



West Lothian Council

EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE - PLANNING FOR EDUCATION

REPORT BY PLANNING SERVICES MANAGER

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement for new guidance on how the council assesses the education implications of proposed residential development within West Lothian.

B. RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that the PDSP endorses the supplementary planning guidance; and
2. notes that consultation with interested parties will be carried out before the guidance is considered by the Council Executive.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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| I Council Values | Focusing on our customers' needs.
Being open and honest and accountable.
Making best use of our resources.
Working in partnership. |
| II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment) | The guidance is closely linked to the development strategy contained within the West Lothian Local Plan. The guidance will support the development control process. SEA is not required. |
| III Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property) | The guidance seeks to make efficient use of infrastructure, thus minimising capital and revenue costs. |
| IV Consultations | Education Services, Legal Services, Finance, Senior Counsel. |

D. TERMS OF REPORT

The council has in place various Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on developer contributions for the provision of new education infrastructure. There is, however, no generic guidance in place setting out how the council assesses the education implications of proposed residential developments and how this information is taken into account in the consideration of planning applications and any resultant planning appeals. The SPG on Planning for Education attached as Appendix 1 seeks to fill that gap.

The SPG sets out the policy context within which planning applications must be considered. It explains the type of information that will be provided by Education Services when consulted on planning applications and sets out the methodology for producing school roll projections.

The guidance sets out the general approach which is taken when considering education capacity issues. The guidance is based on legal opinion received from Senior Counsel.

E. CONCLUSION

This SPG is necessary to ensure that the council has in place clear guidance for considering the education implications arising from proposed residential developments. The SPG will help to ensure consistency in decision making and will make developers, landowners, agents and communities better informed about the way that education capacity issues will be taken into account in the planning process.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Edinburgh and Lothians Structure Plan 2015

West Lothian Local Plan (as modified by Council Executive on 16 June 2008)

SODD Circular 12/1996 'Planning Agreements'

Proposed response to reporters' recommendations following public local inquiry and proposed pre-adoption modifications to the West Lothian Local Plan - Report to Council Executive dated 16 June 2008

Appendices/Attachments: One

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