger school. There is another location in the Borders where two catchments are open to those living within an area.

Neither, as we have chosen Priorsford. In regards to Newlands being chosen as a temporary PS by the remaining parents still in Eddleston PS, this was a poor and selfish decision as it did not take into consideration any thoughts of upcoming children. Peebles is a Hub, Newland's is in the wrong direction and there is nothing else there such as a nursery, shops etc. Kingsland PS would not suit us either as we have already settled our son into Priorsford PS. At the time we had to pick a school, and since Newland's was not in the running for reasons already stated, we choose Priorsford over Kingsland, as being an "out of catchment school" the head teacher advised us there may not be a space, while Priorsford said they did! There is also a fair number of children within Eddleston that already attend Priorsfords PS, due to this I think it is unfair to completely exclude Priorsford's from the rezoning. The Head teacher of Priorsford would also like the school to be part of the rezoning.

None
The school we have should be used for our community.

Noted and appreciated. Split catchments are not generally favoured, but this circumstance has had to have been considered very carefully. Splits can separate areas. For community cohesion reasons the received wisdom is that catchments should ideally remain as one unless there are very cogent reasons for same. Parents will always be allowed to choose the school for their children to attend so that choice has not been removed from them. SBC have no other split catchment areas for primary school children. See Section 8.13 of this report.

Noted and appreciated.

Noted and appreciated.

There is no rationale for selecting Kingsland PS as the catchment within the proposal so I would firstly like to the rationale for this. There are a number of families in Eddleston who attend Priorsford PS and the number of children may equate to those attending Kingsland PS. As you have set out in your proposal, capacity at Kingsland PS may become an issue and indeed that is what the Headteacher confirmed to me at open day. I was told I was not guaranteed a space for my child and so that was one of the reasons I applied to Priorsford PS. My husband and I are having to drive our son to Priorsford PS because Eddleston PS was sadly taken away as a choice. Newlands PS did not suit our needs. We have been at the mercy of other people's decisions and have tried to make the best choice for our son. SBC must rectify this by opening up the rezoning to all Primary Schools in Peebles to avoid disadvantaging those who don't attend Kingsland PS.

Noted and appreciated. Kingsland had been selected and considered at the time of mothballing as a temporary catchment, and for the permanent rezone because it shares a border with the Eddleston catchment area. In contrast, Priorsford catchment lies across the river; including it in the Eddleston catchment rezone would require bypassing or jumping over the Kingsland catchment, which is not considered a reasonable approach with catchments. Spilt catchments are not generally favoured but this was considered very carefully. Split catchments can divide towns and villages and areas which for cohesive reasons isn't to be encouraged- the received wisdom is that they should remain as one. Placements requests out of catchment are a right of parents and carers to request. SBC have no other split catchment areas for primary school children.

If SBC can't extend the catchment to all Peebles Primary Schools then it should remain Newlands. That would be the fairest outcome. Those left in Eddleston Primary School made that decision and I know of at least one family in Eddleston who have selected Newlands because of that. Without knowing the rationale of selecting Kingsland as the catchment, neither of us can see any fair rationale for excluding other primary schools in Peebles especially as we were told we may not get a space at what is now being presented as a possible catchment. There are many families in Eddleston who attend Priorsford and potentially Halyrude. That must be considered.

Noted and appreciated. Halyrude is a denominational school so has authority wide catchment area as a Roman Catholic primary. Kingsland had been selected and considered at the time of mothballing as temporary catchment, and for the permanent rezone because it shares a border with the Eddleston catchment area. In contrast, Priorsford catchment lies across the river; including it in the Eddleston catchment rezone would require bypassing or jumping over the Kingsland catchment zone, which is not considered a reasonable approach. Spilt catchments are not generally favoured but this has had to have been considered very carefully. Split catchments can by their nature divide towns and villages and areas which for cohesive reasons isn't to be encouraged- the received wisdom is that they should remain as one. SBC has no other split catchment areas for primary school children. See Section 8.13 of this report.

People living Elsewhere in the Scottish Borders with Preference for:-

Newlands Primary catchment

Newlands is an excellent school and also has a fluctuating role as a result of having a rural catchment. I think the Eddleston children should come to Newlands to provide more security to Newlands and to offer the children the opportunity to have the benefits of a rural school.

Noted and appreciated this is a clear reason why you feel that Newlands should be being considered.

Or wants other school catchment

No opinion

People living elsewhere in Tweeddale

Either School catchment	
(blank)	
Preference for re zone to Kingsland Primary Catchment	
Newlands is also tiny. These pupils will be going to Peebles High School so would be better off attending a larger primary school with a larger number of their peers.	Noted and appreciated.
Preference for re zone to Newlands Primary catchment	
As a charity run nursery attached to Newlands Primary School, we fully support and agree with the permanent rezoning of Eddleston to Newlands. we believe this agreement could create valuable opportunities for the Eddleston community. Nursery kids has been a consistent feeder to NPS over the years, playing a key role in sustaining the school. pupil numbers have declined in recent years and the move to Newlands could help secure a more stable future for both nursery and the school. permanent rezoning would provide stability needed to keep doors open and ensure we can continue to serve families in our rural community. It would also offer families in Eddleston the opportunity to choose Newlands Kids Nursery as their funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) provision, with the reassurance that their catchment primary school is directly adjoined. This close connection supports smooth transitions into Primary 1 and strengthens community links from the earliest stages of a child's education.	Noted and appreciated.
Eddleston is a relatively small village and the previous school was more akin to Newlands than Kingsland. Newlands also has capacity.	Noted and appreciated.

Following our Parent Council meeting on 29th January 2026 the Newlands Primary Parent Council and wider parent group strongly supports rezoning Eddleston to Newlands in the event of a decision to close Eddleston.

The inclusion of Eddleston pupils has enabled our school to move from three to four classrooms, which is a significant and positive step for a rural school. This strengthens staffing, broadens learning opportunities and supports greater long-term stability.

Eddleston families have integrated fully into the school community; parents are active members of the Parent Council and contribute positively to school life. The transition has already demonstrated how well our communities align.

In a rural context, any sustainable increase in pupil numbers is vital. Applying the Eddleston catchment to Newlands protects the viability of our school, enhances opportunities for all pupils and secures a stronger future for rural primary education in our area.

Great for Newlands to have other local children in catchment.

Kingsland already a big catchment. Maybe build number in smaller school

Newlands has capacity and is more akin to Eddleston primary than the larger Kingsland Primary. Kingsland is also full and will only get bigger as more houses are built.

Newlands is a similarly small school with a strong sense of community and is fortunate to have both nursery and school provision - reasoning would help this to continue.

Newlands is an excellent rural school and this would help to boost its numbers.

Noted and appreciated that this is a clear reason for Newlands being considered.

Noted and appreciated

Noted and appreciated.

Noted and appreciated. Kingsland Primary School in Peebles has capacity and is projected to remain within capacity. Due to layout, Officers understand that the capacity figures are calculated looking at either pupil limit (for age groups or pupil limit of the internal floor area, whichever is lowest) Officers understand that classrooms can be made into double composites to make better use of space and increase capacity and can always be accommodated within the modern building of Kingsland by a number of measures to increase capacity such as an extra teacher etc. Parents will always be able to choose which school their children to attend should they wish to do so by out of catchment placement requests which is their right.

Noted and appreciated

Noted and appreciated

<p>Pupil numbers staying high enough so there is not another closure of a primary school.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated</p>
<p>The children from this area already attend Newlands and there are suitable and working provisions in place currently. I would have concerns that Kingsland is already approaching capacity in certain year groups where as Newlands has ability to accommodate additional pupils.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated</p>
<p>To provide ongoing consistency in education and friendship groups at key ages to children already temporarily accommodated at Newlands. Newlands benefits from smaller pupil numbers, creating a well-supported and integrated school community, with good support for a wide-ranging education and with strong commitment to outdoor learning including Forest school, community orchard and vegetable growing. Newlands also fosters strong ties to the local community via Newlands Community Development Trust.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated</p>
<p>People living out with the Scottish Borders</p>	
<p>Newlands Primary catchment being preference</p>	
<p>Kingsland is oversubscribed along with other Primary schools in the area.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated. Kingsland Primary School in Peebles has capacity and is projected to remain within capacity. Due to layout, Officers understand that the capacity figures are calculated looking at either pupil limit (for age groups or pupil limit of the internal floor area, whichever is lowest. Officers understand that classrooms can be made into double composites to make better use of space and increase capacity can always be accommodated. Officers are clear that Kingsland has sufficient capacity now and longer term. Parents will always be able to choose which school their children attend and should they wish to do so by out of catchment placement requests as is their right.</p>

4.11 There was also a final question within the Consultation which requested that if the responders had any further thoughts or comments to provide those for consideration.

The results of the additional comments section are below:-

Final comments section of the Online Forum/ Opportunity to provide further thoughts :-	<i>Comments from SBC</i>
Final comments from those living within the Eddleston Catchment Area	
As a community we previously discussed other options and nothing ever came of them. I think it will be very sad if many more houses are built in Eddleston and yet there will be no Primary School. My hope is it that it will be used by the community and then possibly have an option to reopen in the future.	The Community Council have expressed interest to take this opportunity on and been positive generally about the possibilities and opportunities which could be created, if the school building were freed up, post successful statutory Consultation to close.
I believe that the catchment area should be rezoned to Kingsland. From all the children that currently are primary age in Eddleston a significant amount of them currently go to Kingsland with that number set to increase in August by at least 3	Noted and appreciated.
<p>I cannot comment on catchment schools as I have no experience of any of them but Peebles is only five miles away and there is a bus service with free bus passes for all school aged children. Also, the cycle track for safe cycling.</p> <p>I believe the school and grounds should be sold to a housing association only - not a general developer. There will be protests but we need more social housing and perhaps affordable housing. This has gone on long enough and decisions must be made ASAP.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>	Noted and appreciated.
I'm glad there is to be a consultation and a public meeting. I feel all the schools in Peebles should be consulted and be given the opportunity to be considered for the rezoning. If the rezoning to Kingsland goes ahead then I hope the children attending the other schools in Peebles will be considered in the transport plans as they have been left without a local primary school, just like those attending Kingsland and shouldn't be penalised for choosing a Peebles primary school.	Noted and appreciated. All parents carers and those within the communities of Tweeddale have had a chance to give views and comments within the Consultation. Parents and carers within the temporary catchment zone always have the option to request an out of catchment placement request. Transport unfortunately cannot be extended to all primaries as there is only a limited budget for transport and priority has to be to provide transport to the catchment school.

<p>Most parents in Eddleston do not want to send their children to the current catchment school in Newlands. It is far away, not near Peebles where most of our community activities (extracurricular clubs, children's sports teams etc) are based. This means there is a spread of schools used in Peebles - rezoning to Kingsland, where most children attend, would give parents more clarity when choosing instead of only considering the impracticalities of Newlands.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated</p>
<p>The community should be allowed to consider taking ownership of the building</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated. This would of course be an option for the community post a successful statutory Consultation to close.</p>
<p>The school would make an excellent community centre. Safe for children, away from the road, and with great indoor and outdoor facilities.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>
<p>The temporary rezoning to Newlands has been a great success for Newlands School. With the Eddleston numbers attending this has enabled Newlands to move to a four-class school which, for a small rural school, is significant. There are also wider opportunities for the Nursery based at Newlands to further expand its numbers and thrive.</p> <p>It will still be very sad to see the school close despite it being the correct decision. The school bell for example has historic significance to the village (I believe that came from the old school building when the current one was built circa 35 years ago) and it would be great for that, or any other items the community deem of historical value, to remain in the community.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated. Particularly about the school bell which will be considered by Officers regarding preserving the history of the school to remain in the community.</p>
<p>There are many more children who attend Peebles schools than attend Newlands, and more due to start in September 2026. The number of cars needing to go in each day is significant, and the provision of transport would help this. The fact is that most people in Eddleston use Peebles for all amenities, and it is the natural place for the catchment to be. Eddleston has no natural linkage with Romanno Bridge, apart from currently the catchment. I understand that one particular family who had a child remaining at Eddleston when it closed has constantly argued that their wishes be given preference, as they 'continued to support the school until the end', but this should not be the case now. I moved my oldest child reluctantly, as he was not getting a proper and rounded school experience at Eddleston.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>

<p>I believe that provision of transport to Newlands should remain for those who currently have children at Newlands, if they wish to keep them there, but transport to and from Kingsland should be added. Kingsland is a great school, which offers a full and comprehensive primary school experience. It gives children the opportunity to meet peers who live locally, as well as enabling parents to make use of great out of school provision, and children to make use of after school clubs etc.</p>	
(blank)	
<p>I hope SBC will think very carefully about whether it supports rural communities while it makes this decision.</p>	
<p>I personally find the entire situation disgusting. It has had a massive effect on my children since the closure. Neither of them quite got over the changes that it made to them at such a young age</p>	
<p>I think the mothballing should be stopped and the residents in the area should be listened to. Where is the help from our council?</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated. Parents approached the council to mothball. There have been two reviews and the chance to reinstate should demand increase. The school was temporarily closed for three years to try to see if demand increased sufficiently. The majority of respondents favour closure due to the numbers and demand still being very low.</p>
<p>If the school is closed the building should be given to the community to utilise. If it's costing so much money to maintain then giving it to the community will save money and will help address concerns around depreciation of the community of community assets and spirit.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>
<p>In my view, SBC has failed the community in Eddleston and in particular its children who no longer have the option of going to their local village school. SBC should strive to provide services for all children in Eddleston regardless of what previous decisions have been made, including transport to the school of their choice</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>

<p>My son has been signed up to Newlands as this is the current catchment to which transport is provided. If the catchment changes to Kingsland, will he be guaranteed a place there?</p> <p>We are also waiting to hear about the Gaelic Medium class which is expected to begin this August at a Tweeddale school. Attending school at Newlands/ Kingsland is our back up plan. It all feels very uncertain at the moment.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated. All children attending Newlands now would be entitled to transport for their remaining time at Newlands primary school and any siblings thereafter to the end of primary school. If the catchment were to change to Kingsland on a given date in the future, then any parent wishing to enrol their child at Kingsland who lived within the Eddleston catchment would be guaranteed a place at the new catchment school. If a child wished to move schools and lived in catchment they would simply need to enrol in the catchment school.</p> <p>A proposal was made to use Eddleston Primary as a standalone Gaelic school during the Mothball status Review 2025. Officers are reviewing a wider demand for GMPE in the area and this is separate to this Statutory Consultation on Closure of Eddleston. Any move to establish a new Gaelic school at Eddleston would require a separate statutory consultation on establishment of same, following a successful Eddleston primary school closure consultation.</p>
<p>Parents of former pupils at Eddleston school, all intimated that it was a great wee school. Apparently the issues were with staff, therein lies the solution</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>
<p>Seems a short-term solution especially given that new houses have received permission to be built next to the school.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated. Recommendations to close a school is never taken lightly. The school has been temporarily closed for three years in hope demand increased. It has not unfortunately due to the use of Peebles schools and the right to choose. SBC are unable to leave a school in temporary closure abeyance and legislation denotes decisions on a permanent decision is made within a reasonable time scale. Community voices say uncertainty is bad for the village and the village needs finality with a permanent decision taken.</p>
<p>This is a huge mistake and the longer the building is sat unused the more disrepair it will fall into.</p> <p>The school should always be open to its community to give the children here the best chance to be educated.</p> <p>There are multiple reasons why sending the children out with the area to schools doesn't work but the parents of Eddleston have just been ignored through this process.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated. The proposal report describes why the school roll fell and what was asked of SBC to mothball/temporarily close it to see if demand increased. The reviews of the status have been done in conjunction with the local community council and they have had full participation to contribute in full. The school has been in temporary closure status for three years to see if demand increased in order to reopen it.</p>
<p>This modern, ideally situated school could surely be a School that kids from outlying areas could use. Eddleston will grow and we will have lost this facility. I find it short sighted.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>
<p>(blank)</p>	

<p>I think keeping Newlands as the catchment is a lot more beneficial to Newlands than it would be to Kingsland being the catchment school. If you choose not to send your child to the catchment school then unfortunately that is a choice that you have made knowing that you would need to drive your kids to school. I would like to see Eddleston school remain a part of the community. Possibly a community centre/village hall. It is a much better and safer area for kids to run around and to hold community events as the village hall is directly on the main road. The school space could be used for a wide variety of purposes that would be good for the community. A gym space or skatepark are some good ideas that i have heard.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>
<p>(blank)</p>	
<p>Final comments from those living elsewhere in the Scottish Borders</p>	
<p>Sack the director of education, never let her near any school policy department again and get someone in who will fight for small village schools.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>I am someone who lives in the Newlands catchment, but one of my children attended Eddleston until just before the closure. I would be very sad to see Newlands go the same way and so anything that can be done to support Newlands should be done. Once my children attend high school they have an hour bus journey morning and night, if Newlands were to close then they would have to do this throughout primary school as well which would have a huge impact on their free time outside school. It is sad to see a community lose their school but as the travel times to Newlands or to Peebles are similar for the Eddleston children, the closure can at least help support another rural school. It is important that the Newlands community makes an effort to be inclusive and welcoming to the Eddleston children.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p> <p>Newlands roll currently (time of drafting Consultation report) is 64 Pupils. It has capacity for 101. The capacity figures are calculated per classroom looking at either the pupil limit for the age group(s) or the pupil limit of the internal floor area, whichever is lowest. Officers consider Newlands, as a small rural school, to have a healthy roll. Scottish Borders Council will support sustainability of rural schools wherever possible.</p>
<p>Final comments of those living elsewhere in Tweeddale area</p>	
<p>SBC should utilise Eddleston school as a hub/school for children who struggle in mainstream classes in Primary school.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated. This was covered within the Proposal Report as Section 15.12. all options are being considered re Additional Needs. Scottish Borders Council's vision that every child and young person lives, learns and is looked after within the Scottish Borders, Officers are currently working with the Vardy Foundation to develop plans which will form proposals for separate Council</p>

	consideration. These remain at the proposal stage and will focus on creating new local residential and educational provision for children, including those with Additional Support Needs (ASN). No locations are confirmed at present. As part of this process, officers are clear that all possible options will be reviewed, including the suggestion submitted by members of the Eddleston Community regarding an alternative use for the Primary School for ASN use, contingent on the completion of a successful statutory closure consultation regarding Eddleston Primary School, and subsequent approval by elected members and the Scottish Ministers.
(blank)	
As already explained this is the perfect opportunity to meet the needs of far more children within the Scottish Borders who need extra support with their learning. Please don't waste this chance due to there being no funds. Children's education should not have to suffer due to this!	Noted and appreciated.
The catchment may benefit from being split between Kingsland and Newlands.	Noted and appreciated -see
The council must stop suggesting schools may close as any hint of this makes parents choose alternative schools which in turn lowers the numbers applying in the first place. Rural schools and smaller schools are essential for communities. Class sizes are only ever increasing and that does not suit the majority of children.	
If pupil number are dropping maybe no need for additional community space. Seems bonkers to let the community numbers drop. Maybe the council could build some much-needed affordable house and encourage families to move to Eddleston. Surely a thriving village would be good for everyone.	Noted and appreciated.
(blank)	
Final comments from those living out with Scottish Borders	

I think the situation has been quite frankly appalling. My children were uprooted from a school that had its predominant focus on community which now has no centre. The lack of communication and foresight of all of the decisions up to and including this point, have solely to be for SBC's gain. I predict that the school will be left vacant for years to come until its condition becomes such that it requires demolition. Once demolished, I expect it will be sold by SBC to a land developer. Ironically, to build more houses with even less amenities. It has been a very poor judgement by all involved at the SBC. SBC have uprooted a core part of the community in Eddleston and displaced children, and families, wholly unnecessarily. Children now travel in busses and cars to attend school that once only had to walk, which in turn, is also contributing to the local environmental decline.

Noted and appreciated.

4.12 The key numbers from the Statutory Consultation results are formatted below in 4 table formats for ease :-

Table 1 – Location of responder and agree/disagree/unsure

Location of responder	Closure agree?			Grand Total
	Agree	Disagree	Unsure	
Eddleston Catchment Area	16	11	3	29
Elsewhere Scottish Borders		1	1	2
Elsewhere in Tweeddale	4	3	7	14
Outwith Scottish Borders		1		1
Grand Total	19	16	11	47

Table 2 – location of responder and rezone choice/preference

Location of Responder	Rezone Choice?				Grand Total
	Either School catchment	Kingsland Primary Catchment	Newlands Primary catchment	Other school catchment option/split	
Living in Eddleston Catchment Area	4	12	7	7	29
Elsewhere Scottish Borders			1	1	2
Elsewhere in Tweeddale	1	2	11		14
Outwith Scottish Borders			1		1
Grand Total	5	14	20	8	47

Table 3- School responder connected to and whether agree or disagree with closure proposal

Which school responder connected to?	Closure Agree?			Grand Total
	Agree	Disagree	Unsure	
Kingsland Primary	8		2	9
Newlands Primary	3		5	8
None	4		8	13
Other			1	1
Priorsford Primary	5		2	7
Grand Total	20	16	11	47

Table 4 - School responder connected to and rezone choice/ preferences

Which school responder Connected to?	Rezone Choice?				
	Either School catchment	Kingsland Primary Catchment	Newlands Primary catchment	Other school catchment	Grand Total
Kingsland Primary			8	1	9
Newlands Primary	1			15	16
None	3		5	3	13
Other				2	1
Priorsford Primary	1		1	1	4
Grand Total	5		14	20	8

4.13 Statutory Consultation Responses Analysis

4.14 Proposal To Close Officers note that there was a majority agreement to the proposal to close Eddleston Primary as demonstrated by the data above.

This is demonstrated by the main question posed in the online survey which was whether respondents agreed with the proposal to permanently close Eddleston Primary School.

4.15 Out of 47 responses, 20 participants (42.55%) supported the closure, while 16 (34.04%) expressed disagreement with the proposal. The remaining 11 respondents (23.40%) either abstained or refrained from providing a definitive response being unsure or felt unable to comment, underscoring the presence of differing opinions within the community. Nonetheless, a majority view supported the closure, citing factors such as consistently low demand and the observation that recent housebuilding approvals or those in the pipeline for the area has not yet led to an anticipated increase in demand for the village school due to the close proximity of the Peebles schools and the draw those seem to provide.

Note: The percentages in paragraph 4.15 are calculated using the **47 total responses** received (46 online Citizen Space responses plus 1 emailed response). The chart and table in paragraphs 4.3–4.4 show percentages for the **46 online responses** only.

4.16 The results indicate that, although a significant portion favours closure, there is also substantial opposition to the proposal. There were notable dissenting voices to the proposal, particularly among those not directly connected to the affected schools. Supporters cite practical reasons, while those against the proposal emphasise the school's importance to the local area and express concerns about the impact on families and the impact on the village which officers appreciate are all entirely understandable concerns.

4.17 Catchment Re Zone Preferences In terms of catchment rezone preferences, analysis of the consultation responses reveals nuanced perspectives across various locations and in terms of the responders connections to schools.

4.18 Officers felt in such a situation it was important to note the preferences of the 29 respondents residing *within* the Eddleston catchment area at the time of the consultation. Of those respondents, 12 preferred Kingsland Primary as the preferred rezoning catchment school in the event of closure proposal being successful, while 7 expressed a preference for Newlands Primary (the current temporary catchment school), and the remainder were split between being unsure, wished a split to be considered, or the ability to choose from any or all of the schools in Peeblesshire or wished another school to be considered.

4.19 The larger data set here which support Kingsland Rezone would appear to be due to stronger community ties and perceived better local transport links with Peebles town generally, better active travel routes, and specifically the affiliation with Kingsland Primary School given many children attend there now or will attend there in the future. Some residents however in the Eddleston catchment area did suggest favouring Newlands as a rezone option for the village school ethos, and to obtain the more rural school to support that in terms of numbers and which clearly indicates there are differing opinions in the catchment area regarding preferences but with a majority in the catchment favouring the rezone to Kingsland Primary school.

4.20 In contrast, opinions among those connected to Newlands Primary were more divided, with a larger proportion disagreeing with the closure proposal itself, or expressing uncertainty generally with the proposal. **However, the vast majority of those connected to Newlands primary school wished the rezoning to be permanently rezoned to Newlands (15)** compared to **(1)** who stated they did not have a preference for either. The fifteen responders who wished the rezone to Newlands cited reasons such as supporting the smaller rural school of Newlands to remain sustainable as temporary rezoning has been instrumental in helping the school move to four classes from three, and that long term planning to support Newlands should be the reason to consider Newlands as the permanent catchment school as a permanent rezone. The roll having been clearly boosted by the temporary catchment over the mothball / temporary closure period.

4.21 There was notable support from Newlands Primary Parent Council and wider parent group who were a responder to the Consultation, and who suggested that they strongly support rezoning Eddleston catchment to Newlands in the event of a decision to close Eddleston for reasons of rural sustainability and protecting the future viability of Newlands Primary into the longer term which is an understandable concern.

4.22 There were also clear voices within comments raised regarding the Council's mothballing process three years before, particularly in terms of some suggesting that they felt there had been an overrepresentation of a minority in the temporary catchment rezone decision to Newlands Primary at the time of mothballing. Some responders suggested that adhering to the preference of families of the children who were in the final cohort at Eddleston Primary at the time of mothballing had allowed the temporary catchment school of Newlands being chose without wider engagement of families who had chosen the Peebles schools prior to that point or the catchment area generally to obtain a wider net of opinions. They suggest that Newlands was not working for the majority currently residing in the catchment area now, whose preferences are maybe different and wish for the rezone to be Kingsland Primary in Peebles. They state that there is a specific majority preference apparent in Eddleston catchment for choosing

Kingsland primary as the rezoned school catchment now given the ties with Peebles town.

4.23 Furthermore, there were comments that the loss of Eddleston Primary School to provide primary education in the village negatively impacted community cohesion in Eddleston and the children's access to amenities. The final thoughts of one responder within this section emphasised that they felt that most Eddleston families in recent years, had chosen Peebles schools, especially Kingsland due to established friendships, local amenities, sports clubs and activities and more convenient travel options. The strong connection between Eddleston and Peebles town itself was highlighted throughout contrasting with what some perceived to be a lack of affiliation to Newlands Primary at Romanno Bridge from some within Eddleston area itself, but appreciating that this is down to individual choice and personal preferences of individual families within the Eddleston catchment area.

4.24 It was also suggested by some in the consultation that the catchment could be split to accommodate those in the more rural, northern areas who might prefer Newland or wish to be more aligned to Newlands and those who show more preference for Kingsland in Peebles.

4.25 On the opposite side, some families who are in catchment have a preference for rezoning to Newlands on a permanent basis and cite their preferences for Newlands as a rural school due to it being closer in ethos and similarity to Eddleston Primary School. Though it is slightly further away they have stated that they prefer it and state it is much more suitable for children who don't like to be in the larger town school such as Kingsland. They have suggested that if families move to a village they often like the option to send their children to a "village school" and for them Newlands, although not as close as Kingsland in terms of travel time, is this "village school" option, which has worked well for the mothballing years, and therefore the catchment zone should be made permanent to Newlands.

4.26 It also came through clearly that some felt that children at the smaller school of Newlands built confidence and resilience due to a more personal approach taken in that school, and that they feel that Kingsland being a larger primary in Peebles, does not require many other children to join to help with viability. Whereas Newlands primary on the other hand will clearly benefit from new children being able to automatically join to bolster its roll, given it is a smaller rural primary school. There is also clear support for Newlands to be chosen and the identification of the Council's responsibility to support rural schools sustainability as much as possible and that rezoning to a permanent catchment would do a great deal to bolster the sustainability for Newlands longer term.

4.27 Within the responses, there are also clear criticisms of the Council's approach to the mothballing in the first place arguing that decisions with regards the temporary

rezoning to Newlands over that period, have not consistently reflected what those responders say are “the majority views” within catchment who chose the Peebles schools prior to mothballing, and suggest that the Council may have caused unnecessary division within the community by those choices at the time. Essentially allowing the differences of opinions within the Eddleston catchment to become apparent. This, they say is due to an obvious divide between those who favour Newlands Primary for their children and those that favour Peebles schools, such as Kingsland or choosing Priorsford for their children or indeed the denominational Roman Catholic school of Halyrude as out of catchment placements.

4.28 Some responders felt that the temporary mothballing and now the proposal for closure of Eddleston Primary School has been and is, detrimental to both the sense of community for a small village, and children's educational experience, with a call to ensure the rezoning process considers this and considers whether in fact a permanent rezoning to Newlands would not in fact be beneficial for the cohesiveness of the village area of Eddleston and the catchment as a whole arguing that if a split catchment were to be recommended and proceeded with by elected members, this would not help cohesion within the area at all, but foster further divisions within the community.

4.30 Some responders argue that current numbers indicate that there is some preference for the Peebles schools, in terms of placement requests out of Eddleston Catchment and away from the rural temporary catchment of Newlands and this would be further underlined by making the catchment rezone to Newlands permanent.

4.31 Officers appreciate all these comments and perspectives. They highlight the need to weigh local Eddleston catchment preferences—which differ by family circumstances and personal choice—alongside wider community views, including those of the Newlands school community who are concerned about long-term sustainability, to help balance competing needs in the decision-making process.

5 Education Scotland

5.1 In line with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a report was provided by Education Scotland on the educational benefits of The Proposal as part of the Statutory Consultation process. Education Scotland's report is attached as **Appendix 3**

5.2 Issues raised and comments made in the Education Scotland Report are quoted below:-

5.3 Education Scotland Comments:-

“Scottish Borders Council proposes to permanently close Eddleston Primary School and rezone its catchment area to Newlands Primary School or Kingsland Primary School depending on the views it receives from members of the community. It recognises that the majority of parents with primary-aged children, living in Eddleston Primary School's original catchment area, are choosing to attend other schools in Tweeddale and Peeblesshire. The council sets out comprehensive educational benefits statements for both options in relation to educational outcomes, learning experiences and opportunities for collaboration and social interaction. HM Inspectors agree that there are potential educational benefits for the children attending Newlands and Kingsland Primary Schools. Both Eddleston and Newlands Primary Schools are classified as accessible rural schools. Before mothballing, Eddleston pupils were part of a learning community with Newlands, sharing a headteacher and forming strong relationships across both schools. The council believes permanently aligning the catchment with Newlands would build on these connections and strengthen links between the two areas. Alternatively, the council highlight that Kingsland Primary School, with its larger catchment, could offer children a wider peer group, more varied learning experiences, and richer social interaction. A larger staff and parent body could support a broader curriculum and provide more opportunities in sports, health and wellbeing, and creative arts. Transition to secondary school may also be strengthened with a larger cohort.

All of the children, young people, parents, staff and community members that spoke with HM Inspectors support the council's proposal to discontinue education at Eddleston Primary School. The majority of parents, community members and a few staff want to see the school reopen, but feel it is not practical. They expressed sadness about the loss of a valuable community asset, which they believe provided a focal point for the village. All children expressed the importance of retaining the football field, which they currently use.

All stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors agree that children are settled in their respective schools and enjoy their educational experiences. Children from Eddleston attending Newlands Primary are able to describe the benefits that a smaller rural school can bring. They are developing skills and attributes to meet their individual needs in a

rural context. Equally, children from Eddleston attending Kingsland Primary School describe the benefits of attending a larger school. They too are developing skills and attributes from rich learning experiences and enjoy the social aspects of bigger friendship groups. As a result, stakeholders expressed opposing views about which primary school the catchment area for Eddleston Primary School should be rezoned to.

Almost all stakeholders who spoke with HM Inspectors agree it is important that the council protects the future sustainability of rural schools, where appropriate. They agree that permanently rezoning the catchment area to Newlands Primary School could protect the viability of the school. However, a few parents firmly believe that the catchment area should be rezoned to Kingsland Primary School. A few stakeholders, including parents and community members, suggest that the council should consider a third option, which would be to split the Eddleston Primary School catchment area between both Newlands and Kingsland Primary Schools. It will be important that the council continues to liaise with stakeholders to consider their views on how a split catchment may work.

As the proposal, if implemented, will lead to the closure of a rural school, HM Inspectors also took account of the council's consideration of the factors to which it should have special regard. As part of the options appraisal, the council considered a range of factors.

The council's proposal considers four options: to reinstate Eddleston Primary School with its original catchment area; to reinstate the school and expand its catchment area; to continue to mothball the school with the catchment area zoned to Newlands Primary School; and to permanently close Eddleston Primary School and re-zone the catchment area to either Newlands Primary School or Kingsland Primary School. The council have set out the reasons for their preferred option clearly in the proposal. HM Inspectors agree with the conclusions set out in the proposal regarding the educational benefits in the current context.

A key consideration for the council is the increased travel distance for children. This includes those living in Eddleston village and those living to the north of the catchment. The council currently provides transport to eligible children attending Newlands Primary School. The council outlines that the distance from Eddleston Primary School to Newlands Primary School is 12 miles and takes approximately 17 minutes. Whereas the distance from Eddleston Primary School to Kingsland Primary School is 5.2 miles and takes approximately 13 minutes. HM Inspectors do not believe either of these to be excessive for primary aged children, should the council proceed with the proposal. Whatever option the council agrees, it should ensure the continuity of learning for all children and their siblings. It should consider ensuring that siblings can attend the same school to mitigate against extra time needed for parents to manage multiple drop offs.

The council has given due consideration to the likely effect on the local community. It has continued to engage with Eddleston Community Council to consider the future use of the mothballed school, including the potential for community asset transfer. All stakeholders believe that the school and grounds should be used for future community benefit. The community representatives that spoke with HM Inspectors have clear plans about how they may repurpose the building in the future and hope to take ownership of the building, should it close as a school. In its proposal paper the council have outlined the potential of the building to be used temporarily by Live Borders to house a museum collection from Chambers Institution. This should help to ensure that the building does not fall further into disrepair.”

5.4 The Education Scotland summary stated that :-

“HM Inspectors agree that there are potential educational benefits arising from the council’s proposal. Children from Eddleston catchment can continue to benefit from curriculum design that supports their learning in schools across Tweeddale and Peeblesshire. All children are settled in their current settings namely, Newlands and Kingsland Primary Schools and enjoy their educational experiences. In considering reasonable alternatives, the council considered a range of factors and HM Inspectors agree there are potential educational benefits for both options outlined in the proposal. Should the proposal proceed, it will be important for the council to continue to work closely with the wider local community to consider their views, including the suggestion of splitting the catchment area across both Newlands and Kingsland Primary Schools. In moving forward with the proposal, the council should ensure the continuity of learning for all children and consider the potential implications for families, including additional travel. The council should also continue to work with local community groups to consider community asset transfer timeously if they decide to close the school”

6. Scottish Borders Council- Statement on Education Scotland Report

6.1 Scottish Borders Council acknowledges and accepts the report from Education Scotland, which highlights the educational advantages of the proposal to permanently close Eddleston primary school and the consideration of the catchment rezone to either Newlands Primary or Kingsland Primary in Peebles or another suggestion such as a split catchment which was mooted.

6.2 The Report from Education Scotland supports the aim of the proposal, and notes that there are potential educational benefits for both options outlined in the proposal. It also notes that should the proposal proceed, it will be important for the council to

continue to work closely with the wider local community to consider their views, including those who wish to have a catchment rezone to Kingsland and those who would prefer Newlands and also the newer third suggestion of splitting the catchment area across both Newlands and Kingsland Primary Schools.

6.3 In response to Education Scotland Report, Scottish Borders Council accept and thank Education for their response to the Statutory Consultation and hereby accept all comments within their report. Officers would advise that all considerations regarding catchment zones have been considered fully. In particular to ensure the continuity of learning for all children whilst considering the potential implications for families, including additional travel and the particular preferences within the catchment area of Eddleston itself, but also beyond.

7. Scottish Borders Council- Statement and Response to Statutory Consultation Responders on Closure and Rezone Proposals.

7.1 Scottish Borders Council acknowledges the comprehensive feedback on the Proposal received from community members, Community Councils, parent councils, staff, and young people during the Statutory Consultation and the informal engagement reviews of mothball status for the last three years preceding the Statutory Consultation on the proposal to close Eddleston Primary and rezone the catchment area.

7.2 Council Officers appreciate the time and effort invested by all those sharing perspectives and preferences. Honest feedback is instrumental in shaping decisions and guiding Scottish Borders Council's priorities going forward and it is important to take all and every responder's views into account.

7.3 The strength of feeling and number of responses received from across the Eddleston and Newlands area, and into the wider Tweeddale/Scottish Borders area, underlines the feeling this rural school closure proposal provokes. Clear catchment preferences have been articulated, which suggests that preferences regarding catchment re zoning are very particular to Individuals, family circumstances and also school allegiances, as well as some who have clear opinions to suggest that the Council makes decisions based on the sustainability of rural schools such as Newlands Primary and the duty to continue to support as much as possible.

7.4 Scottish Borders Council acknowledges that there is a narrow majority within the Consultation which supports the proposal for the permanent closure of Eddleston Primary School. The statutory consultation process and the mothball status reviews preceding, have highlighted the Eddleston community's desire now for a resolution to the temporary closure/ mothball status, and need or wish for finality, after three years during which time there was a sincere hope for increased demand to justify reinstatement.

7.5 However, feedback within the Consultation indicates now clearly that there is a general acceptance that moving towards permanent closure is the only feasible and

practical option for Eddleston Primary School in the circumstances. Officers recognise that while many parents and community members, would prefer the school to reopen and have articulated that within the Consultation, the prevailing sentiment does accept the inevitability of discontinuing education at Eddleston Primary School for the reasons outlined within the Proposal Report.

7.6 Scottish Borders Council wishes to reassure responders that all comments within the Consultation, along with the report from Education Scotland will be integral in council decision-making processes going forward when a final decision is made on the proposals and the final Consultation report and the Proposal Report is placed before Council on 25th June 2026 to make a decision.

7.7 In addition, the Director Of Education, Lesley Munro indicated within Council meeting on 25th September 2025 that if there was an option for a split catchment mooted within the statutory consultation by a responder, this would be duly considered as an option as well.

7.8 Finally, it is important to note that Officers appreciated that children in Eddleston village were clear in the pupil focus groups that they would wish the playground and school grounds protected as far as possible. Officers reassure them that these views will be taken into account to help safeguard the play equipment (such as basketball net and outdoor space) which is currently utilised by village children, if the closure proposal proceeds and to take cognisance of their views to safeguard those as much as possible.

8. Evaluation of Catchment Rezone Options

8.1 The options within the consultation, or as suggested by responders within the Statutory Consultation were as follows:-

- **1. Rezone of Eddleston catchment area to Newlands Primary (current temporary catchment school)**
- **2. Rezone of Eddleston catchment area to Kingsland Primary in Peebles.**
- **3. Create a split catchment zone whereby those living in the rural northern aspect of the catchment zone could be rezoned / aligned to Newlands Primary and those living in the southern part of the catchment, which would incorporate the village of Eddleston, could be rezoned to Kingsland Primary School catchment.**
- **4. Rezone of Eddleston Catchment to allow enrolment at either Newlands Primary or Kingsland Primary School depending on preferences, without splitting the catchment on geographical considerations.**
- **5. Rezone of the catchment to allow the choice of all Peebles primary schools/ or Newlands primary and therefore no catchment zone.**

8.2 The council has carefully evaluated the suggestions mooted by responders for completeness.

8.3 Evaluation of Options 4 and 5: The fourth and fifth options were considered not feasible or viable, as it is felt that there needs to be clear delineation of catchment areas for administration purposes. It is the received wisdom that catchment zones are essential for managing the fair and efficient distribution of pupils across available schools within the Scottish Borders Council region. Under the Education Scotland Act 1980, councils have a legal duty to provide adequate and efficient education, and catchment areas are the main tools used to fulfil this obligation. Additionally, catchment zones help manage school capacity, ensuring that schools do not become oversubscribed and that local access is prioritised for children living closest to the school. Catchment areas also support logistical efficiency for transport planning and also help maintain community cohesion by fostering relationships and a sense of belonging among pupils and families. As such, the open-ended suggestions of the fourth and fifth options to allow enrolment at any or all Peebles schools are not deemed workable or reasonable to take forward.

8.4 Evaluation of Option 1: Rezoning to Newlands Primary With regard to option 1 and the rezoning to Newlands Primary, the current temporary catchment school, the council recognises strong support from the Newlands school community, which emphasises its rural school character, smaller size, and nurturing environment. Newlands is seen as being similar to Eddleston Primary School as was, and clearly did at the time of mothballing and still does, appeal to families seeking a rural village school ethos. Permanent rezoning to Newlands is viewed by many whose children attend Newlands and those connected to the school, such as the Parent Council of Newlands, as vital for sustaining Newlands Primary as a smaller rural primary, and avoiding a potential dwindling roll due to lower enrolment. There is clear support from a minority cohort within the Eddleston catchment area for Newlands Primary as the rezone option, with strong preference from families currently aligned to Newlands for clear and understandable reasons and their families are very happy there. The Newlands Primary Parent Council and wider parent group strongly support rezoning Eddleston catchment to Newlands in the event of closure, citing rural sustainability and the protection of Newlands' future viability. Pupils at Newlands also expressed support for extending the temporary rezoning, noting that it would help strengthen the roll and support the school's long-term sustainability. These are all very fair and valid points in support of permanent rezone to Newlands Primary School.

8.5 Temporary catchment rezoning has helped increase Newlands Primary's roll, and the Proposal Paper (Appendix 1) sets out clear educational benefits of making this arrangement permanent. Newlands has capacity to accommodate children from the Eddleston catchment. The school is 12 miles from Eddleston Primary School (around a

17-minute journey), has capacity for 111 pupils, and had a roll of 64 in April 2026. Capacity is calculated per classroom using either age-group pupil limits or internal floor area (whichever is lower), and can increase through more efficient use of space. At the time the Proposal Report was published (December 2025), officers understood there were around eight Eddleston-catchment pupils attending Newlands; current information provided by the school indicates this remains at eight. Education Scotland considered the travel time and distance to be reasonable for a rural primary school. There are clear educational benefits to permanently rezoning to Newlands Primary, as reflected in Education Scotland's report, and a permanent rezone it is noted could also help to support the school's long-term sustainability, although the roll currently for a smaller rural school is felt to be healthy. Importantly, of those respondents living within the Eddleston catchment area, Newlands was the preferred option for only a minority of respondents.

8.6 Of the 29 respondents living within the Eddleston catchment area, 12 preferred rezoning to Kingsland Primary and 7 preferred Newlands Primary (the current temporary catchment school). The remainder supported other options, were unsure, or favoured flexibility to choose between both schools or any of the Peebles schools. Given this, Officers do not propose recommending permanent rezoning to Newlands Primary School; however, they will of course continue to support Newlands Primary school and its long-term sustainability. Officers would of course continue to support, where possible, placement requests to Newlands Primary from families who prefer a smaller rural school setting. In light of the consultation responses, officers consider it important that any recommendation reflects the majority view expressed within the catchment.

8.7 Evaluation of Option 2 -Kingsland Primary Rezone

8.8 Kingsland Primary is located 5.2 miles from Eddleston Primary School, approximately a 13-minute drive. The school opened in 2010 and has capacity for 388 children, with a maximum possible capacity (based on optimum layout/arrangement) of 546. The current roll at the time of drafting the Consultation Report was 314 pupils excluding ELC, which is down two from the August 2025 roll call of 316. There is sufficient capacity for Eddleston pupils to be accommodated within Kingsland Primary School now and into the future even if there is significant housebuilding within the Kingsland Catchment area in Peebles due to the flexibility of the school layout and modern facilities which are able to accommodate increased numbers. Officers understand that the capacity figures are calculated per classroom looking at either the pupil limit for the age group(s) or the pupil limit of the internal floor area, whichever is the lowest. Officers understand that classrooms in Kingsland could be made into double composites to better use the space which can increase capacity. There are measures which can be put in place to accommodate increased numbers in the medium to long term. This also takes into account the possible influx of enrolment in

numbers in the current Kingsland catchment due to housing developments such as March Street Mill Development and those allocated as housing development sites in the longer term, within the Local Development Plan as discussed within section 11.5 of The Proposal Report. The numbers of pupils within Eddleston Catchment who currently attend Kingsland primary is understood to be in the region of 10 children at time of drafting this Consultation report, and as reported data by the School on 12th May 2026. Officers also noted from the data available that six attended Priorsford and zero are at West Linton as reported from those schools at time of Consultation report drafting along with eight at Newlands as previously mentioned in 8.5. Accordingly, officers are satisfied that Kingsland has sufficient capacity to accommodate additional pupils from the Eddleston catchment, with suitable measures available to expand capacity if required.

8.9 Officers noted that respondents within the Eddleston catchment cited strong ties with Peebles, established friendships, and better transport links, and many reported an affiliation with Kingsland Primary School due to the number of local children attending. Officers consider that in a situation where there are clear divisions within the Eddleston catchment area on rezone preferences, consideration of the majority view is the most sensible way forward. It is clear that adopting the majority view would best support community cohesion and provide clarity through a single, unified catchment that reflects Eddleston's current demographic and social realities in 2026.

Ultimately, officers do consider that the most prudent option is to recommend to elected members that the rezoning of Eddleston catchment in the event of successful closure Consultation, should be to Kingsland Primary catchment area, guided by the majority opinion of current residents within the Eddleston community .

8.10 Of the 29 respondents living within the catchment, 12 expressed a clear preference for Kingsland Primary, while only seven favoured Newlands, with the remainder were either undecided or considered flexibility regarding the other Peebles primaries as important to them.

8.11 The recognised benefits of Newlands Primary—including its rural character and the positive impact of temporary rezoning—are well established. However, feedback from families within the Eddleston catchment indicates an overall preference for Kingsland. Accordingly, even if the catchment were permanently rezoned to Newlands, current patterns of attendance suggest that a significant number of families would be likely to continue seeking places in Peebles schools through out-of-catchment placement requests. Equally, officers would of course continue to support, where possible, placement requests to Newlands from families who prefer a smaller rural school setting. In light of the consultation responses, officers consider it important that any recommendation reflects the majority view expressed within the catchment.

8.12 Evaluation of Option 3 -Split Catchment Throughout the consultation process, the option of splitting the Eddleston catchment area—for example, allocating the northern rural section to Newlands Primary while the remainder would be rezoned to Kingsland Primary—was carefully considered as this was first mooted within a Council meeting on 25th September 2025. This approach was a query by one elected member within the Council Meeting on 25th September 2025 and was also mentioned by one respondent within the Statutory Consultation as a means of accommodating diverse preferences, particularly for families who were perhaps in more rural locations who perhaps valued the ethos and smaller scale of Newlands. This was advised would be considered. However, upon detailed analysis of respondents to the consultation, officers consider that a split catchment could moreover inadvertently foster further division within the community, undermining the sense of cohesion central to the Eddleston Village and the wider Eddleston community, especially as many families currently utilise Peebles schools rather than Newlands Primary at Romano Bridge and that this divide already exists. It was also noted that living in a more rural part of the catchment did not necessarily translate into a preference for Newlands Primary, as was suggested, as consultation feedback/ comments indicated that wasn't necessarily the case. Feedback from the consultation showed that some residents within the village of Eddleston itself, preferred a school with a stronger “village school” focus . This would mean achieving this by choosing to attend a primary school located in another village, being Newlands which is located 12 miles away. Dividing the catchment area based on rural or village ties therefore, and aligning Eddleston Village itself with a town school in Peebles would not effectively serve those seeking a village-oriented education who lived in Eddleston itself. Parents always have the right to choose whether or not to utilise the catchment school and therefore there is a right to seek an out of catchment placement request and officers will honour that in so far as possible.

8.13 Officers therefore conclude that such a split catchment arrangement might reinforce existing divides rather than promote unity and cohesion in the area, and could complicate the process of supporting children’s educational and social experiences within a consistent framework. As such, recommending a split catchment is not felt to be workable or feasible for this situation. There has been situation within Scottish Borders Council which may have appeared to have been a split catchment arrangement but this is felt to be distinguishable, and not on par with this situation. Tweedbank primary parents for example who wish their children to attend Earlston High School rather than Galashiels Academy, require to submit an out of catchment placement request so this is not in fact a dual catchment scenario. There is no precedent or desire for split catchments for primary school catchments for the clear community and social cohesion reasons outlined above.

8.14 In any event , the majority of respondents within the Eddleston catchment itself did not suggest nor support a split catchment, so officers do not propose taking this option forward to elected members.

8.15 Conclusions on rezone of Catchment Officers conclude that any permanent rezoning of the Eddleston catchment should reflect as much as possible, the majority view of residents responding to the statutory consultation. Of the 29 respondents living within the catchment, 12 preferred Kingsland Primary and 7 preferred Newlands Primary, with the remainder either undecided or seeking greater flexibility; the flexibility options were discounted above. The preference for Kingsland was commonly linked to stronger ties with Peebles, established friendships, and better transport and active-travel links, as well as an existing affiliation with Kingsland as the nearest neighbouring catchment school and proximity to Eddleston. On this basis, officers consider that recommending a single catchment aligned to Kingsland would best support community cohesion and provide clarity, reflecting Eddleston’s current demographic and social context.

8.16 This approach is intended to maintain a cohesive community identity and a clear, unified catchment. Accordingly, officers do not propose to progress a split catchment and will recommend to elected members that Kingsland Primary becomes the catchment school for Eddleston should the closure proposal proceed.

8.17 If this proposal is to be taken forward by elected members, it is important to note that transport is currently provided for children in the Eddleston catchment attending Newlands Primary School as temporary catchment school. If the decision is made to change the catchment to Kingsland, then the funded transport to Newlands would continue for those pupils currently enrolled at Newlands and their siblings (but only if they enrol at the school while the older sibling still attends). This is important to ensure stability and continuity for transport provisions for those attending Newlands primary (and their siblings) until the end of their primary schooling.

8.18 Future transport provision would be required to be put in place for Kingsland Primary, if and when, the catchment did change to that school, noting that the expected date of start of term in August 2026 is likely to be surpassed due to statutory timescales in terms of the 2010 Act. It is therefore likely to be another date as agreed and subject to statutory requirements and ministerial call in provisions. This cannot yet be quantified until it can be established how many children would require transport and where they reside, and a decision is taken regarding catchment zones and school closure aspect being subject to ministerial call in provisions.

9 Reassessment of Alternatives to Closure following Statutory Consultation Period

9.1 In reviewing the proposal and preparing its final Consultation Report, the education authority requires to carry out a further assessment of the proposal and each of the

alternatives to closure set out within it. If, during the consultation period, the education authority receives written representations on other reasonable alternatives which have not been considered before, it must, for each of them, assess the likely educational benefits of the proposal and the alternatives, the effect on the local community, and the effect of any different travelling arrangements.

9.2 As such, it is important to reiterate what the alternatives to closure are as covered within the Proposal Report Section 15. (Appendix 1) There were no further alternatives to closure mooted within the Statutory Consultation Period – all were within the same genres as those alternative suggestions below.

9.3 Officers considered suggestions from the Eddleston Community which had been mooted within the Eddleston Mothball Review Survey 2025, and these are listed below with a summary of the evaluations narrated below;-

1. Create an (ELC) Early Learning and Childcare Setting at the School;
2. Try to attract more housing development to the area;
3. Create a forest school at the School;
4. Create a Gaelic school at the School
5. Create infant classes only initially and grow the school from the “ youngest group up”
6. Use of Eddleston as a ASN operational base or summer school for pupils

1. **Early Learning and Childcare Setting (ELC):** Officers confirmed that Eddleston has not historically had an ELC, but rather an out-of-school care club which closed due to low numbers. Recent reviews indicate insufficient demand to justify an ELC, especially given the wide choice already available in the Peebles/Tweeddale cluster.
2. **Housing Development:** While future housing developments in Eddleston could potentially increase the number of children in the area, the build-out rate is speculative and projected numbers remain low. Only a small number of children would commit to a reinstated school, making this an unreliable basis for reinstatement and very speculative.
3. **Forest School:** The idea of a standalone forest school was suggested by parents during the mothball reviews and needed to be properly considered. However, current pupil numbers are too low to justify such a facility, and the costs of setup and operation would be significant. Officers remain supportive of community-led initiatives but do not see a standalone forest school as viable at present as alternative to closure.
4. **Gaelic Medium Primary Education (GMPE):** A proposal was made to use Eddleston Primary as a standalone Gaelic school during the Mothball status Review 2025. Officers are reviewing a wider demand for GMPE in the area and this is separate to this Statutory Consultation on Closure. Any move to establish

a new Gaelic school would require a separate statutory consultation following a successful Eddleston primary School Closure Consultation.

5. **Infant Classes:** The suggestion to reopen the school with infant-only classes was evaluated, but very low numbers (single figures) made this option unsustainable. Existing Peebles schools have capacity for all local pupils, and the educational benefits of such a small roll are limited having been discussed at length in the Proposal Report and the 2nd Mothball Status Review Report / Options Analysis 2025.
6. **Additional Support Needs (ASN) Unit/Summer School:** Suggestions were made to repurpose the building for ASN provision or as a summer school. While proposals are being considered as part of wider council plans delivering on Scottish Borders Council's vision that every child and young person lives, learns and is looked after, within the Scottish Borders, Senior Officers are currently working with the Vardy Foundation to develop plans which will form proposals for Council consideration. These remain at the proposal stage and will focus on creating new local residential and educational provision for children, including those with Additional Support Needs (ASN). No locations are confirmed at present. As part of this process, officers are clear that all possible options will be reviewed, including the suggestion submitted by members of the Eddleston Community regarding an alternative use for the Primary School for ASN use, contingent on the completion of a successful statutory closure consultation regarding Eddleston Primary School, and subsequent approval by elected members and clearing the call in provisions by Scottish Ministers.

9.4 Despite the range of innovative suggestions from the community for alternative uses of Eddleston Primary School, each option faces significant challenges and are discounted—primarily due to consistently low numbers, existing provision in nearby schools, speculative future growth, and the financial and operational impracticality of reopening or repurposing.

9.6 Conclusion Officers have reviewed the educational benefits set out in the Proposal Report and considered all consultation feedback, including Citizen Space responses, the emailed submission, earlier mothball-status reviews, the public meeting, and pupil focus groups. Overall, responses indicate strong feeling about the likely permanent closure of Eddleston Primary School after three years of mothballing and a clear desire within the community for certainty and finality. It is noted by officers that there is majority support for the permanent closure proposal within the Statutory Consultation and this proposal to close, will be recommended to be taken forward and put to elected members.

9.7 In relation to catchment rezoning in the event that the closure proposal is progressed, there was clear engagement on the preferences expressed during the

consultation. Officers recognise that catchment preferences are influenced by a range of factors, including place of residence, current school attendance, school ethos, and established community ties. In reaching a recommendation, officers must balance these considerations, including the aim of supporting rural school sustainability, while giving due regard to the views of those living within the Eddleston catchment area.

9.8 Accordingly, officers considered the potential impact of a split catchment on community cohesion, as well as the relative educational and sustainability benefits of rezoning the catchment either to Newlands Primary School (the current temporary catchment school) or to Kingsland Primary School in Peebles, reflecting the preferences expressed by respondents within the Eddleston catchment.

9.9 Having considered the evidence, officers concluded that a split catchment would not be in the best interests of the community, and that formalising such an approach could entrench existing divisions arising from current patterns of attendance across multiple schools. On this basis, officers consider that recommending a single catchment rezone aligned to Kingsland Primary School in Peebles would best support community cohesion and provide clarity, reflecting Eddleston's current demographic and social context.

9.10 In relation to the school estate, Scottish Borders Council recognises the particular significance of the Eddleston Primary School building and grounds for many families and for the wider Tweeddale area, and acknowledges the sense of loss that may be experienced should the proposal proceed. Officers are keen to mitigate this loss as much as possible. Officers particularly keen to reassure children within the village of Eddleston currently that their valued play equipment within the school grounds is a priority and will be safeguarded wherever possible. In addition, a responders comment with regards to the historical importance of the old school bell will also be considered carefully and this safeguarded, if at all possible.

9.10 Community interest in the future use of the school was raised through consultation responses and at the public meeting, including by representatives of the community group through the Community Council very interested in repurposing the building. Should elected members decide to implement the proposal, officers advise that future options for the site will be considered by the Council's Asset/Estate Management team and reported to elected members, including any expressions of interest under Community Asset Transfer arrangements, with support provided where appropriate.

10. Inaccuracies in The Proposal Paper

10.1 No errors were made or have been identified in the proposal papers or any survey or questionnaire which were material to the report. There were two comments made with regards to school roll numbers and the Proposal Report, and it was explained and

clarified that school roll numbers /school enrolment figures are subject to natural movement and variation. Officers explained that they work with the most accurate data at any given time when drafting, and thus numbers attending the Tweeddale Cluster schools from the Eddleston Catchment throughout the statutory consultation process will be fluid. Officers work with the most accurate data available at the time. This is not deemed as an inaccuracy or an error with regards data, but officers are simply making reference to this for completeness and to ensure transparency to include it being referenced within this section of the Consultation report.

11. Consultation Report- Next Steps

11.1 This Consultation Report will be published on Citizen Space link within the Scottish Borders Council Website on **19th May 2026 until 14th June 2026**. The Consultation Report requires to be published for three full weeks in terms of the statutory requirements of The 2010 Act and it is the intention of officers to therefore use almost 4 full weeks to enable statutory obligations to be met and for further feedback to be obtained from Responders. A press release will also be released also to enable as much engagement as possible on the Consultation Report.

11.2 The intention is that interested parties should have time to consider the Consultation Report and if they so wish, to raise comments or pose alternative solutions by making written or electronic submissions to: -

11.3 The Eddleston Primary School Closure Consultation and rezoning of Catchment Children and Young People’s Services Scottish Borders Council Headquarters Newtown St Boswells Melrose TD6 0SA;

Or by email to :- schoolestates@scotborders.gov.uk

11.4 With the preference being to note comments on online forum on consultation Site:-

<https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/regulatory-services/eddeleston-consultation-report-2026/>

11.5 If you wish to respond by letter or electronically, you are invited to state your relationship with the school – for example, “pupil”, “parent”, “carer”, “relative”, “former pupil”, “teacher in school”, “member of the community” etc.

Those sending in a response, whether by letter or electronically, should know that their response will be open to public scrutiny and may have to be supplied to anyone making a reasonable request to see it. If they do not wish their response to be made publicly available, they should clearly write on the document: “I wish my response to be

considered as confidential with access restricted to Councillors and Council Officers of Scottish Borders Council”.

11.6 Otherwise, it will be assumed that the person making the response agrees to it being made publicly available. For any written or electronic response to be considered it must be received by the Council no later than the last day of the three-week Consultation Report publication period in line with the statutory requirements being 14th June 2026.

11.7 Decision

This Consultation Report together with all other relevant documentation and responses to the consultation will be considered by Scottish Borders Council who will be asked to make a decision on the Proposal Report at the full Council meeting on 25th June 2026.

12 Distribution

12.1 A copy of the Consultation Report will be made available free of charge for public consultation **from Tuesday 19th May 2026** in these locations –

- Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA (at Reception);
- All SBC schools and buildings (upon request to the School Estates team leading the Eddleston Primary School Closure and rezoning consultation);
- Peebles Library (on request) Current Peebles Library is mobile service due to renovations of Chambers Institution Building, High Street Peebles. Mobile library facility operating at locations such as Eddleston Primary School, and The Gytes -please check online for opening times or telephone -01721 726 333 or email to obtain further details re opening and where to find the mobile service.

libpeebles@liveborders1.org.uk

and online on the Citizen Space Consultation site:-

12.2 <https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/regulatory-services/eddeleston-consultation-report-2026/>

13. Scottish Ministers Call-In

13.1 If Scottish Borders Council, as the Education Authority, makes a final decision to implement the Proposal, it will notify the Scottish Ministers of that decision, and provide them with a copy of The Proposal Paper and The Consultation Report. This must be done within 6 working days of that decision. The Education Authority must also publish on its website that it has notified Scottish Ministers of its decision and of the period during which consultees have the opportunity should they wish to make representations to Ministers.

13.2. The Scottish Ministers have an 8-week period from the date of that final decision to decide if they will call-in the proposal. During the first three weeks of this period, anyone can make representations to Ministers on whether the decision should be called in. Within the first 3 weeks of that 8-week period, the Scottish Ministers will take account of any relevant representations made to them by any person. Until the outcome of the 8-week call-in process is known, the Authority cannot proceed to implement the proposal. Ministers may come to a decision sooner than eight weeks (but not before the three weeks for representations to be made to them has elapsed).

13.3 If Scottish Ministers decide to call in a closure proposal, they must refer it to the Convener of the School Closure Review Panels for determination by a School Closure Review Panel. Scottish Borders Council as the Education Authority may not implement the proposal (wholly or partly) unless the Panel has granted consent to it (with or without conditions) and either the period for making an appeal to the Sheriff has expired or, if an appeal has been made, it has either been abandoned or the Sheriff has confirmed the Panel's decision.

13.4 The School Closure Review Panel may refuse to consent to the proposal, refuse consent and remit the proposal back to Scottish Borders Council as the Education Authority or grant their consent to the proposal subject to conditions or unconditionally.

13.5 The Act, as amended, gives Ministers and School Closure Review Panels the right to call on advice from Education Scotland in relation to a proposal at the call-in or determination stage.

14. Acknowledgement

14.1 Scottish Borders Council would like to thank all the members of all Tweeddale Schools, the Eddleston Community and the Eddleston Community Council in particular who have participated in this statutory consultation process and also invite them to make any further comments, observations or suggestions in terms of further feedback regarding the proposal prior to the final decision being made by Councillors on 25th June at Scottish Borders Council.

4.2 Please take this opportunity to have your say and share your feedback comments at:

The Eddleston Primary School Closure and Rezoning Consultation Children and Young People's Services Scottish Borders Council Headquarters Newtown St Boswells Melrose TD6 0SA; or

Email Address: schoolestates@scotborders.gov.uk

Or online which is the preferred method if possible:-

<https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/regulatory-services/eddeleston-consultation-report-2026/>

By 14th June 2025.

LESLEY MUNRO, Service Director,

Education and Children's Services

19th May 2026

APPENDIX 1 THE PROPOSAL REPORT

APPENDIX 2 -PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

APPENDIX 3 – EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT