

Proposal Paper – Statutory Consultation

Proposed closure of Eddleston Primary School (Mothballed)

Consultation Period 8th December 2025 to 13th February 2026 inclusive.

Public Meeting Eddleston Village Hall 21st January 2026 -6-7pm
Eddleston Village Hall.

1. THE PROPOSAL

It is proposed, subject to the outcome of this statutory consultation process, that :-

- 1.1 Eddleston Primary School, Burnside, Eddleston, Peebles EH45 8RH (currently mothballed) is permanently closed; and
- 1.2 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) or Kingsland Primary School, Neidpath Road, Peebles EH45 8NN.

This proposal is due to: -

- 1.3 The demand for the Primary School being insufficient to allow the primary school which is currently mothballed to be viable for the longer term.
- 1.4 The educational benefits of the closing the school and rezoning the catchment to Newlands (as the temporary catchment school) or Kingsland Primary School, Peebles outweighs the significant educational drawbacks of reopening, given the Options Appraisal Analysis and alternatives to closure assessment undertaken prior to the Statutory Consultation being undertaken.
- 1.5 The requirement to consult within a statutory consultation on the proposal and to ask the affected communities of Eddleston catchment, Kingsland Primary in Peebles catchment, and Newlands Primary catchment, what their preferences would be for a rezoned catchment zone for Eddleston primary, if it is decided to proceed with the proposal to close Eddleston Primary School.
- 1.6 it is expected that the date for any implementation of the school closure/ rezoning of the catchment, subject to successful statutory consultation processes following the 2010 Act, would be Wednesday 19th August 2026 (which would be the start of the new Autumn term for Scottish Borders Council Schools) or another date as is agreed, given the full requirements and procedures of the 2010 Act including ministerial call in.

2. PURPOSE OF THE PAPER

2.1 This proposal paper has been prepared by Scottish Borders Council's Children and Young Peoples Services to consult with responders in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland Act 2010 (As Amended) on a Proposal.

2.2 The Paper aims to set out the Proposal, set out clearly the Educational Benefits of the proposal and draw attention to and clearly discuss any drawbacks or risks in respect of the Proposal.

2.3 This Proposal paper should be read in conjunction with the Council's Options Appraisal 2nd Mothball Review Report 2025 (Appendix 5)

2.4 That report follows pre-consultation community engagement in terms of the Options Appraisal 2nd Mothball Review Report 2025 which started an open and transparent forum to obtain wide reaching thoughts to gauge the demand for the primary school both now and into the longer term. The school has been mothballed for three calendar years and has been the subject of two mothball status reviews which have conducted in collaboration with the Eddleston Community.

2.5 It also requires to be acknowledged that The Options Appraisal 2nd Mothball Review Report 2025, was the second mothball status review and that the first review report was delayed. This delay with the first review and report was due partly to officer operational changes within Scottish Borders Council, and due to constructive active dialogue with The Eddleston Community Council over a matter of many months in the later part of 2023 and into the first quarter of 2024, to formulate an agreed survey to be used as part of the first mothball review status review. Following that first review therefore, a second further review was begun in May/ June 2025, to take cognisance of the delay with reassurances to the local Eddleston community that due to the delay in commencing the first review, officers would be mindful of this and simply proceed based on the number of reviews in terms of mothball status, rather than strict adherence to calendar timelines.

2.6 This was due to concerns within the local community that The Scottish Government guidance states that a mothballed school should really only be mothballed for *up* to three years before a permanent change is considered. For community reassurance and finality in mind, and with rural schools, the guidance suggests that this timescale can be more flexible, if needed. As such, officers are mindful that although the school has been mothballed for three calendar years in reality, in fact the Options Appraisal 2nd Mothball Review Report of 2025 was the second mothball status review to take place within SBC and in conjunction with the Eddleston Community. It was important for the Community Council of Eddleston and for Elected members of Tweeddale and officers agreed that this should always be emphasised and mentioned within all reviews and reports.

2.7 As such the Options Appraisal 2nd Mothball Status Review Report 2025 is the second annual review to take place within the overall mothball period.

2.8 That report can be found in Appendix 5 of this paper, and details the Options Analysis and conclusions for Eddleston Primary School. It concludes that proceeding to a Statutory Consultation on permanent closure is the option that is favoured for Eddleston Primary School. The analysis also considers the impact of each of the options discussed on the wider community in Eddleston and the impact in terms of " rural factors". This process therefore adheres to the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 (As Amended) known as the (2010) Act which contains specific provisions regarding rural schools and as a rural school there is a presumption against closure. Scottish Borders Council must ensure all other alternatives have

been identified and robustly considered prior to undertaking any statutory consultation on a permanent change to the school.

2.9 It concludes that proceeding to a Statutory Consultation on permanent closure is the option that is favoured for Eddleston Primary School hence this Proposal Paper being brought under the Statutory Consultation.

3. OVERVIEW

3.1 The aim of this Proposal paper is to advise and inform the Eddleston community and all affected schools about this background and to allow an informed approach to be taken to the proposal to close the Primary School permanently following the drop in demand for the school and the insufficient uptick in demand through the mothball period to allow the school to reopen, giving educational benefits of the proposal to close, and an overview of the assessment which has already been undertaken in terms of assessing and discounting any/ all alternatives to permanent closure.

3.2 The detail of the proposals and the Options Analysis will be discussed in this proposal paper to explain “why” the closure of the primary on a permanent basis is proposed, and to invite comments from communities, and stakeholders accordingly on this proposal and the proposal to re zone the catchment, should the decision be taken to proceed with the proposals.

4. DETAIL OF PROPOSAL

4.1 The proposal has implications for Scottish Borders Council primary pupils who are living within the Eddleston Catchment area, and for pupils also who are either currently attending Kingsland primary School or Newlands Primary School, Parents/ carers of children expected to attend the affected schools (Newlands and Kingsland) within 2 years of the date of publication of this proposal document as relevant Consultee, in terms of the closure of the school and the re zoning of the catchment area and the options open in terms of same. Officers believe it is important to obtain clear opinions and voices regarding the proposals and also regarding the catchment area re zoning to best reflect the community voices in terms of decision making.

5. SUMMARY OF THE PROCESS FOR THIS PROPOSAL PAPER

5.1 PUBLICATION INFORMATION

5.2 PROPOSAL PAPER PUBLISHED

5.3 The proposal paper will be available for inspection, free of charge at (if requested)

- A. Council Headquarters, Newton St Boswells, TD6 OSA
- B. All SBC primary and secondary schools within the Scottish Borders- upon request.
- C. Published on the Scottish Borders Council Website and advertised on SBC Social Media.
- D. Copies of the Proposal Paper are also available on request from: -

5.4 The Eddleston Primary School Closure Proposal (please request paper format or electronic version)

Education and Children’s Services
Scottish Borders Council
Council Headquarters
Newtown St Boswells Melrose
TD6 OSA
Telephone: 01893 582 4000

Or by E-mail to:-

schoolestates@scotborders.gov.uk

Please state that you are looking for the Eddleston Primary School Closure -Statutory Consultation Proposal Report.

5.5 . This proposal Paper is available in an alternative format or can be translated form for readers whose first language is not English. Please apply to:-

The Eddleston Primary School Closure
Proposal
Education and Children's Services
Scottish Borders Council
Council Headquarters
Newtown St Boswells Melrose
TD6 0SA
Telephone: 01893 582 4000

E-mail:

schoolestates@scotborders.gov.uk

5.6 . Formal Notice of the proposal and relevant information will be given and made available, free of charge 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) - notification of the Citizen Space Link will be 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.
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. All ELC private and local authority run, will be contacted and will be given notice of the Consultation by way of Group call and will be sent the Consultation Citizen space link. It will be 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 affected as possible. Officers will take a pragmatic approach to try to engage as many Pupil Councils/ focus groups from both schools as much as possible to obtain their views on the Proposal taking cognisance of UNCRC in particular. Information obtained and a note of views as each meeting will be noted and reported within the Consultation Report document.
3. The Staff of Newlands (currently temporary catchment zone School) and Kingsland Primary Schools (possible new catchment school) as affected schools who will also be asked to provide views and opinions as to the proposals.
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

5.7 . Advertisement in local Media - An advert will be placed on Scottish Borders Council website and social media to advise and provide a link to the Proposal Document which will be published on Citizen Space when the Statutory Consultation opens on 8th December 2025 inviting views and comments on the Proposals. A press release has already been published in local media outlets to give advanced notice and to provide information about the availability of the Proposal online and in paper format as soon as Scottish Borders Council have approved the Proposal Paper on 4th December. Notice of proceeding to the Statutory Consultation has been provided by way of a Public Notice Published in the Southern Reporter/ Border Telegraph to give advance notice to advise that SBC had voted on 25th September to proceed with a Statutory Consultation on the permanent closure of Eddleston Primary School and the rezoning of the catchment to either Newlands Primary or Kingsland Primary in Peebles giving dates of the Consultation and advising that that the Proposal paper would be taken to Full Council for Approval on 4th December or 20th November 2025. This Proposal Paper is expected to be approved by Full Council on 4th December 2025 at the time of drafting the Proposal Paper. A Notice has also been published on the Council website as soon as possible following the decision to move to Statutory Consultation on 25th September 2025, to advise communities about the decision to proceed to a statutory consultation to give as much advanced notice as possible. ¹

5.8 A further Public Notice will be published again to advise of the dates of the Public Meeting and reaffirming dates of the Statutory Consultation and a link to online citizen space, to ensure robust and widespread knowledge of the Statutory Consultation, once the Proposal Paper has been approved at Full Council on 4th December in advance of if possible, or simultaneously alongside to the Statutory Consultation opening date of 8th December, given the time constraints from Proposal paper approval on Thursday 4th December 2025. There will also be widespread publication of the Consultation within Local Government briefings and widespread publications on website and SBC social media accounts to inform people of the Statutory Consultation to ensure as wide engagement as possible.

5.9 . Period for community views to be heard.- The proposal report document will be published on citizen space along with a survey/ response form to ask for comments on Citizen Space which will open when The Statutory consultation begins on **8th December 2025 and this will close on 13th February 2025**, to adhere to the requirement of 6 weeks and at least 30 school days.

¹ [Eddleston Primary School | Notice of decision | Scottish Borders Council](#)

6. PUBLIC MEETING -Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 6pm-7pm at Eddleston Village Hall.

6.1 Format of Public Meeting -Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. It will take place on **Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 6pm-7pm at Eddleston Village Hall.**

The meeting, which will be convened by Scottish Borders Council will be addressed by the Director Children and Young People's Services, and/ or other Senior Officers of the Council.

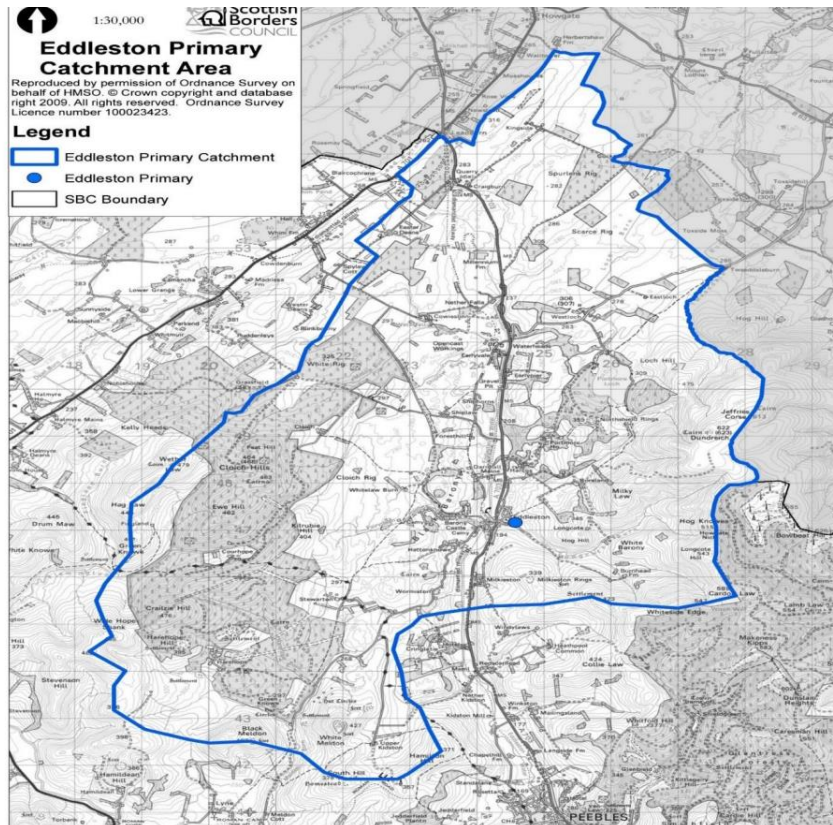
6.2 The meeting will provide an opportunity to hear more about the Proposal to close the primary permanently. It will provide an opportunity to ask questions about the Proposal to close the primary school on a permanent basis, and the catchment rezoning options which will be put to the community to ask for their views. The public meeting will let you have your views recorded so that they can be considered as part of the Proposal and Consultation process.

6.3 A note will be taken at the meeting of comments, questions, and officer responses. These notes will be made available on request. These notes will be sent to HMIE who may be present at the meeting(to observe) and will form part of Education Scotland's response (report) to the Consultation. HMIE are not required to attend the meeting but can do so, if they wish.

7.BACKGROUND

LOCATION /GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION SCHOOL

7.1 Eddleston Primary School is a non-denominational primary school, with max capacity for 100 pupils, located in the village of Eddleston about 5 miles north of Peebles. It is designated as an accessible rural school by the Scottish Government and can be seen on this map and Rural Schools list link.²



See above map in blue outlining the building's position within the hamlet of Eddleston and the Eddleston Catchment area.

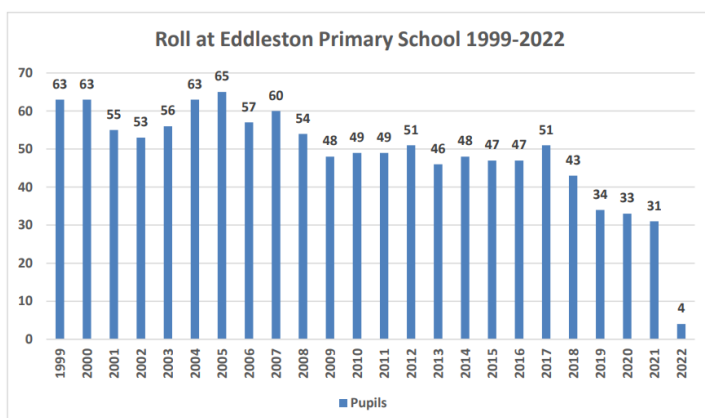
7.2 When Eddleston was mothballed, its catchment was temporarily rezoned to Newlands Primary School, Romanno Bridge, Peeblesshire, EH46 7BZ.

² [Rural schools in Scotland - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/rural-schools)

8. OVERVIEW OF MOTHBALLING AND REVIEWS

8.1 The roll at the Eddleston Primary School had reduced significantly in the years prior to mothballing. It fell from 31 to 24, between June 2021 and the commencement of the 2021/22 school year. In accordance with Scottish Government Regulations, this resulted in a drop in the number of classes at the School from 2 to 1. Consequently, several placement requests were submitted by parents to other schools in the Tweeddale Cluster area at that time.

8.2 As of April 2022, there were only 4 pupils at the School which given the schools capacity of 100 pupils, would have meant that the occupancy rate was 4%. The chart below illustrates the declining roll profile since 1999.



8.3 As at April 2022, there were 30 primary aged pupils residing within the Eddleston primary catchment area. 4 pupils attended the school, and the other children attend the following schools at that time:-

Primary School Placement Request	
Halyrude Primary School	6
Kingsland Primary School	9
Newlands Primary School	5
Priorsford Primary School	3
West Linton Primary School	3

8.4 Given the considerable drop in the roll, the lack of enrolment of Primary 1 pupils for three years in 2022, and the number of placement requests being made to other schools, Council Officers recognised (in conjunction with the school community) that the school was at risk. Discussions were held with parents, carers and local councillors initially to consider all options regarding the school.

8.5 It was recognised that there were challenges in providing a positive school experience to such a small roll and parental opinion was that mothballing would be the most considered option in such circumstances. The parents and carers recognised that several issues were of concern relating to the size of Eddleston, parents were concerned about the teaching staff, and that the impact that such a small roll would have on their children's education.

8.6 These concerns included difficulties for children to form friendship groups with similar interests; anticipated difficulties with transition to high school; lack of opportunities for sports and arts; lack of

links into a network of clubs and activities. Potential educational benefits were discussed should the children be able to attend a larger primary school with a greater opportunity for social interaction and collaborative learning opportunities along with more opportunities for participation in team activities and a chance to experience the skills and abilities of a wider staff group which would also help children and staff alike. There was also a recognition that the children were not able to fully participate in the Curriculum for Excellence as opportunities for collaboration and peer working amongst learning was limited with a smaller cohort.

8.7 Following these discussions, the families of the remaining pupils chose to make placing requests to other schools in the area. These placing requests were granted.

8.8 In June 2022, Scottish Borders Council Executive Committee took the decision that Eddleston Primary School should be mothballed. The position of the school was to be monitored on an ongoing basis at least yearly as per council Mothball Policy.

8.9 Following the decision to Mothball, the catchment area of Eddleston Primary was rezoned on a temporary basis to Newlands Primary School, Romanno Bridge, Peeblesshire. Newlands is located 12 miles from Eddleston Primary School which is approximately a 17-minute car journey. Newlands Primary has a capacity for circa 111 pupils (as of June 2025- based on maximum possible capacity – and based on optimal layout/ arrangement with classes) At the time of mothballing there were 5 children from the Eddleston catchment area attending Newlands and the parents of the children attending Eddleston Primary school at that time chose Newlands as their preferred option. There was sufficient room for all the children in Newlands Primary, and it was therefore considered the most sensible and reasonable option at the time to rezone the catchment temporarily to Newlands whilst Eddleston was mothballed.

8.10 The educational benefits of Newlands Primary being the catchment zone school on a temporary basis whilst the school was mothballed, was also documented within the Options Appraisal Report in June 2022 which recommended mothballing. This is attached in Appendix 2. Whilst temporary rezoning to Kingland Primary school in Peebles was also considered then within the 2022 Options Appraisal (and it should be noted that there were educational benefits for both schools) Newlands Primary School was chosen as the temporary catchment school for the reasons below:-

8.11 There were already close ties between Eddleston and Newlands was at the time of mothballing, seen as giving continuity for pupils and celebrated. The shared headship of Newlands and Eddleston, in addition to the schools being partnered with Broughton Primary School, was cited as an educational benefit. The pupils had already developed friendship groups and strong ties to staff at Newlands Primary through their weekly visits. Families of pupils who were still attending Eddleston Primary school had also expressed a strong preference for the children to attend Newlands Primary school due to the continued experience of attending a smaller rural school. Officers wanted to support this preference, and felt that Newlands Primary would also benefit from this proposal.

9. OPTIONS APPRAISAL MOTHBALL STATUS REVIEW 2025

9.1 In order to determine what the next steps should be, in June 2025 after one report to mothball and a 1st mothball status review, and three calendar years of mothball status; Officers carried out a second mothball review options appraisal analysis considering all reasonable options and undertaking a review of long-term viability of Eddleston whilst also considering the views of the local Eddleston community. This took the form of working collaboratively with the local Community Council of Eddleston and reaching out to the local community by way of a survey on citizen space asking for views and feedback. This was to encompass views of parents and carers but also community members and to ensure that all options for the mothballed school were identified, and considered appropriately.

9.2 Officers worked with the Eddleston Community Council to formulate an agreed survey to obtain as much data as possible to assess demand for the primary school and to generate ideas about increasing demand to see what could be done to encourage more pupils to come to the school if it was to reopen and be established again, and to give the community a chance to provide ideas and comments in general about the mothball status and what the community feels should happen next. Officers at Council meeting on 25th September 2025, took the opportunity to thank The Eddleston Community Council who had been extremely helpful, collaborative, and supportive in respect of the latest review process both in terms of assisting with the survey as part of the review in 2024, and the latest mothball status review survey in 2025, which was circulated and published in local forums on social media and journals to assess demand for a re-established school and to provide comment and generate ideas. The results of the 2025 survey and all comments and ideas within the survey are documented in Section 7 of the Options Appraisal 2nd Mothball Status Review Report 2025 and summarised further in this report at survey results in section 9.19.

9.3 Projections/ Demand -The council projections at the time of the 2022 Options Appraisal suggested that in the years of 2022/ 2023 there were still likely to be between 29 and 30 children in the catchment, and that this number would likely remain relatively static for the next few years. This could fluctuate up and down slightly but was likely to remain around this number for a few years to come. This was based on the number of children within the catchment area and the council's projections regarding housebuilding in the area, along with the birth rates and migration. This is always a fluid figure as this depends also on the families moving in and out of any catchment area also. Council records in 2022 at the time of the Options Appraisal then indicated that there would be approximately 5 children in the catchment area of Eddleston who would be likely starting school in the years 2022/2023 with a further two children aged 3-4 then.

9.4 Officers within this year's 2025, Options Appraisal 2nd Mothball Status Review, had to consider whether those projections had changed substantially. Given the data available and the results of the 2025 survey in the community also, Officers have considered that the number of children in the catchment would appear to have risen since the last Options Appraisal. The number of children from 0-12 years (infants to primary age children) would appear to be circa 32 from the data available.

9.5 See chart below:-

School Year	Projected numbers of children in Catchment
2024/25	28
2025/26	30

9.6 Officers reviewed the number of primary aged children in the catchment area at the time of the Options Appraisal review report 2025, and considered the Council's current projections regarding housebuilding in the area and the birth rates and migration population trends.

9.7 Based on all available information, the Council reasonably predicted that the number of primary aged children in the catchment zone is hovering around the 32 mark and will continue to be static at approximately that for the next few years although this could change depending on factors such as movement in and out of, the village and the surrounding catchment area.

9.8 Currently, the data suggests that there are approximately 32 children under 12 in the catchment area which can be broken down into:- 14 primary aged children living in the Eddleston original catchment attending 4 different primary schools located in the Tweeddale/ Peeblesshire Cluster area including Newlands, and the Peebles Primary schools of:- Priorsford, Kingsland and Halyrude.

9.9 From the 2025 community survey and the data available there are 18 pre-school aged children within the Eddleston catchment who appear to be attending 9 different ELC settings across several locations including Rosetta ELC Playgroup in Peebles, Priorsford Primary Nursery in Peebles, Kingsland Primary Nursery In Peebles, Kingsmeadow's Nursery in Peebles, First Nursery in Peebles, Arcadia Nursery in Easter Bush, Roslin, Midlothian, Acre Wood Nursery in Bilston, Midlothian, Scots Corner ELC Nursery in Milton Bridge, Penicuik, Midlothian and Sacred Heart Primary ELC Nursery, Penicuik, Midlothian. Therefore spanning Midlothian as well as Borders settings.

Prior to mothballing, there was not an ELC setting at Eddleston.

Group	Number of Children	Location/Catchment	Schools/ELC Settings Attended
Primary aged children	14	Eddleston catchment	Newlands, Priorsford, Kingsland, Halyrude
Pre-school aged children	18	Eddleston catchment	Rosetta ELC Playgroup, Priorsford Primary Nursery, Kingsland Primary Nursery, Kingsmeadows Nursery, First Nursery, Arcadia Nursery, Acre Wood Nursery, Scots Corner ELC Nursery, Sacred Heart Primary ELC Nursery

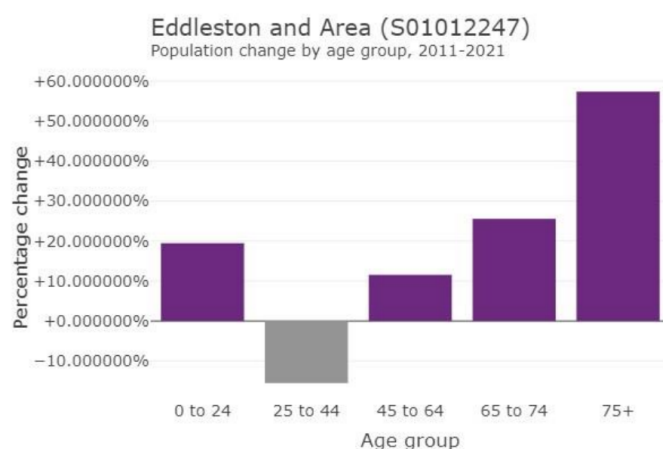
9.10 The area demographics also needed considered in the 2025 review:-

9.11 The demographics of the local population have changed slightly over recent years. The table below, derived from National Records of Scotland Data Census Zones (and was considered in the

June 2022 Options Appraisal) showed the age group distribution for the data zone that includes Eddleston. This data zone covers a much wider area than catchment area for the school but does indicate some changes in the make-up of the population over the last 2 decades and reflects a common trend in the Scottish Borders where the population of over 65s is growing, while the number of children decreases. This is the received wisdom of the general population trends within the Scottish Borders and in Scotland in general whereby as of mid- 2023, Scotland's population was estimated at 5,490,100, marking an increase of almost 44k people from the previous year and which was driven almost entirely by migration as deaths outnumbered births across all council areas. It is a known fact that Scotland's population is ageing : 20.3% of the population is now 65 years and over, up from 16.1% in 2003. The proportion of children aged 0-15 has declined to 16.3% down from 18.7 % in 2003 so fewer young families. This trend is consistent across most rural areas including The Scottish Borders.

9.12 National Records of Scotland does not publish standalone figures for Eddleston catchment, but the latest and most up to date information from the National Records of Scotland Small Area Population Estimates is suggesting that the population of Eddleston and the surrounding area, is experiencing strong growth in its older population, especially those aged 75 and over, while the number of people aged 25 to 44 in mid age group zone, has declined whilst the younger group have also grown. This supports the trend of an aging population.

9.13 The biggest growth is in the oldest age group (75+), which grew by around 60%. The 65 to 74 group also saw a significant increase (+30%). The younger population (0 to 24years) however also grew by about 20%, and the 25 to 44 age group is the only one that has declined, dropping by about 10%. The 45 to 64 group had a modest increase (+10%).



9.14 Mid- year small area population estimates are based on the census and are updated annually to account for population change in the period each year from 1st July to 30th June. The two main contributors to population change are natural change (births minus deaths) and net migration (the difference being the long term moves into and out of local areas). The estimated population of an area includes all those usually resident there, and ages relate to age on 30th June each year. Long term migrant is defined by the United Nations (UN) as someone who changes country of residence for 12 months or more. Population Estimates are used for a variety of purposes including informing planning, provision of services and allocation of resources. The suggestion therefore from the latest data from the area which surrounds Eddleston and the local area in 2025 similar to 2024, is that the areas of growth are in the over 75's and the 0-24 age groups, with the childbearing age group of 25-44 years decreasing– the trend which was also identified and mentioned in the Options Analysis in 2024.

9.15 Housing Developments and Planning were also considered within the Options Appraisal 2nd Mothball Status Review Report 2025:-

9.16 The latest Housing and Development Information comes from the Housing Land Audit and the local Development Plan 2024³. The latest Housing Land Audit (Housing Land Audit 22) was finalised in March 2023. The planning for Eddleston was considered within the Options Appraisal 2nd Mothball Status review report 2025 report and considering all factors, it was estimated that building on allocated development sites could generate an additional 1-2 pupils per year for the catchment. These estimates are included in Officers' projections. In Scotland, pupil yield estimation typically involves reviewing housing allocations and completions, applying local occupancy assumptions (e.g. average children per household) , school trends and using GIS and manual mapping to assess catchment impacts and considering demographic trends and migration patterns. There is no fixed formula but rather a blend of quantitative data and professional judgement by Education officers. If the build rate of these sites exceeds expectations, projections can be adjusted accordingly. Since the last mothball review report in 2024, housing build developments in Eddleston Village have unfortunately shown minimal change according to the planning dept of Scottish Borders Council. While some development may occur within the next five years, this remains somewhat speculative as to how many developments, and does depend on individual plots and build-out rates along with developer success and whether those houses bring families who would also wish to utilise a local school in the village, when preferences have shown that the majority within catchment have decided to have children educated in larger primaries in the Peebles Schools, rather than utilise a smaller more rural offering in Newlands which was more akin to Eddleston Primary school.

9.17 Eddleston Primary School Building- Throughout Scotland, core facts are gathered and published on school buildings. The definition and assessment categorisations are set by the Scottish Government as follows:-

Condition An assessment of the physical condition of the school and its grounds.
Categorisation is as follows:-

A: Good – Performing well and operating efficiently B: Satisfactory – Performing adequately but showing minor deterioration C: Poor – Showing major defect and/or not operating adequately D: Bad – Life expired and/or serious risk of imminent failure

Suitability- An assessment of the school as a whole, its buildings and its grounds and of the impact these have on learning and teaching, leisure and social activities and the health and well-being of all users. Categorisation is as follows:-

A: Good – Performing well and operating efficiently B: Satisfactory – Performing well but with minor problems C: Poor – Showing major problems and/or not operating optimally D: Bad – Does not support the delivery of services to children and communities

9.18 Condition surveys are undertaken on a rolling programme by a Scottish Borders Council building surveyor team led by a chartered building surveyor. The suitability assessment is undertaken by the Headteacher and validated by Senior Managers within Children and Young People's Services. These assessments are undertaken approximately every four years unless significant building or operational change has occurred within the school requiring additional assessment.

³ [adopted-ldp2-volume-2](#)

9.19 A condition survey was carried out on the building in July 2025, and the overall site is rated as Condition B (performing adequately but showing minor deterioration). The suitability of the school was assessed prior to mothballing and was categorised as B (performing well but with minor problems) While the building was considered fit for purpose at time of mothballing, and remains in generally good condition, a period of disuse has led to some maintenance needs, missing cupboard fittings and kitchen equipment (which officers understand was stripped out due to being utilised elsewhere within the school estate) , and some environmental issues, all that must be addressed with equipment reinstated before the building could be potentially operational again. Condition is an assessment of the physical condition of the school and its grounds. The building overall was categorised as a reasonable(B) being Satisfactory (performing well but with minor problems) with elements of C (Poor)and D (Bad) but also elements of A (Good) performing well. Suitability is an assessment of the school, its buildings, its grounds and the impacts these have on the learning and teaching, leisure and social activities and health and wellbeing of all users. See table of summarised conclusions of the survey report below:-

	General Learning & Teaching	Internal Social Areas	Internal Facilities	External Social Areas	External Facilities	Total:
Functionality	B	B	B	A	B	B
Accessibility	A	A	A	A	A	A
Environmental Conditions	D	D	D	B	B	D
Safety & Security	C	C	C	C	C	C
Fixed Furniture & Fittings	C	C	C	B	B	C
Total:	C	C	C	B	B	B

It is currently estimated that approximately £120k of investment would be required to remedy the immediate current issues in the school building and make it fit to be operational again. Officers understand that the ingress of Bats within the building is an environmental issue, and would require an ecological survey (which officers understand could not be done in the winter months) and thereafter prevention work to prevent further Bat ingress in accordance with environmental regulations. The full Suitability Report 2025 can be found in Appendix 4.

9.18 Options Analysis 2025

To review the mothball status each year, Officers had to revisit (in so far as possible) the same parameters which were used in the initial Options Appraisal for mothballing. Officers identified several potential options. The 2025 report contained the analysis of the options to assist officers to identify the most reasonable option for the school to then make a proposal to Elected members to consider. The 2025 mothball review survey was conducted by Officers and assisted by the Community Council to encourage community response, collaboration and wide circulation. The Community Council of Eddleston agreed to circulate to their early years group, and to promote it widely throughout their community council circulation channels to ensure a wide range of parents and carers were invited to complete the survey. The local "Peeblean" Newsletter also promoted this within the local community on social media and by way of Substack communication method to insure as wide as possible distribution to the Eddleston Community and to encourage participation.

9.19 The 2025 Community Survey Results were as follows but the full text of all answers can be found within the Options Appraisal Mothball Review Report 2025 Section 7 (Appendix 5).

The Data received from the 2025 was in summary :-

- 35 responses to the survey in total.
- 16 family groups with children 0-16 years in the catchment responded.
- 35 children in the catchment of which 32 were primary or ELC age (0-12years of age). 3 children were of high school age attending Peebles High School and some respondents responded as grandparents or community residents/ local respondents without children in schooling.
- 32 children of 12 years or under in the catchment whose parents or carers took part in the survey. Although it was distributed throughout the community, no responders indicated any children were home schooled, privately educated or out with SBC primary schools.
- From the data available from that survey, there were 14 primary-aged children who attended four different primary schools within the Tweeddale/Peeblesshire Cluster area:- 6 attend Newlands Primary⁴, 1 attends Priorsford Primary, 6 attend Kingsland Primary, and 1 attends Halyrude RC Primary School.
- Additionally, the survey indicated that there were 18 pre-school aged children within the Eddleston catchment who are attending nine different ELC settings across several locations within Scottish Borders and also into Midlothian. These include 1 at Rosetta ELC Playgroup in Peebles, 1 at Priorsford Primary Nursery in Peebles, 1 at Kingsland Primary Nursery in Peebles, 4 at Kingsmeadow's Nursery in Peebles, 5 at First Nursery in Peebles, 2 at Arcadia Nursery in Easter Bush, 1 at Acre Wood Nursery in Bilston and Scots Corner ELC Nursery in Milton Bridge, and 3 at Sacred Heart Primary ELC Nursery in Penicuik.
- 6 families expressed a “ yes” desire to enrol at a reinstated school without conditions attached such as wrap around care, ELC or larger cohort within the school, and which equated to 10 children from baby/infant up to school age, and which meant in real terms that 6 children would likely enrol if the school was to be reinstated in Aug 2026 (5 P1's and 1 p3/4) with up to 2 more possible in 2029 when they reached school age. This would mean an occupancy rate of 6% to begin, if the school were to be reinstated for term August 2026.
- 6 families responded "maybe" to utilising a reestablished school and was contingent on factors such as the availability of wrap-around care , ELC and having a larger cohort within the school generally for educational benefits of a larger school and future proofing, before they would consider potentially utilising the primary.
- 5 families responded “ No” to a reinstated school and indicated their children were already settled at other schools or that there were not enough children to make it something they would be willing to consider.
- 18 respondents did not answer the question as to whether they would be likely to utilise a reinstated school.
- Most survey respondents stated that they would be unlikely to move their children from current schools they were enrolled in, given they were settled and had friendship/peer cohorts.

9.20 Officers concluded that the comments reflected some desire in the community to reopen Eddleston Primary School, emphasising its potential as a hub for education and community life. Suggestions to make it viable include incorporating nursery and wraparound care, offering specialised focuses such as outdoor learning or Gaelic Medium Education, and trying to attract more families.

⁴ The data from the Head teacher at Newlands suggested, at the time of publishing the Proposal report at 8th December 2025, the number from the Eddleston catchment attending Newlands Primary had increased to 8 children. Officers note figures of school enrolment are subject to natural movement and variation. Officers will monitor all numbers attending the Tweeddale Cluster schools from the Eddleston Catchment throughout the statutory consultation process and will work with the most accurate data available.

9.21 Many respondents highlighted the need for housing developments to draw young families in and help with numbers in the catchment, while expressing concerns over the building's underuse and suggest the impact of council decisions in the past. Others proposed alternative uses for the school, such as community resources and community hub for art/ adult education classes etc and for the school to be recommissioned into other uses and not reopen as a catchment school due to low numbers, or recommission as a specialist school, but the consensus remained and it comes through in sentiment within the survey, that the school was once seen as crucial to Eddleston village's vitality in the same way as a local pub, post office, local shop or church was once also too.

9.22 Officers understood and took cognisance of all comments and respondents views within the survey. The Community Council Teams Meeting with Officers on the 13th of December 2023 during the first mothball review discussed viable numbers for the school. Those attending then were asked what they would consider "reasonable" in terms of a number for the primary school to be reestablished and for mothball status to be rescinded. The community feeling, which was expressed at the time of mothballing, was that 1 composite class would not be sufficient in terms of numbers, as it would not provide the educational benefits that most parents and carers would wish, and was part of the reason for the numbers dwindling in the first place.

9.23 The general community feeling at the time of mothballing was that parents and carers wished approximately 50 + children to attend a reopened school, to allow for a number of classes and several teachers for a school community to be fostered.

9.24 This view allowed for peer cohorts of similar ages and stages, and officers have understood from community voices via elected members that this view has not changed substantially within the community in 2025, however officers were mindful that this view has varied a lot given individual thoughts and preferences, and some people would be happy with very small numbers within a school, and others would not.

9.25 Officers took cognisance of comments in the survey suggesting that an "infant / ELC approach up" with younger classes only was mooted as an option and as an alternative option to closure, within the survey and has been mooted at some meetings during the mothball status, with the goal to essentially try to grow the school organically from the early years upwards. This view was different to the majority of voices at the time of mothballing who considered that for a viable school to thrive and in terms of providing greatest educational benefits the community felt that circa 50 plus children was needed, and they wished that for longer term viability and for greater educational benefits.

9.26 Officers also noted that individuals who relocated their children to Newlands, following the mothballing of Eddleston, or to other Peebles Cluster schools expressed reluctance to move their children back. This is because their children were content, and well-adjusted in their new schools, and had siblings enrolled in those schools. The prevailing sentiment then was that those parents would also prefer not to have their children attending different locations. This perspective was echoed in the most recent survey this year, where comments indicated that parents and carers would be concerned about moving children to a smaller cohort in a re-established Eddleston primary school due to the risk of declining numbers again, and possible uncertainty together with the lack of educational benefits of peers at same age and stage etc. As a result, the suggestion was that some parents and carers would be hesitant to commit to enrolling children to a reestablished catchment primary school with a very small cohort, even if the intention to try to grow the school was there.

9.27 To determine what the most reasonable option was regarding the future of the school; Council officers within the 2025 review, identified several potential options to consider. The report contained the analysis of the options to assist officers to identify the most reasonable option for the School to then make proposals and recommendations to Councillors. Four possible options were identified for the future of the School.

9.28 In considering the four options in the 2025 review , account was taken of the fact that there is a presumption against closure of a rural school.

9.29 As part of the options appraisal 2025, the “rural school factors” specified in the School Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 have been given special regard as well as population and demographics of the area, catchment areas and profiles, what could be done to encourage more pupils to come to the school if it were to be reopened, likely developments in the area and the educational benefits, the likely impact on the Community and the likely effect on travel arrangements.

9.30 The four options that were identified and discussed were:-

Option 1	<u>Reinstate Eddleston primary school with its original catchment area</u>
Option 2	<u>Reinstate Eddleston Primary school and seek to expand Eddleston Primary School’s catchment area</u>
Option 3	<u>Continue to Mothball Eddleston Primary school for a further year with the catchment area continued to be zoned to Newlands Primary School.</u>
Option 4	<u>Seek to permanently close Eddleston Primary School by way of proceeding to a Statutory Consultation on permanent closure of the catchment school with a permanently re-zoned catchment area to either the current temporary zone of Newlands Primary school OR Kingsland Primary School in Peebles.</u>

9.31 Option 1. Reinstating Eddleston Primary School with original catchment Area.

Officers considered that reopening/ reinstating Eddleston was not a reasonable alternative to closure. Officers were unable to identify a significant enough demand within the local catchment community in terms of numbers to re-instate the catchment primary school; the parents/carers appear satisfied with the education and experiences that their children receive at their current schools across the region or beyond, and there is an understandable unwillingness to uproot from current schools to a reinstated Eddleston School without other provisions as conditions attached to, before they would commit, it such as wrap around care and importantly more enrolment numbers at the school.

9.32 In line with other rural areas there has been a decline in the population in terms of the working ages, but in Eddleston there has been an increase in terms of the 0-15s age group in the Eddleston catchment- as working patterns change across the country. Many rural schools have unfortunately witnessed a decline in pupil numbers and Eddleston is no exception in terms of numbers generally declining over the last few years.

9.33 The planning for Eddleston was considered within the 2025 report and considering all factors, it was estimated that building on allocated development sites could generate an additional 1-2 pupils per year for the catchment. These estimates are included in Officers' projections. In Scotland, pupil yield estimation typically involves reviewing housing allocations and completions, applying local occupancy assumptions (e.g. average children per household) , school trends and using GIS and manual mapping to assess catchment impacts and considering demographic trends and migration patterns. There is no fixed formula but rather a blend of quantitative data and professional judgement by Education officers. Since the last mothball review report in 2024, housing build developments in Eddleston Village have shown minimal change according to the planning dept of Scottish Borders Council. While some development may occur within the next five years, this remains somewhat speculative as to how many developments, and does depend on individual plots and build-out rates along with developer success and whether those houses brought families who would also wish to utilise a local school when preferences have shown that historically many families have decided to have their children educated in larger primaries in Newlands or the Peebles Schools due to their perceived educational benefits. This is very much down to individual preferences of families.

9.34 it is considered that while Eddleston reopening would be likely to allow for greater involvement with the community, there could be educational disadvantages in reestablishing Eddleston; with such a small school roll compared to the education currently on offer at Newlands Primary or the Peebles Primaries many families are choosing. In terms of the current temporary arrangements, Newlands Primary School has good facilities and with strong educational outcomes and experiences. The data at Publishing date, suggests that 8 of the current Eddleston primary catchment cohort (circa 14 children) are choosing this school despite this being the temporary catchment zone school. Officers understand at the time of publishing that 8 children from the Eddleston catchment area are attending currently at Newlands. It is considered that while Eddleston reopening would be likely to allow for greater involvement with the Eddleston community, many of the pupils within the catchment area currently benefitting from the facilities and schools in the nearby larger community of Peebles attending Peebles primaries which have strong links with the wider communities and many of the Eddleston catchment children would appear to be choosing to be enrolled in the various Peebles Schools. It could be considered that there would be educational disadvantages in reopening

Eddleston with a small school roll versus the current education provision. The catchment pupils are attending a variety of schools; most of which still provide the opportunity for smaller class sizes, and some have composite classes, which cannot exceed 25 pupils. Many of the educational benefits considered to arise from attending a smaller rural school also apply to the schools that the children are currently attending, with close bonds across year groups and opportunities to collaborate across the age range. It is considered that few children and parents would be likely to support the resultant change in their catchment area to Eddleston, which had seen a significant number of placement requests away from the school year on year prior to mothballing for several reasons.

9.35 Travel arrangements for pupils have been in place for some time since mothballing began, and the impacts are neutral in terms of some pupils having to travel further and some perhaps less than before.

9.36 In conclusion it was not considered a reasonable or sustainable option to re-open Eddleston Primary School with its original catchment zone due to the lack of real demand and numbers which are needed to reinstate the school to a viable sustainable level which is what the community would want. This is because only 6 families said a clear “yes” to a reinstated primary school with no conditions attached, and 6 families wished wrap around care etc to be able to commit to attending a reinstated primary and were seen as “ maybe” . This, in total of the “ yes” and “ maybe” equated to 22 children of varying ages from aged 12 down to infant and under a year.

9.37 Importantly, of the 6 families who said “ yes” without conditions attached such as wrap around care, ELC or larger cohort within the school, equated to 10 children from baby/infant up to school age, and the breakdown re age and stage is as follows from the information provided :-

- 1 child of 7 years of age- no primary level provided in survey, but officers estimate the child stage would be likely p3.
- 1 child of 4 years of age –would start p1 in Aug 2026 or 2027
- 1 child of 4 years of age –would start p1 in Aug 2026/2027
- 1 child of 5 years of age –started school in Aug 2025 – Kingsland
- 1 child of 2 years of age - no p1 date provided officers reasonably estimate would start p1 in Aug 2027
- 1 child of 3 years of age- no p1 date provided officers reasonably estimate P1 Aug 2026 or 2027
- 1 child of 3 years of age- no P1 date provided- officers reasonably estimate P1 Aug 2026 or 2027
- 1 child of 1 year of age- no P1 date provided- officers reasonably estimate p1 Aug 2029 or 2030
- 1 child of 1 year of age- no p1 date provided – officers reasonably estimate p1 Aug 2029 or 2030
- 1 child of 3 years of age- no p1 date provided – officers reasonably estimate p1 Aug 2026 or 2027

9.38 If the school were to reopen in August 2026, there would likely be one child to be enrolled in Primary 3 or 4, and five children entering Primary 1—assuming they choose to start school at the earliest opportunity. Additionally, there is a possibility that another child, who began P1 at Kingsland this year, could transfer to Eddleston; however, the family has not indicated within the survey whether they would intend to move their child after starting at Kingsland this year. There could also, in theory have been 2 more possible p1 starts in 2029. The numbers therefore are suggestive of single figures only and very small. It would not be feasible to reinstate the school with such a small number when the community had expressed a desire for far greater numbers for future proofing

and longevity. With the actual demand demonstrating that only 6 children would definitely enrol, a reinstated school in August 2026, would likely have occupancy of 6%. With up to 2 more possible in 2029 the numbers are very low.

9.39 The "maybe" responses were contingent on factors such as the availability of wrap-around care and having a larger cohort within the school generally for educational benefits of a larger school cohort and future proofing.

9.40 The "No" responses indicated their children were already settled at other schools and there were not enough children to make it something they would be willing to consider.

9.41 Most survey respondents stated that they would be unlikely to move their children from current schools they were enrolled in, given they were settled and had friendship/peer cohorts. Accordingly, this option was not recommended by officers to elected members to pursue.

9.42 It needs to be considered whether there are educational benefits of reinstating the school in terms of impact on staff. Eddleston was a one teacher school which would often present challenges in attracting and supporting staff. In Kingsland or Newlands staff are able to receive support in providing an inclusive curriculum and work together too. As part of a larger team, staff are able to share planning and curricular resources. They can also learn from each other to provide improved approaches to learning and teaching.

9.43 In conclusion it was not considered a reasonable or sustainable option to re-open Eddleston Primary School with its original catchment zone given the very small number of children clearly interested in a reinstated primary school with only 5 children in p1 and 1 in p3 or p4 likely should the school be reinstated in August 2026.

Option 2- Reinstatement Eddleston Primary School with expanded catchment zone

9.43 Given the questions raised in Option 1 about levels of demand in the area for the school to be re-opened it was deemed reasonable to consider whether expanding the catchment area could allow the school to potentially reopen. Following a mapping exercise, officers felt it was unlikely that the catchment area of Eddleston could be made more sustainable with the options examined; this is because most pupils in the neighbouring catchment areas live closer to their current catchment school or would be most likely to have a quicker and safer journey to school. It was therefore not considered a reasonable option given that this would require a successful Statutory Consultation with identified Educational Benefits. No evidence of increased demand to attend Eddleston Primary School has been identified by this option, and there appears to be satisfaction with the current primary schools attended for the children in the majority attending the closer primaries in Peebles or Newlands and West Linton. Accordingly, the option to amend/extend the Eddleston catchment area was not considered a reasonable or feasible option to pursue and was not taken forward.

Option 3 Continue to Mothball Eddleston Primary School with catchment still temporarily rezoned to Newlands

9.44 This option considered whether the school should continue to be mothballed in the hope that it may be reasonably viable in the future. Eddleston Primary School has been mothballed for three years and has undergone two reviews, including the Options Appraisal Review of Mothball Status 2025. This was the second review of its mothballed status. Pupil numbers were not projected to rise significantly based on the catchment numbers as at 2025. While there is potential for substantial housebuilding in the village which could in theory increase demand for the school, finality is also

seemingly wanted and is regarded as essential for the community. The uncertainty associated with a mothballed school into the longer term is not well-received by the community, which is understandable, with lots of clear voices within the survey and being filtered through elected members, stating that it should not have been mothballed in the first place, and suggesting that the uncertainty which had come with the mothballing decision, was and continues to be unhelpful for the local community sustaining uncertainty indefinitely. Some voices suggested that it should have undergone a closure consultation before now and not, in fact been mothballed at all, for the demand to be assessed.

9.45 The school was initially mothballed when the roll fell to four pupils, meeting the criteria for mothballing at the time. Mothballing is only suitable in very limited circumstances, such as when a school roll is either zero or very low, and both the council and the community consider that there is a “reasonable” prospect of an increase in pupil numbers in the future. Officers were approached by the school community to mothball. Although there is no statutory maximum period for mothballing a school, Scottish Government guidance suggests a maximum of three years before ideally the authority makes a permanent decision unless it is in a very remote location. It is also important that mothballing is not seen as a way to circumvent the 2010 Act requirements, and that if the school is seen as not viable into the future, that moves are made to move to a statutory consultation on closure to give finality and this should be done sooner rather than later.

9.46 Officers re-evaluated whether the school continued to meet the criteria for continued mothballing in the 2025 review. Importantly, of the 6 families who said “yes” without conditions attached such as wrap around care, ELC or larger cohort within the school, this equated to 10 children from baby/infant up to school age, and the breakdown re age and stage is as follows from the information provided :-

- 1 child of 7 years of age- no primary level provided in survey, but officers estimate the child stage would be likely p3.
- 1 child of 4 years of age – would start p1 in Aug 2026 or 2027
- 1 child of 4 years of age – would start p1 in Aug 2026/2027
- 1 child of 5 years of age – started school in Aug 2025 – Kingsland
- 1 child of 2 years of age - would start p1 in Aug 2027
- 1 child of 3 years of age- no p1 date provided officers reasonably estimate P1 Aug 2026 or 2027
- 1 child of 3 years of age- no P1 date provided- officers reasonably estimate P1 Aug 2026 or 2027
- 1 child of 1 year of age- no P1 date provided- officers reasonably estimate p1 Aug 2029 or 2030
- 1 child of 1 year of age- no p1 date provided – officers reasonably estimate p1 Aug 2029 or 2030
- 1 child of 3 years of age- no p1 date provided – officers reasonably estimate p1 Aug 2026 or 2027

9.49 Looking at a theoretical school roll above from data available, there would likely be one child who expressed an interest in attending a reinstated school, starting in Primary 3 or 4, and five children entering Primary 1 in 2026 or 2027—assuming they choose to start school at the earliest opportunity. Additionally, there is a possibility that another child, who began P1 at Kingsland this year, could decide to transfer to Eddleston; however, the family has not indicated within the survey whether they would intend to move their child after starting at Kingsland this year. There could also, in theory have been 2 more possible p1 starts in 2029. The numbers therefore are suggestive only,

of single figures and very small cohort. With the actual demand demonstrating that potentially only 6 children would have indicated that they would be likely to consider possibly enrolling in 2026 or 2027, with up to 2 more possible in 2029, the numbers are still very low and the occupancy rate of the school would have been around 6%.

9.50 The "maybe" responses were contingent on factors such as the availability of wrap-around care and having a larger cohort within the school generally.

9.51 The "No" responses indicated their children were already settled at other schools and there were not enough children to make it something they would be willing to consider due to the lack of educational benefits in their view.

9.52 The Majority of survey respondents stated that they would be unlikely to move their children from current schools enrolled in given they were settled and had friendship/peer cohorts.

9.53 There are, however, indications that the number of children in the area who might wish to attend a reinstated school could grow. However, given the current number of children in the catchment area, the projected housebuilding for the next 2-5 years, and the area's birth/population data, it is reasonable to expect that achieving a more sustainable and viable school roll could take significantly many more years to come, certainly not achieving the levels which were mooted by the community as preferable for them for the educational experience they really wished for their children (upwards of 50+) and to make the school a viable and sustainable school for the future. This is the reality of the situation when the numbers dropped organically, children moved schools and the demand for the school had drifted away to larger schools in Peebles, or to Newlands primary Romanno Bridge or West Linton.

9.54 Officers concluded therefore that keeping the school mothballed and unused for years in the hope that numbers did see a rise to a sustainable level, is an inefficient use of limited public resources and contradicts Scottish Government guidance on making a permanent decision about the primary school's future within a reasonable timeframe. Furthermore, it was deemed not helpful for the community of Eddleston who would appear in the main to want certainty after three years of mothball status. A balance had to be struck, and a decision made by officers. Continuing to mothball was not viewed in this situation as a reasonable option in the circumstances; not a good use of public resources when the building could be used to benefit the community for example, and thus was not taken forward.

9.55 It is worth pointing out that discussions with community members indicated that some members of the community were disappointed that the school was still mothballed and generally considered it was already in effect closed. They considered that the building could be better utilised and that resources were being wasted by keeping the school mothballed. It also came through the survey that some members of the community viewed the long-term utilisation of the building by the community, or otherwise, as an opportunity for the community for another use which would be beneficial to the village. On the basis, that it was considered that pupil numbers will not increase substantially to viable levels anytime soon as it depends on the will and people voting with their feet to remove children from other schools or commit to reinstate, and that thus continuing to mothball was not considered a good use of resources. Continued mothballing was not viewed as a reasonable option in the circumstances.

9.56 OPTION 4 - THE PROPOSAL

Options Appraisal Mothball Review Report 2025- Option 4.

The Proposal is to permanently close Eddleston Primary School and re-delineate the catchment zone to Newlands Primary (current temporary catchment school) or Kingsland School in Peebles depending on what views are received from members of the community about those catchment options.

9.57 It was considered in the analysis of options 1,2 and 3, that it would not be reasonable to re-open the school with its current or extended catchment area and that continuing to mothball would not be a reasonable conclusion. Proceeding to a statutory closure consultation on a proposal to close Eddleston permanently was seen as the most reasonable option. This option would formalise the status quo; but resulting in the permanent closure of the school and permanent delineation of the catchment zone. This would allow Education and Children's Services to declare the school building as surplus, and alternative uses for the building could then be progressed thereafter.

9.58 Council officers were unable to detect sufficient enough demand in terms of a sustainable school roll for the future to re-open the primary school and it is considered that the Educational Benefits of the children attending a larger primary School on a permanent basis, are particularly persuasive as the school (either Newlands or Kingsland) can offer a fuller curriculum and facilities and infrastructure required to support the pupils' learning journey.

9.59 Both Newlands and Kingsland Primary Schools have the capacity to continue to accommodate the projected pupil numbers from Eddleston and are larger. The Eddleston school building could be seen as an opportunity for the community or further options within the local authority. Given the reasons outlined above the educational benefits of the proposal outweighing the drawbacks, and in order to provide certainty for the Eddleston community after three years of mothballing, this option was regarded as the most suitable for progressing. The educational benefits of the proposal and the impacts of the proposals are discussed in more detail below. There is also a discussion of the drawbacks and or impacts of the re zoning of the catchment to either Newlands or to Kingsland Primary in Peebles. No suggestion or recommendation of catchment zone has been mooted about these options as community feedback is required in order to assess these options further, and the Consultation Report will then recommend an option for the rezoned catchment, once full community feedback and input has been obtained.

9.61 Demand. Eddleston Primary school was mothballed three years ago due to a rapid decline in the roll and placement requests being received for other primaries in the area. There were 4 children left in the school and parents approached the Council to look to mothball. This year, as of May 2025, the data suggests that there are approximately 32 primary or below aged, children who reside in the catchment area for Eddleston who are currently attending 4 different schools and 9 different ELC settings. Council officers have not been able to identify a large enough number of children and families who clearly want to attend a reinstated Eddleston Primary School in sufficient enough numbers to allow the school to be reinstated without numbers remaining very low indeed. The definite "yes" vote for 6 families and " maybe" if factors were included such as wrap around care or more children, meant only 22 children. The 6 families who said clearly " yes" to reinstatement, equated to approximately 10 children spanning infant (under 1 year) to school age. The "maybe" responses were contingent on factors such as the availability of wrap-around care and having a larger

cohort within the school generally. *This in effect meant that the actual numbers to use a reinstated school within the next academic year starting August 2026 or 2027 would be approximately 6 children (five perhaps likely in p1 and 1 child in p3 or p4) with possible new p1's to come in 2029.* Suggesting an occupancy rate of just 6%. What has also come through loud and clear is that many voices in the community have stated that the uncertainty is negative for the village, and have stated that although it is very sad day for the village, they wish the school to proceed to close finally so that a line can be drawn and the village can move on without a primary.

9.62 While there are indications of potential growth in the number of young children within the catchment area alongside forthcoming building projects— it remains evident that, based on present demographic trends, projected housing development, and local birth rates, a sustainable and viable school roll may not be achieved for many years to come. In fact, it could require a generation of speculative building of new homes to materialise, and even then, significant increases in pupil numbers to get to the levels of previous decades, which is seen as unlikely when the majority of families in catchment have chosen to send children to the larger school communities in the nearby town of Peebles rather than the smaller temporary catchment school of Newlands Primary ;suggesting a trend of choosing those larger cohort schools over the smaller more rural offering.

9.63 Consequently, officers have concluded that prolonging the mothballing of the school in anticipation of future change in demand, is not an effective allocation of limited public resources and does not align with Scottish Government guidance, which recommends making a permanent decision regarding a primary school's status after approximately three years, or so, of mothballing to provide certainty for communities.

9.64 Placement requests and Catchment Area

Parents in the Eddleston catchment have decided, as is their right, to choose several different schools for their children's education before and during the time of mothballing. At the time of mothballing, Newlands was identified and chosen as the temporary catchment zone while the school was mothballed for various reasons as below. It is important to consider what the Educational benefits of both those delineated catchment zones are :-

9.64 Educational Benefits:-

9.64.1 The Council has statutory duties relating to the provision of education in the Scottish Borders. Education and Children's Services key priorities are to improve well-being, inclusion, experiences and opportunities for all our children and young people, both within and out with the formal curriculum. As part of a multi-agency partnership, the following priorities have been identified within the Education and Children's Services Plan:-

9.64.2 Keeping children and young people safe;

9.64.3 Promoting the health and well-being of all children and young people and reducing health inequalities;

9.64.4 Improving the well-being and life chances for our most vulnerable children and young people;

9.64.5 Increasing participation and engagement

9.64.6 Raising attainment and achievement for all and closing the gap between the lowest and highest achievers.

9.64.7 The Curriculum for Excellence is the national curriculum for Scottish schools. It aims to ensure that all children and young people in Scotland develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they will need if they are to flourish in life, learning and work now and in the future. The Council has a further duty to deliver a service which meets the criteria for best value, in terms of efficiency, effectiveness,

economy and equal opportunities, and which meets the agreed priorities in the Single Outcome Agreement and Scottish Borders Council's Corporate Plan.

9.64.8 The purpose of the Curriculum for Excellence is encapsulated in the four capacities to enable each child or young person to be:-

- a successful learner;
- a confident individual;
- a responsible citizen; and
- an effective contributor.

9.64.9 The Curriculum for Excellence encourages children and young people to develop through different learning experiences.

These can include:-

- Collaborative learning - where children can work collectively within a group setting. This allows children to learn from each other and to share experiences and skills;
- Individual learning- where children are given opportunities to make choices about their own learning. This encourages children to learn in the most effective way for them;
- Peer to peer learning and assessment;
- Relevance in learning, where children learn through experiences;
- Outdoor learning – where learning takes place out of the classroom or school setting.

The Educational Benefits of the Proposals have been assessed taking account of the requirements under legislation and the priorities and aims of the Children and Young People's Services Plan and having regard to the terms and statutory guidance of the Act.

10 Educational benefits of closure and rezoning catchment permanently to Newlands Primary, Romanno Bridge

10.1 Officers have considered what the likely educational benefits would be if Eddleston Primary school was to permanently close and the current arrangements delineating Newlands Primary catchment to include Eddleston was made permanent:-

10.2 This is the current temporary catchment school and thus it is not a new situation for the pupils who do attend Newlands and live in Eddleston catchment.

10.3 Newlands Primary School is located 12 miles from Eddleston Primary School which is approximately a 17-minute journey. The school has maximum capacity for 111 pupils with a current roll at August 2025 of 68. Officers understand from data available from Education and Head Teacher of Newlands that there are currently(at the time of publishing the Proposal report) 8 children from the Eddleston catchment attending Newlands Primary and the parents of the children who were attending Eddleston Primary School at the time of mothballing and who wished to move to Newlands had indicated that Newlands was their preferred catchment option due to it being similar in terms of being smaller in size compared to the Peebles schools and a rural school.

10.4 There was sufficient room at Newlands for all primary aged children in the Eddleston catchment area at that time to attend there during the mothballed status. This would appear to still be the case with plenty space to accommodate an uptick in numbers however this will of course, need to be monitored on an ongoing basis

10.5 Housing Developments in Newlands / Eddleston Catchment area- Implications on capacity

Should Eddleston be permanently rezoned to the Newlands catchment area, it is important for officers to consider both existing and potential housing developments within the Newlands catchment, as well as anticipated projects in Eddleston village and its surroundings—referenced in section 9 of this report summarising the Options Appraisal Review Report 2025—and their projected impact on Newlands Primary’s capacity. Presently, Newlands appears able to accommodate an increase in pupil numbers resulting from development in both Eddleston and Newlands/ Romanno Bridge, assuming that those parents or carers would not choose out-of-catchment placement requests at the Peebles schools or West Linton/ Broughton. Notably, there is a definite trend for children residing in the Eddleston catchment currently choose to attend the Peebles primary schools rather than Newlands, their temporary catchment school. Nonetheless, projections indicate that Newlands Primary does have adequate capacity to absorb any additional pupil growth over the medium to longer term from the developments which could be possible in Eddleston village and surrounds. Officers understand there are no long terms plans for development within the Newlands Catchment Zone, other than the potential developments as discussed previously in Eddleston village.

10.6 The potential Educational Benefits of making Newlands the permanent catchment school have been identified as follows :--

- Eddleston was in a learning community with Newlands primary prior to mothballing, and they shared a head teacher prior to mothballing, along with Broughton Primary School;
- The pupils from Eddleston prior to mothballing had long since attended Newlands each Thursday and had established friendship groups, knew the teachers and the school and were very positive and enthusiastic about it;
- As Newlands is also a rural school there are still similarities to Eddleston and its role in the community. However, it was also quite a large rural school so could continue to offer more opportunities for teamwork play and collaboration etc; the continuation of the catchment to Newlands on a permanent basis will be important for this continuity to continue and continue to foster the relationships made with Eddleston families with Newlands.
- A smaller school can play an important role in a rural community and provide opportunities for members of the community to become involved in learning. Although it is not as close as the Peebles schools, closer emotional and educational ties to the Eddleston community by being the permanent catchment school can only cement learning opportunities and experiences which can enhance the sense of community across the generations between Newlands and Eddleston.
- Pupils may have greater exposure to friends across a wider age range at a smaller more rural school, than the larger school of Kingsland, which can assist with social skills and development.
- The nature of composite classes in smaller rural schools, can encourage pupils to work together across the age ranges and abilities which can have a positive impact on all learners
- Newlands primary school has great facilities, and much was made of the fact that at the time of the temporary rezoning, there were to be plentiful opportunities for outdoor learning, forest lessons etc due to geographical position within the rurality and local area at Romanno Bridge. This will only continue if the catchment zone is rezoned permanently to Newlands.

10.7 After assessing the 2 options for the re-zoning of the catchment, officers post mothballing recommended that the catchment zone for Eddleston was temporarily re-zoned to Newland Primary. This was also accepting and granting the wishes of those in the Eddleston school community at the time who in the majority expressed a strong preference to re zone temporarily to Newlands.

10.8 Kingland Primary in Peebles was also considered at that time and whilst there were strong education benefits in respect of re-zoning to either of these schools, it was considered that already

close ties and arrangements between Eddleston Primary School and Newlands Primary provided greater continuity for the existing pupils at the School at the time of mothballing. The schools shared a Head Teacher, and the schools were partnered along with Broughton Primary School. The pupils at Eddleston at the time of mothballing, had already developed friendship groups and strong ties to staff and Newlands through their weekly visits. Families of the pupils who had attended Eddleston had also expressed a strong preference for Newlands as they were keen for the children to have the experience of a smaller, rural school. The Council was thus keen to continue to support this preference, and it was considered that the pupils and staff at Newlands would also benefit from this choice of temporary catchment. To summarise therefore, at the time of mothballing the decision was taken to re zone the school's catchment to Newlands, with transport being provided. This decision was made for several reasons above which included familiarity as pupils attended the school to utilise facilities and to access aspects of the curriculum for excellence; proximity along with safe routes to travel; shared head teacher and curriculum and because Newlands provided the rural school environment and experience that the children would have received but for Eddleston being mothballed.

10.9 However currently in 2025 at the time of Publishing this Proposal Report, it would appear that 8 pupils from Eddleston catchment are attending Newlands, which may equate to circa 55% of the original catchment area's primary aged children. Given that Eddleston Primary School, is in the Peebles High school catchment area, it is considered reasonable that another primary school within that Peebles high school catchment zone and close by, should be considered and contemplated also as an alternative for rezoning the Eddleston catchment area on a permanent basis and given that there is no overwhelming use of Newlands as the temporary catchment by parents as at today's date. It is therefore considered important that views should be sought as soon as possible, as part of the Statutory Consultation process so that parents should be consulted in the event of a permanent closure, which catchment ought to be designated the permanent catchment zone. As such, Officers also wish to consider alongside Newlands Primary School whether Kingsland Primary School in Peebles should be considered as the permanent catchment school in the event of permanent closure of Eddleston.

10.10 Discussion is given below therefore to the potential Educational Benefits of rezoning to Kingsland Primary School. It should also be noted that other options may emerge during this formal statutory consultation, and officers would welcome this collaboration to be provided further options to be considered if comments come forthwith from responders.

11. Educational Benefits of closure and rezoning Eddleston Primary catchment permanently to Kingsland Primary, Neidpath Road, Peebles.

11.1 Kingsland primary is located 5.2 miles from Eddleston Primary School (approx. 13-minute drive). The school opened in 2010 and has pupil capacity for 388 children and maximum possible capacity (based on Optimum layout/ arrangement) being 546 with a current roll of (at the time of drafting) of 316 Pupils as at August 2025 excluding ELC. There is an Early Learning and Childcare setting at the school. The School provides a very modern learning environment for the children and has excellent facilities.

11.2 The Kingsland primary environment would be very different for any rezoned Eddleston school catchment as the re zoned catchment would mean that any new enrolments from August 2026 or any other agreed effective date, would be changing on paper from the temporary catchment school Newlands to a significantly larger school environment. Officers understand that in 2025, at the time of drafting, that there are approximately 6 children from the Eddleston catchment area attending Kingsland Primary with that figure being approximately 8 at time of publishing the Proposal Report.

Many placement requests made from the Eddleston catchment area over the last 7 school years (including prior to mothballing) have been to Kingsland Primary and there is therefore a clear demand for this school and the educational benefits of it. There is, however, an increasing roll at Kingsland Primary School, and although there is sufficient capacity currently at Kingsland for all the children currently in the Eddleston catchment to attend in the future this is increasing each year and needs to be considered.

11.3 The Educational Benefits of rezoning the permanent catchment area to Kingsland are:-

- Pupils would be attending a catchment school with a larger peer group than Newlands would offer which offers some more opportunities to experience a variety of learning and teaching experiences offered through flexibility of grouping.
- A larger school roll can often provide for more opportunities for social interaction. The forging of close friendships and the development of self-esteem can be enhanced by being able to be part of an age-appropriate peer group of a sufficient size to allow a range of interactions and relationships to form and reform.
- There is by the nature of the size, a larger staff body at this school and a larger parent body which increases the likelihood of adults leading a range of activities which will support the provision of a richer and higher quality curriculum.
- There will be greater opportunities for team sports and other active recreational activities for example being part of School Sports Hall competitions in Tweeddale. This applies even to individual sports, where successful learning of skills is often helped by talking and sharing experiences and is usually helped by having a larger cohort-especially where sports in concerned- although this is not always the case as Newlands exemplified by recent success in relation to winning a Tweeddale Netball tournament which showcased what can be done with a smaller school cohort.
- A larger school cohort can also apply to the health and wellbeing element of the curriculum which involves discussion between pupils about health lifestyle choices. Whilst these problems can be overcome by taking the pupils to participate in activities in a neighbouring school, that involves time out of school travelling there and back often which is not always productive or an efficient use of time.
- As with sports, the larger school roll would also provide a greater likelihood of pupils benefitting from a wider range of solo and group musical and artistic opportunities such as year group shows and plays or house competitions such as talents shows or house drama.
- The transition to High School may be easier as pupils will move as part of a larger cohort which can help ease transitions.

11.4 Educational Benefits - Impact on Pupils of permanent closure of Eddleston

11.5 In terms of the Educational Benefits of permanently closing Eddleston, Officers have considered the above educational benefits above, but furthermore as part of the Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, the aim is to develop increased awareness of the world of work, social skills and employability skills. Such knowledge and understanding and skills acquisition very much benefit from discussions and dialogue with peers of the same age/stage.

11.6 The level to which pupils are able to become skilled in social interaction will depend to an extent on the opportunities afforded to them at school. The forging of close friendships and the development of self-esteem is enhanced by each pupil being enabled to be part of an age-appropriate peer group of a sufficient size to allow a range of interactions and relationships to form

and reform and this can only be obtained perhaps from a larger age-related peer group and not within a very small cohort.

11.7 Educational Benefits - Impact on staff closure of Eddleston Eddleston was a one teacher school when the roll dropped which would often present challenges in attracting and supporting staff. In Kingsland or Newlands schools, staff are able to receive support in providing an inclusive curriculum and work together too. As part of a larger team in either school, staff are able to share planning and curricular resources. They can also learn from each other to provide improved approaches to learning and teaching. Regarding impact on staff, it is felt that there are educational benefits to a permanent closure, and rezoning the catchment permanently to either Newlands or Kingsland and not reinstating the Eddleston model also for continued staff benefit. There was no reduction in staffing when the building was mothballed. Upon any permanent closure decision, this will continue to remain the same. The staff in post were allocated to bases in schools to work within a cluster-based model, remaining part of a centrally managed service. Staffing has been adjusted across the authority responsively according to changing need and referrals since the temporary mothballing of the school building. There is expected to be no changes to this in the event of permanent closure of the school.

11.8 Educational Benefits-Impact upon the community The permanent closure of Eddleston Primary school would have little impact in terms of the community's educational access to the school and its resources. The building prior to mothballing was not used by any community groups or organisations and this remains the case post mothballing. Some respondents to the survey believe that permanently closing the school would negatively impact the village. Survey results and feedback from community engagement and elected members indicate that the current mothballing of the school has similar effects. Additionally, uncertainty regarding the school's mothballing status contributes to a lack of clarity about the village's future, whereas a permanent decision could provide finality and allow the village to move on and perhaps consider alternative uses for the school building which could help to go some way to mitigate loss of the school from the village. There are lots of suggestions with regards alternative uses for the school building clear in the 2025 mothball review survey, and options to consider CAT in terms of community empowerment legislation, which could be explored further to enhance the village and community, post successful statutory consultation on closure.

11.9 Rural Factors – Impact from Travel Arrangements Kingsland Primary and Newlands Primary are located in opposite directions to each other from Eddleston. Kingsland is 5.2 miles away from Eddleston Primary School and is located in the town burgh of Peebles, and Newlands is 12 miles away in a more rural locale being Romanno Bridge.

11.10 However, given the semi rurality of the Eddleston catchment area some journeys to schools may require more time than others. Kingsland primary is naturally more aligned to the Eddleston area being closer geographically and on the direct route on the A703

11.11 Transport is currently provided for children in the Eddleston catchment attending Newlands . 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). Future transport provision would be required to be put in place for Kingsland Primary, if and when, the catchment changed to that school from the expected date of August 2026, or another date as agreed, and subject to statutory requirements. 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, but there could be in

theory increased costs involved in transport, with regards to Kingsland Primary and/ or Newlands Primary.

11.12 Rural Factors - Community Impact Council officers have considered the potential impacts upon the community of the proposal for permanent Eddleston school closure. Discussions have been had previously with Councillors, members of the community and the Eddleston Community Council regarding proposals for the school. Most comments from the community were supportive of the mothballing in the first place and understood the implications of mothballing being on a temporary basis when the decision to mothball was taken. People were clear about the challenges that faced the community; in terms of slowing housebuilding, fewer families many who wanted the smaller rural school environment for their children, families voting with the feet to enrol children out with catchment. Many people supported the school mothballing and had suggestions for the building's use after what they envisaged being a permanent closure.

11.13 However, several people did comment that they would be extremely sad to see the school close permanently as they felt that it should be the heart of a village community like a church/ shop/ community hall should be. There was a general feeling that continued mothballing was not an option as being in a continued state of limbo was not good for the village and the area, and that a more final solution was required after three years, although a lot of suggestions mentioned wrap around care and nursery provisions to be added to the school to boost younger children as well. Also, options to start up an early year's nursery, and or younger class to grow the school from the "bottom up" These were all very helpful suggestions and were considered fully in terms of alternatives to closure in section 9 of the Options Appraisal 2nd Mothball Status Review Report 2025.

11.14 The permanent closure of the school building will have little impact now in terms of the communities' educational access to the school and its resources given that it has been mothballed since 2022 and is currently lying empty and unused. Often when schools are mothballed there can be opportunities for use on a temporary basis which would not affect the ability to reopen at relatively short notice which is key when mothballing a school.

11.15 Housing Developments in Kingsland Catchment area- Implications on capacity

If Eddleston was rezoned to Kingsland catchment, officers need to take account of the potential for the housing developments within the Kingsland catchment area, in Peebles as well as the possible expected potential housing developments within the Eddleston village and area. Currently, the Kingsland primary school would appear to have capacity to handle an increase in student numbers due to current developments in both the Eddleston and Kingsland catchments. However, this situation should be closely watched, as projections indicate the Kingsland school roll is rising and could face more pressure if substantial growth occurs—especially if developments like the March Street Mill project in Peebles lead to a marked increase in enrolment over the medium to long term. The March Street Mill development is scheduled to bring approx. 51 units with 12 of those designated as affordable homes. Education Officers will require to work closely with planning officers as there are a number of sites (APEEB031 George Place, APEEB021 Housing south of South Park; APEEB044 Rosetta Road; and APEEB056 Land South of Chapel Hill Farm) allocated for housing development , and at least two of those APEEB031 and APEEB044 could be for indicative sites of 36 units and 100 units respectively and which are allocated for future expansion within the Peebles area in Scottish Borders Council Adopted Local Development Plan. Officers understand that these sites are effectively promoted for residential development and would likely fall specifically within the

Kingsland Catchment Area. Further information is available within the Peebles Settlement Profile in the Adopted Local Development Plan at page 238.⁵.

11.16 Opportunities for any future Use of Eddleston Primary School Building

11.17 It needs be acknowledged that opportunities are also possible for the community, and they arise in terms of a community asset transfer under The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 for any possible future use of the building following any successful Statutory Consultation, if it was decided by elected members and assuming Scottish Ministerial approval, to proceed with the proposals to close.

11.18 The proposed future use of the building is therefore a moot point, due to the Statutory Consultation processes, and will only come into play once decisions are made in accordance with statutory obligations on closure proposals, but Officers have noted that The Eddleston Community Council have indicated that the building could be developed into a meaningful asset for the area in due course and which could go some way to help mitigate a loss of the primary on a permanent basis to the community. Subject to the Statutory Consultation processes, Officers would support such a CAT as much as possible.

11.19 Temporary Use of Building whilst Mothballed – Housing of Chambers Institution- Peebles Museum Collection

There has been a potential for the temporary use of the building mooted with regards to renovations of the Chambers Institution in Peebles. Options for the rehousing of the museum collections could be utilised within the school on a short-term temporary basis only whilst the school is currently mothballed. This is yet to be formalised but has been mooted as an option and could be an option for the use of the building in the next year whilst the school is currently mothballed status. This would not prejudice the mothball status of the school, this Statutory Closure Consultation nor any suggestions re a possible CAT following any successful Statutory Consultation on Closure. The Community Council of Eddleston has been advised, and officers are working in tandem with them on this.

11.20 If this temporary option was to be considered further, Officers understand this would only be for a temporary decant for Live Borders staff & the museum collection only whilst the Chambers Institution is renovated; it would not be to provide an alternative service to the public while the Chambers Institution is closed for redevelopment. Such a proposal, which is in its early stages as a suggestion, would mean that the Peebles library could be managed from a mobile service during this period & the museum functions would be closed. Discussions for such a temporary operational use within the mothballed school building, will be taken in conjunction and alongside, the local community, Eddleston Community Council and local elected members, and would be without prejudice to the Statutory Consultation on permanent closure provisions, as would be only a temporary use of the building whilst it is currently mothballed and would be an opportunity to make use of a vacant building. This would not prejudice the mothball status of the school, the processes and procedures with regards the Statutory Closure Consultation nor any suggestions re a possible CAT following any successful Statutory Consultation on Closure.

⁵ <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/12940/adopted-ldp2-volume-2>

12. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The table below shows the estimated recurring revenue and one -off capital costs associated with each of the 4 Options considered in the Options Appraisal Mothball Review Report 2025.

Estimated Costs	Reinstate & Reopen School	Continued Mothballing	Permanent Closure of School
<i>Option No.</i>	<i>1&2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Annual Revenue Costs			
DSM budget allocation	116	0	0
Building running costs, maintenance, utilities and rates	27	23	0
Ongoing Transport Costs (transporting ex Eddleston PS pupils to other schools)	0	33	33
One off Capital Costs			
Initial pest control (ecological survey re. bat infestation)	10	10	10
Further cleaning relating to bat removal	25	25	25
Re-establish school (full clean, kitchen, security, f&f replacement)	85	0	0
Installation of Smartboards	41	0	0
Total Estimated Costs over one full School Year at 2025/26 prices	304	91	68
Option 1 & 2- Reinstatement of school. Annual running costs would be £143k with one off capital investment of £161k required.			
Option 3 - Continued mothballing. Annual running costs would be £56k with one off capital investment of £35k required.			
Option 4 -Statutory Consultation on Permanent Closure - Annual running costs would be £33k until the catchment is permanently rezoned with one off capital investment of £35k required. Option 4 would also generate a capital receipt if the building was sold.			

12.2 Financial Implications of the proposal – permanent school closure.- The building running costs including maintenance, utilities and rates are estimated at £27k, based on historic actual costs inflated to 2025/26 prices. There will also be essential required maintenance thrown up from the suitability survey 2025 to take account of required works to remedy the immediate current environmental issue in the school building regarding the presence of Bats.

12.3 Officers understand that the ingress of Bats within the building would require an ecological survey (which officers also understand could not be done in the winter months) and thereafter prevention work to prevent further bat ingress in accordance with environmental regulations. There has been an estimated cost in terms of control and cleaning thought to be in the region of £35k which would have to be factored into in addition subject to ecological survey and environmental regulations.

12.4 The financial savings realised upon permanent closure, subject to successful statutory closure consultation are :- Excluding the costs of selling or repurposing the building and the need for pest control re the bat ingress, the savings for permanent closure is in the region of £110k per annum calculated by taking £143k being the total estimated annual running costs for Eddleston Primary School in 2025/26 if the school was reinstated, noted less the transport cost which was £33k this year for any catchment children attending Newlands as the temporary catchment school.

12.5 It is not considered viable to reinstate the school given the projected roll, of what would potentially have been, circa 6 lower primary children at an expected reinstatement date of August 2026 based on the survey responses of those stating they would potentially use the school if reinstated. It is also not considered viable given the lack of educational benefits attached to re- opening of the school at such a small roll.

13 Environmental Impact

13.1 The environmental impact of the proposal to close is not considered material. Given the semi rurality of the area most of the pupils will require to be transported to school. However, operating another school, however newer and more efficient environmentally friendly Kingsland school is for example, will always have some environmental impact. In addition, operating a transport service for the catchment service to Newlands Primary(currently the mothballed temporary catchment school) will have had some impact on emissions and should the statutory consultation be successful then there will be emissions ongoing which will be likely from school transport to the rezoned catchment area on a permanent basis whether Newlands or Kingsland.

14.Further Evaluation of Educational Benefits, if Eddleston Primary School was to close permanently.

14.1 To do this it is important to consider that Scottish Borders Council has clear statutory duties relating to the provision of education in the Scottish Borders. As Eddleston is a rural school for the purposes of the Act, the legislation also includes a presumption against closure and there are additional considerations and requirements called rural factors”

14.2 The legislation is also clear that a closure should be only considered when all other reasonable options have been identified, and robustly considered and discounted prior to proceeding to and undertaking any statutory consultation on closure. These were all considered and discounted within the Options Appraisal Mothball review Report 2025. It was considered that proceeding to a statutory closure consultation on a proposal to close Eddleston permanently was the most reasonable option. No decision is taken lightly to recommend this. Council officers have been unable to detect sufficient enough demand in terms of a sustainable school roll for the future to re-open the primary school, given the very small numbers who would wish to utilise a reinstated school and furthermore it is considered that the Educational Benefits for the children attending a larger primary School on a permanent basis, are particularly persuasive as the school (whether that is Newlands or Kingsland) can offer a fuller curriculum and facilities and also the infrastructure required to support the pupils’ learning journey. Both Newlands and Kingsland Primary Schools have the capacity to continue to accommodate the projected pupil numbers from Eddleston and are larger with great school communities behind them which would be of benefit to the children at all schools in relation to fostering children from the Eddleston catchment area into their very active and vibrant school communities on a more permanent basis.

14.3 The Eddleston school building could be seen as an opportunity for the community or further options within the local authority. There are temporary suggestions mooted for the housing of the Chambers Institution collections in Peebles (whilst this undergoes renovation works) which could go somewhat to mitigate the building lying empty in the next year.

14.4 Therefore, based on the reasons outlined above and specifically the educational benefits outweighing the Educational drawbacks of the proposal to close permanently, and in order to provide certainty for the Eddleston community after three years of mothballing, which some in the

community have called out as being wasteful, this option is regarded as the most suitable for proceeding with, and was the reason for proceeding to recommend the proposal to close permanently.

14.5 Importantly, given that there is no overwhelming majority of children in the Eddleston catchment area choosing to attend the school that their catchment area was re-zoned to (being Newlands Primary) during mothballing, and on current data available, it is considered that due consultation should be carried out with the parents and community of Newlands, Kingsland and Eddleston to establish which school the preference would be for the re-zoning of the Eddleston Primary Catchment Zone and to hear all views before any recommendations can be made about this.

14.6 It needs to be remembered why the decision was made to re-zone to Newlands, at the time of mothballing, and this was done for a number of reasons. Newlands was a partner school , and they had a shared head teacher. Pupils from Eddleston regularly accessed facilities and activities in Newlands . The schools were both within the same secondary cluster (Peebles) and worked in the same learning community. Improvement plans were aligned across the 2 schools, along with curricular and teaching plans. It was therefore considered by the Council at this time that this would result in an easy transition for pupils from Eddleston into classes at Newlands and that their learning continuity and progression would be supported. The catchment area for Eddleston was therefore rezoned to Newlands and transportation was provided for the children to their new school. The support already being expressed within Newlands community for permanent rezoning is apparent with officers already receiving communications prior to the opening of the statutory Consultation that Newlands still provides a like for like setting from Eddleston with regards to a rural school experience, and that the ethos, culture is similar to what was offered at Eddleston. In addition, Newlands offers wrap around care and a feeder ELC.

14.7 However, as parental choice has led to the children from the Eddleston catchment attending a number of primary schools across the Peebles Cluster area not just Kingland Primary, It is therefore considered reasonable that the consultation should establish views on which school the catchment area should be re-zoned to, should this closure proposal be taken forward to either re zone to Newlands or Kingsland Primary in Peebles. Council officers are satisfied that there would be strong educational benefits attached to both proposals, note community feeling already coming through from Newlands about hoping to continue it being the permanent catchment zone, but wish to establish what the views and preferences are within the Eddleston area and the Newlands/ Kingsland Primary community as a whole, before recommendations are made to Councillors about this within a Consultation Report. This is important for the Statutory Consultation to establish and seek views before elected members are asked to decide.

15. Evaluation of further options/ Alternatives to closure mooted by the Options Appraisal 2nd Mothball Review Report 2025.

15.1 Finally, It is imperative to consider whether there are any alternative options which have been mooted and there is requirement to consider those options properly, as was discussed in more detail within the Options Appraisal Mothball Review Report 2025.

15.2 Officers considered suggestions from the parent council and the Community which have been mooted within the Eddleston Mothball review survey 2025, and these are listed, and summary of the evaluations are narrated below;-

- Create an (ELC) Early Learning and Childcare Setting at the School;
- Try to attract more housing development to the area;

- Create a forest school at the School;
- Create a Gaelic school at the School
- Create infant classes only initially and grow the school from the “ youngest group up”
- Use of Eddleston as a ASN operational base or summer school for pupils

15.3 Create an Early Learning and Childcare Setting - Although it was previously believed by some in the community that Eddleston had an Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) setting historically, Officers have confirmed within the Options Appraisal Mothball Review Report that this is not accurate. Officers understand that there was an “out of school care club” which sustained a reduction in numbers and meant it was no longer a viable operation and closed due to lack of numbers. Officers are appreciative of this suggestion of an ELC setting within the village. Officers have reviewed the provision of an ELC within the village on a more recent basis whilst the school has been mothballed and have identified that the numbers at present who have indicated what their requirements would be, would not be sufficient to justify a further ELC provision in the cluster given the wide-ranging availability of ELC settings in the Peebles/ Tweeddale cluster. The community impact of establishing an ELC would no doubt be a positive addition for the village however there have been several suggestions during the mothballed years by some members of the community for how the building could be utilised in the future, post successful statutory consultation on closure, in terms of the establishment of a private nursery or for community use as a community hub for local toddler playgroups and to benefit also senior members of Eddleston Village. 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. Officers were very grateful for the suggestion.

15.4 Housing Development – There are several sites identified in the Local Development Plans which, if developed, could amount to an increase in new build homes in the Eddleston Community which could lead to an increased number of children within the village. Planning officers have indicated that they currently consider that the build out of these sites may take several years, although this may change as developers seek development sites to meet the demand for housing with the Tweeddale area. The build out rate and the time taken for the sites to come to fruition and completion however is somewhat speculative. Given the current number of children in the catchment area, the projected housebuilding possible, along with the area's birth/population data, it is reasonable to expect that achieving a more sustainable school roll to the figures wished for in the community at the time of mothballing could take years to come and may not get to the levels that most in the community wish for a sustainable school roll which is viable into the longer term. This is dependent on housebuilding being successful and families moving into those houses who wish to utilise the school in the village rather than a school in Peebles. Projected numbers in the catchment area are to hover around 30-32 level – (from infant up to 12 years) for many years to come with demand for the school seemingly considerably lower given the results of the survey where only 6 children (5 p1's and 1 p3/4) were clearly suggesting a commitment to a reinstated school if it were to be reinstated in the next academic year. As a result, keeping the school mothballed or reinstating it because of the uncertain possibility that future housing developments might increase demand— from what is currently a very small number interested in the reinstated school—cannot be seen as a sustainable argument. This approach is arguably an inefficient use of limited public resources, and it also contradicts Scottish Government guidance, which recommends making a permanent decision about a primary school's status after it has been mothballed for a reasonable period, to provide finality and certainty for communities. .

15.5 Creation of a Forest School within Eddleston Primary school– this had been suggested as an option by some parents at the time of mothballing, and had been mentioned by some in the Community within the 2025 survey. While at this stage there appears to not be sufficient numbers

for this to justify a standalone forest school on site, along with the expense in terms of the set up and running costs associated with this, officers were appreciative of this suggestion and have thanked and continue to be grateful to the community members for this suggestion. The community impact of establishing a forest school community would indubitably be positive for the village and would provide educational benefit in terms of outdoor education the benefits of which being well known. Officers are aware there have been several suggestions during the mothballed years by some members of the community for how the building could be utilised in the future in the event of closure on a permanent basis, such as establishment of a private nursery or perhaps a private forest school outdoor nursery set up for community use or for local playgroups and/ or establishment of a community hub with an outdoors slant to benefit younger and older members of Eddleston Village community. Officers explained that they will always support exploration of such options and provide as much assistance should the local community explore such an angle in future subject to a successful closure consultation on permanent closure of the primary school.

15.6 Creation of a Gaelic School for Gaelic Medium Primary Education utilising Eddleston Primary School – The establishment of a standalone Gaelic Primary School in the building was suggested by a parent through the Options Appraisal Mothball Review Survey 2025. Officers were very grateful for the suggestion. Officers also acknowledged that a formal request has been made to assess the need for Gaelic Medium Primary Education to be established in the Borders and the request has specifically come from within the Tweeddale area. The Council has a Gaelic Language Plan as published on the SBC website, and Education officers are involved in conducting a separate review (ongoing) in response to the request to consider the potential need for GMPE in the Scottish Borders

15.7 Education Officers are following the appropriate procedures regarding the GMPE request. Officers will be considering the demand for delivering GMPE, and following the correct legal procedures for that review and consideration as whether to employ a Gaelic teacher and/ or utilising a unit within an existing primary school within the designated assessment area , or proposing the setting up of a GMPE school and catchment, should a need and demand be identified within the review.

15.8 Education officers advised within the review that they will consider all options thoroughly and within the duty to promote and support Gaelic Education. The legal position is that Local authorities must undertake to consult under the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010(As Amended) if proposing to establish a new Gaelic Medium primary School. If an education authority decides to designate a special class for Gaelic Medium Education, a statutory consultation would not be required. Should a new school of GMPE be considered then the Statutory process including engagement with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and other stakeholders is legally required and the Scottish Government guidance on Gaelic Education reinforces that formal statutory consultation is required when establishing a catchment area for GME and setting up a new GME school. If, however, the proposal was to create a new GMPE provision within an existing school, such as setting up a GME unit or class, this would not qualify as establishing a new 'stage of education.' Instead, it would be considered an existing stage of education delivered through the medium of Gaelic. As a result, this would not trigger the provisions of the 2010 Act, and no statutory consultation would be required.

15.9 Thus, If Eddleston Primary School was to be considered as a possible GMPE school going forward a separate Statutory Consultation on the establishment of same as a GME School, would be required in any event, following any successful closure consultation of the primary, following the provisions of the 2010 Act.

15.10 Establishment of Infant Classes to Develop the Primary School from Entry Level – This was a suggestion, submitted by a parent during the Eddleston mothball status review survey in 2025, and

presented an innovative option which was evaluated by officers. It was determined that demand for this initiative is insufficient based on current numbers being very low and being single figures as previous sections of this report mention in more detail. The Peebles primary schools are experiencing declining numbers in the lower primary years, and existing capacity comfortably accommodates all pupils in the Tweeddale area currently. This will be monitored on an ongoing basis but consequently it is felt that there is limited justification for implementing an infant-only class within the Eddleston Primary school building and reinstating it as an infant only school, as it would primarily serve families only who expressed indicative support for re-establishing the school at this juncture. This was equivalent to ten children ranging from baby age/ infancy to school age with the number of children who would be attending in August 2026 being circa 6 children. (1 child in p3/4 and 5 children likely starting p1 in Aug 2026) This in effect meant that the actual numbers to use a reinstated primary school with only an infant class, within the next academic year starting August 2026/27 would have been very low. According to the survey, there could potentially have been the possibility of a further two P1 children joining in 2029 assuming the children who are under one year now, wished to attend the school once they reached school age, however, this again is very speculative and the consistently low numbers in single figures makes it difficult to warrant the allocation of public funds to create an infant-only or Primary 1/2 composite class albeit with the well-meaning intention to “to grow the school from the ground up”. In addition, considering the limited potential for sustainable long-term growth and the minimal educational benefits associated with a very small school roll—particularly when compared to the educational advantages offered by Kingland in Peebles or the more rural smaller Newlands Primary—and acknowledging the clear preference of some current catchment-area families for Peebles schools rather than Newlands, officers determined that this was not a viable or sustainable option to support. Officers nonetheless expressed their appreciation for the suggestion and recognised the innovative thinking demonstrated by community members who proposed this alternative.

15.12 Use of Eddleston Primary School as a Standalone Additional Support Needs Unit for the Tweeddale Cluster/ or Summer School These proposals were suggested in the 2025 survey. The Council acknowledged and appreciated the suggestions. It was stated within the Options Appraisal Mothball Review Report 2025 that as part of delivering on 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 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 the Scottish Ministers. The proposal for a summer school within the building in future should the primary be permanently closed was also mooted and this was aimed at helping children catch up over the summer months if necessary, was acknowledged as both innovative and well-received as a suggestion. 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.

16. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Integrated Impact Assessment has been recently undertaken as part of the Options Appraisal Mothball Review Report 2025 and is attached to this Proposal as **Appendix 5**. No negative impacts were identified which could not be mitigated. A further IIA will be undertaken during the Statutory

Consultation process and updated throughout, and completed at the stage of drafting the Consultation Report.

17. Summary/ Conclusions

17.1 It is acknowledged by Officers that Eddleston Primary School has been central to the local community for a very long time, as shown by survey comments about its potential permanent closure and references to the decline of rural hubs like village shops and churches. After three years of temporary mothballing and two reviews, the community clearly wants to see more certainty and have a resolution to this temporary 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.

17.2 The Community first approached Education officers to mothball the school to see if the demand could increase when the level of pupils had fallen to 4. The demand has not materially increased sufficiently to justify continuing to mothball or reinstalling the primary school as was.

17.3 Currently, permanent closure of the Primary School as Eddleston catchment school as it stands, is regarded as the favoured option by officers 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 soon as the demand is still very low indeed being in single figures and really being indicative of about 6 for a theoretical reinstatement in August 2026. Even with possible significant housebuilding within the village area to come in the next few years, the numbers who would wish to attend a village school, if families move into those new builds and wish to enrol in a 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.

17.4. 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 many children within Eddleston catchment do not currently utilise the smaller more temporary catchment school of Newlands Primary, preferring the larger Peebles primaries, and the educational benefits of those larger town schools such as the inclusion in the Peebles March Riding and Beltane Queen Festival.

17.5 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 a successful statutory Consultation to close. Some community voices have expressed a desire that such a closure consultation should have happened before now and that continuing to mothball in the hope demand increased was a wasteful use of public funds.

17.6 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 this proposal for permanent change to the school in the form of closure, is now 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 this Proposal Paper for closure.

18. RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL

18.1 Interested parties are invited to respond to the Proposal to close by making written or electronic submissions on the proposal to use this link:-

<https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/regulatory-services/eddleston-primary-closure>

Or use this QR Code:-



18.2 The Eddleston Primary School Closure and Catchment rezoning Proposal – Statutory Consultation

Education and Children’s Services

Scottish Borders Council

Council Headquarters

Newtown St Boswells Melrose

TD6 0SA

Telephone: 01893 582 4000

E-mail: schoolestates@scotborders.gov.uk

18.3 Please state that you are looking to make comment on the Statutory Consultation –

The Eddleston Primary School Closure Consultation and catchment rezoning Proposal to either Newlands or Kingsland, Peebles.

Those wishing to respond are invited to state their relationship with The school for example “Parent/ “Carer of child”/”young person “ or “Teacher”

18.4 Those sending a response, whether by letter or electronically should be aware that their response could be open to public scrutiny and may have to be supplied to anyone making a reasonable request to see it. As such, if they do not wish their response to be publicly available, they should clearly make their response “confidential and for access to be restricted to elected members and council officers of Scottish Borders Council only”

All responses must be received by the last day of the consultation period being 13th February 2026

19. RELEVANT CONSULTEES- It is the intention of officers to ensure the greatest engagement possible. Schedule 2 to the 2010 Act identifies a core set of relevant consultees who should be consulted in connection with every type of proposal set out in Schedule 1. These are the Parent Council, parents of pupils attending an affected school/s as well as the pupils themselves, parents of pupils likely to attend an affected school, staff at an affected school, any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of those staff, and any other users whom the authority considers relevant. The Schedule also specifies other relevant consultees in relation to specific categories of proposal - for instance the Community Council is included where the impact is likely to affect the wider community. Officers are clear that this Consultation will be wide ranging and extensive, and officers intend to try and consult with Pupil focus groups of all the affected schools including Newlands and Kingland within the Consultation Period to obtain the views and opinions of young people.

20. INVOLVEMENT OF EDUCATION SCOTLAND

When the Proposal Paper is published on 8th December 2025, a copy is sent to Education Scotland by the Council. Education Scotland will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council during the consultation from any person during the consultation period or, if Education Scotland agree, a summary of them. The council will also send a copy of all responses from the Pre consultation Options Appraisal reviews for completeness. Education Scotland will further receive a summary of any oral representations made to the Council at the public meeting that will be held on **Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 6pm-7pm at Eddleston Village Hall**, and, as available (and so far, as otherwise practicable), a copy of any other relevant documentation. Education Scotland will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 3 weeks after the Council has sent them all representations and documents mentioned above. In some cases, it is possible for them to extend the 3 weeks with the agreement of the Council. However, for the avoidance of doubt, the 3-week period will not start until after the consultation period has ended and **The three-week period has been agreed with Education Scotland to begin on 23rd February 2026 until 13th March 2026 due to scheduled school holidays**. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may enter the affected school(s) and make such reasonable enquiries of such people there as they consider appropriate and may make such reasonable enquiries of such other people as they consider appropriate.

21. PREPARATION OF CONSULTATION REPORT

The Council will review the Proposal having regard to the Education Scotland Report, written representations that it has received, (both within the pre consultation Mothball Review/ Options Appraisal 2025 and the Formal Statutory consultation) and oral representations made to it by any person at the public meeting. It will then prepare a Consultation Report.

This Report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be advertised in local newspapers. It will be available on the Council website and from Council Headquarters, public libraries in the vicinity of the affected school such as Peebles Library, as well as the affected schools, free of charge upon request. Anyone who made written representations during the consultation period will also be informed about the report. The report will include a record of the total number of written representations made during the consultation period, a summary of the written representations, a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting, the Authority's response to the Education Scotland Report as well as any written or oral representations it has received, together with a copy of the Education Scotland Report and any other relevant information,

including details of any alleged inaccuracies and how these have been handled. It will also include the responses to the pre consultation survey.

The Consultation Report will also contain a statement explaining how it complied with the requirement to review the proposal in light of the report by Education Scotland and representations (both written and oral) that it received.

The Consultation Report will be published and available for further consideration for a period of three weeks, before it is presented to Full Council at a Council meeting.

22. SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL DECISION

The Consultation Report, together with any other relevant documentation, will be considered by Full Council, who will decide whether to proceed with the proposals. The Proposal concerns the closure of Eddleston Primary School. It should be noted that the closure of Eddleston Primary School could be subject to ministerial call-in by Scottish Ministers.

23. NOTE ON CORRECTIONS

If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this Proposal Paper, either by Scottish Borders Council or any person, Scottish Borders Council will determine if relevant information has been omitted or there has been an inaccuracy. It will then take appropriate action which may include the issue of a correction or the re-issuing of the Proposal Paper, or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period, if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised.

24. SCOTTISH MINISTERS CALL-IN

24.1 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 Consultation Report. This must be done within 6 working days of that decision. The Education Authority must also publish on its website the fact that it has notified Scottish Ministers of its decision and of the period during which consultees have the opportunity to make representations to Ministers.

24.2 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 is able to 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).

24.3 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. 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. 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.

25. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 SBC School Mothball Policy

Appendix 2 Options Appraisal Report June 2022– proposal to Mothball Report 2022

Appendix 3 Options Appraisal Report – Mothball Status Review Report 2024

Appendix 4 Eddleston Primary School Suitability Report 2025

Appendix 5 Options Appraisal 2nd Mothball Status Review Report 2025

Appendix 6 IIA