



## **EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING**

# **CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE GALASHIELS ACADEMY**



### **CONSULTATION PERIOD:**

**13 MARCH 2023 UNTIL 12 MAY 2023**

### **PUBLIC MEETINGS :**

**1830 - 2030, 20 APRIL 2023 at  
GALASHIELS ACADEMY**

*This Proposal Document has been prepared by Scottish Borders Council's Education & Lifelong Learning Services in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended*

## 1 THE PROPOSAL

Scottish Borders Council (**Council**) is seeking your comments and suggestions regarding a proposal to relocate Galashiels Academy. It is proposed that a new education and community campus will be constructed on a site in Scott Park, Galashiels, comprising most of the current Academy site and extending into Scott Park, as indicated in the plan attached as **Appendix 1**.

## 2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL

2.1 In February 2016 the Council commenced a School Estate Review regarding the current school estate provision and what it should aspire to look like across the region. The Council undertook to engage with all stakeholders to obtain information and opinions regarding the current school estate and to seek views and ideas in respect of the vision of the future school estate. The five strategic principles that were adopted when reviewing the school estate were:-

- Increased educational opportunities for all generations in the community;
- Improved outcomes for children and young people;
- Sustainability;
- Future proofing the school estate; and
- Affordability.

2.2 As part of the Review, detailed assessments of the 2 out of the 4 secondary schools that had not been replaced across the region were carried out. This included public engagement sessions carried out over 2 days at each of the schools. In November 2018 Councillors agreed to prioritise the replacement of Galashiels Academy, given identified issues with (1) the condition and suitability of the building and (2) the projected maintenance costs across the short and medium term. Since then extensive work regarding the replacement of the Academy has been undertaken to both choose a site and design the project. Following a detailed site assessment, it is proposed that the Academy be relocated to new campus developed on a site encompassing the current Academy site and part of Scott Park. The new Campus will also include a new Enhanced Provision facility for young people with complex additional needs, new swimming pool, new hydrotherapy pool and sports facilities open to the whole community. The proposed location was determined following an extensive Options Appraisal exercise (detailed in **Section 5 – Proposal**). The Council considers that the new school will deliver strong Educational Benefits to all learners across the generations in Galashiels and the surrounding communities, while minimising the disruption to the education of the pupils at the Academy.

2.3 The Council is now seeking your views on the proposal to relocate the Academy to a new building designed to support the learning needs of all present and future children in the catchment. The proposal is to relocate the Academy rather than rebuild as it was considered essential that the disruption to pupils was minimised during the construction phase. To rebuild on the current site would require decanting pupils to another site (in whole or part) or the relocation of the sports facilities. Details of the options considered can be seen in **Appendix 1**. Responses will be collated, responded to and reflected in a Consultation Report which will be presented to Councillors before the final decision regarding the Academy's relocation is made.

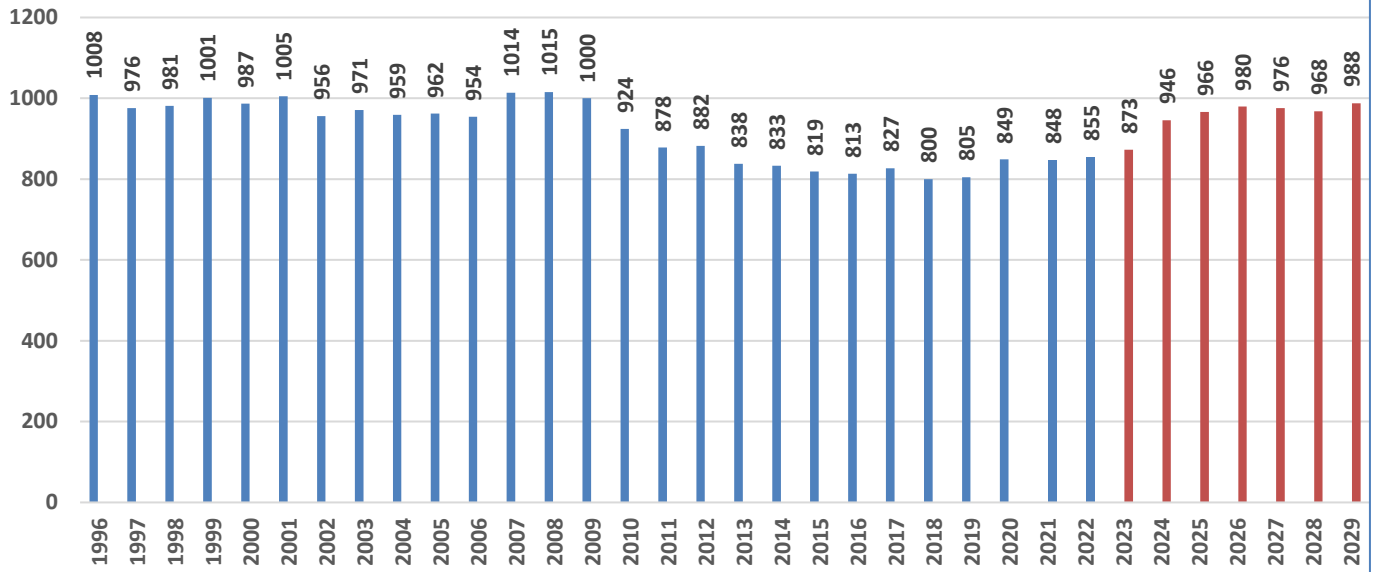
### 3 GALASHIELS ACADEMY

- 3.1 Galashiels Academy was constructed in 1964, with the ROSLA extension being built in subsequent years.



- 3.2 The catchment area for Galashiels Academy is large, extending well beyond the town of Galashiels and comprises 11 primary schools in the town and the surrounding areas. The catchment area is shown in **Appendix 2**.
- 3.3 The Academy has a capacity for 1,217 pupils. At the start of the 2022/23 school year the Academy had a roll of 873 (72% occupancy). The roll has been fairly consistent over the last decade. In 2019/20 the Academy had capacity to accommodate senior pupils from Peebles High School, following significant fire damage to the school in Peebles.
- 3.4 Current projections indicate that the roll will increase but is not currently expected to grow significantly over the next 5 year period. It is proposed that the new school building is 'future proofed', so that it can extended or adapted to accommodate roll increases. The table below provides details of the historic roll and includes the projections until 2028/29 which comprise consideration of the current housebuilding forecasts within the catchment area.

**Galashiels Academy Roll from 1996 (including Forecast to 2029)**



## 4 REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

4.1 In November 2018 Councillors determined that Galashiels Academy was to be the priority for the next stage of investment in the secondary school estate. This decision was predominantly based on detailed assessments of the condition and suitability of the Academy.

### 4.1.1 CONDITION

Council surveyors carried out a detailed assessment of the condition of the Academy in accordance with Scottish Government guidance. The guidance details how condition should be assessed and stipulates the weighting that should be applied to each element to give an overall score.

**Condition** - an assessment of the physical condition of the school and its grounds.

<b>A: Good</b>	Performing well and operating effectively (physical elements carry out function as new)
<b>B: Satisfactory</b>	Performing adequately but showing minor deterioration (physical elements carry out function satisfactorily, may show signs of age)
<b>C: Poor</b>	Showing major defect and/or not operating adequately (physical element does not carry out function effectively without continuous repair, show signs of age)
<b>D: Bad</b>	Life expired and/or serious risk of imminent failure

While condition varies widely across the Academy, with some elements assessed as D, the overall condition was assessed as:-

**C: Poor – Showing major problems and/or not operating adequately**

4.1.2 **SUITABILITY**

A detailed assessment of the suitability of the Academy was carried out in 2018 by Turner and Townsend, in accordance with Scottish Government guidance. This guidance details how suitability should be assessed and stipulates the weighting that should be applied to each element to give overall scores.

**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.

<b>A: Good</b>	Performing well and operating efficiently (the school buildings and grounds support the delivery of services to children and communities)
<b>B: Satisfactory</b>	Performing well but with minor problems (the school buildings and grounds generally support the delivery of services to children and communities)
<b>C: Poor</b>	Showing major problems and/or not operating optimally (the school buildings and grounds impede the delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school)
<b>D: Bad</b>	Does not support the delivery of services to children and communities (the school building and grounds seriously impede the delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school)

Tuner and Townsend have determined that the Academy’s Suitability rating is:-

**C: Poor – Showing major problems and/or not operating optimally**

4.2 In March 2018, 2 days of consultation were carried out at Galashiels Academy, seeking views and opinions regarding a replacement school or campus. The event was well attended across the community, with considerable engagement from pupils who put a great deal of effort into capturing the views of their fellow pupils about the current learning opportunities and experiences, as well as what they would like to see in the future. Views and opinions were collated both at the events and on-line. In summary:-

**Pupil’s Views**

- The pupils were very positive about their learning and in particular about the teachers.
- The pupils considered the facilities were inadequate. Concerns were raised about:-
  - The road crossing the site
  - The separate building for some lessons
  - The PE facilities, in particular the roof, the changing rooms and the temperature
  - The general disrepair and condition of the building, which is not eco friendly
  - The lack of investment in the school building

- Accessibility issues
  - Inadequate IT
  - The size of the canteen which was considered too small and not suitable
  - The toilets
  - Lack of study and meeting space
  - Lack of community access
  - The lack of social space
  - Limited access to the library
  - The lack of drama space
  - No dance studio
- The pupils were very keen to have a new school, with facilities that were as good as other schools in the Borders. The pupils repeatedly expressed that they wanted a school that they could be proud of. They also mentioned:
    - WiFi, smart boards and screens
    - State of the art sports facilities including a fitness suite which can be accessed outwith school with inclusive changing facilities (including mirrors and hairdryers), lockers, including basketball court, MUGA, skate park, bike track, climbing wall, parkour areas and flood lit pitches
    - Better provision for pupils with additional support needs
    - Single site and fully accessible
    - Eco friendly and sustainable
    - Bigger canteen and picnic benches
    - Swimming pool
    - Social space and quiet rooms
    - Better toilets which should be accessible and inclusive
    - Flexible learning space
    - Place for meetings and study areas
    - Improved access for printing
    - Considerably wider opportunities for work experience
    - Opportunity to develop life skills and help community
    - Wider curriculum choices
    - Greater inclusion and diversity
    - More links with the community and community use
    - Improved physical links to the town
    - More music tuition and more instruments, practice and preparation space, gallery space, dance studio, pottery
    - Better lighting and sound equipment

The majority of pupils that responded to the on-line questionnaire expressed a preference for the new school to be at the existing location, which they considered attractive, centrally located with good access points. A small number of the pupils suggested the new school should be constructed adjacent to the existing school to ensure there was minimum disruption to their learning, with some suggesting that the school was built further back into the Policies or onto Scott Park. Some also suggested that they would prefer a site closer to the town centre.

The main point from the pupils' comments was that the teachers work very hard to use the facilities that they have and do a great job but the facilities are inadequate. This can be summarised in this comment from a pupil:

***“Think of how we would flourish with better facilities”***

### **Parents and the Community's Views**

Almost all the members of the community and parents expressed their wish for a new school. The majority expressed their disappointment regarding the lack of investment in the school. Many commented that there had been little change since their school days. Views were expressed that it was Galashiels' turn as it had been mentioned for years that there would be a new school and Galashiels had slipped down the list.

The school was described as a depressing environment, which did little to inspire the pupils and in general the view was the teachers and pupils were performing well, despite the facilities. Many respondents considered that outside opportunities should be maximised and that the new school should be equipped to support and enhance innovation in learning and provide employment experience for young people.

The general consensus amongst parents and the community was that a new school should be at the same location as the existing school which is:

- Central to the town and close enough for community access
- A large enough space to accommodate other facilities
- Well located for access and transport links
- An attractive location which would provide an attractive learning environment
- Able to provide outdoor opportunities.

Some respondents stated that the locations of Tweedbank, Netherdale or Kingsknowe should be considered. In summary there was strong support expressed across almost all participants in the sessions for a new learning provision in the town and the message was get on with it as soon as possible.

4.3 Since November 2018, a project team has been progressing a strategy for the replacement of the Academy, taking into account the opinions expressed during the consultations. The Academy staff have also been involved in the design process at all stages. This process has included ensuring that the proposal for a new school building:

- 4.3.1 Is a well-designed, accessible, inclusive learning environment for all the community that will drive new thinking and change;
- 4.3.2 Is an integral part of the community it serves;
- 4.3.3 Accommodates and provides a range of services, activities and facilities that make a difference to health and wellbeing and will sustain economic growth and bring strength and vibrancy to communities;
- 4.3.4 Is sustainable with design, construction and operation that it environmentally and energy efficient;
- 4.3.5 Is efficiently run and delivers value for money; and

4.3.6 Is flexible and responsive to changes in demand for school places and evolved in consultation with learners, staff and parents and the community.

4.4 As transformation of the secondary school estate requires significant financial support from the Scottish Government, Council Officers have worked with the Scottish Government to secure funding for the replacement for the Academy. The Scottish Government approve projects on an annual basis. Confirmation has now been received from the Scottish Government that they will provide a significant portion of funding for an acceptable scheme at Galashiels. It has therefore been decided to consult with the pupils, staff, parents and community of the Galashiels' cluster to obtain their comments and views on the proposals prior to the final decision regarding the new educational campus being made.

## 5 PROPOSAL

5.1 A detailed design has been created for the new campus which will create an education and community facility which is both flexible and can be accessed and utilised by all, all year round. The new state of art secondary setting will have capacity for 1,000 pupils. A new specialist facility for children with Additional Support Needs will be created, with a hydrotherapy pool which will provide a transformational learning environment. If the decision is made to proceed with the new campus it is expected that work will commence in 2023; with the campus opening in 2025.

5.2 A planning application for the proposed campus was approved on 5 September 2022<sup>1</sup>. Plans and images from the application are contained in **Appendix 1**. The application details a campus that will create a new learning space where everyone in the community can learn, participate and keep healthy. The campus will incorporate flexible pupil focused learning spaces in a mix of formats. Core learning, sport leisure and community environments will be supported and connected by areas of collaboration, breakout, social and learning. The format of the connected spaces also reflects the move towards a greater emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (**STEM**) whereby different subject groupings can work collaboratively in a shared environment creating an atmosphere of creative, cross and peer to peer learning. There will also be dedicated spaces for Art and Design, Music, Drama, Technology/Engineering, Food Technology and Science. Central dining, meeting and assembly spaces will provide a social and community heart to the campus.

5.3 The internal sports facilities will include a 4 court games hall, a 2 court games hall, a gymnasium, dance studio, fitness studio, and associated changing facilities. There will also be a 6 lane 25m pool with spectator seating. External sports facilities will include a 3G football/rugby pitch, Gen-2 hockey/netball surface, grass football pitch including 200m athletic oval, 100m athletics sprint track, long jump pit, and new covered tennis courts. The external sports facilities will all be lit which will allow them to be used in the evening all year round. The design also provides for external learning, play and social spaces.

## 6 IMPACT AND PROPOSALS - SCOTT PARK

6.1 A number of sites across Galashiels were considered for the location of a new school. An Options Appraisal was undertaken in 2018, which considered 4 different areas of the town:-

- Langlee
- Town Centre

---

<sup>1</sup> [Planning Application and Approval](#)



- Scott Park
- Netherdale.

6.2 The Options Appraisal process determined that Langlee and the Town Centre site were too small to accommodate all the sports facilities that the school would require, along with other issues including access from a busy road, remoteness from Centre and land ownership issues. A more detailed appraisal was undertaken of the 2 remaining sites which concluded that the flooding risk at Netherdale was too significant to be considered.

6.3 While assessing the potential locations for the school, the project team carried out a detailed analysis of the current school site and its surrounding area. 5 separate locations were considered in detail as indicated in the plan below:-

## Scott Park Site Options Appraisal

As part of the options appraisal all areas within the red line boundary shown on the plan/map were considered, investigated and tested as possible locations for the new building.

- Area 1**  
The site of the existing playing fields to the rear (west) of the existing school.
- Area 2**  
The site of the existing tennis courts to the north of the existing school.
- Area 3**  
Scott Park, to the east of the existing school.
- Area 4**  
The site of the existing annexe building along the south elevation of the site.
- Area 5**  
The site of the existing main school building.



6.4 A detailed Options Appraisal has been completed regarding each of these areas. The outcome of this Appraisal is detailed in **Appendix 3**.

6.4 It was recognised during the Appraisal that all Areas considered in this process would require compromise, and in some cases a significant compromise for the future campus building, the pupils and community use. Not all the compromises presented in the options can be mitigated against or will diminish in time. The Council has therefore considered all these factors in identifying the site for this Proposal. Having assessed and tested all of the options **Area 3 – Scott Park** (see **Appendix 1**) is considered to be the most deliverable in terms of educational benefits, functionality, community value, construction and cost (Council has a legal obligation to ensure best value).

6.5 It is recognised that the proposal to build the campus in Area 3, will compromise Scott Park and the amenity that this area provides the community, however, the Council is proposing to mitigate

this by providing additional green space to the south of the proposed site to increase the range of recreational and learning opportunities provided within the Park for community use. It is proposed that Scott Park will be increased from 3.8 hectares to 6.7 hectares, with the Park being extended to the south of the site and the improvement of the space, to include open space, play space, open views and tree lined paths.

- 6.6 The impact of the proposed development was considered in detail as part of the Planning Application. The report from the Planning Officers stated that while it was accepted that there would be a loss of part of Scott Park, that this loss would facilitate a new education facility, community campus and modern sporting facility for the benefit of the wider community. The proposals to increase the size of the park and make improvements were considered and it was concluded that the benefits of the proposed development outweighed the impact of the loss of part of the park.
- 6.7 Before a final decision is made to relocate the school, the Council is required to undertake a statutory consultation in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This proposal is a relevant proposal in terms of this legislation.<sup>2</sup> This legislation requires local authorities to undertake strong, accountable consultation in connection with all proposals to make a major, permanent changes to a school. The principal driver for any such change should be the Educational Benefits that the change will bring. This consultation process is a crucial part of the Council's decision making process. It should be noted, that in order to progress the building programme and comply with funding requirements, the decision has been taken by the Council's project board to allow preparatory work to progress in tandem with this consultation process. The project board has acknowledged and accepted that there is risk attached to undertaking these works before a final decision is made regarding the Academy, but has balanced this against the budgetary and programme pressures of delivering a new school if the decision is made to proceed with the new school.

## **7 EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS**

- 7.1 Educational benefits are at the heart of every proposal regarding major changes to a school. The relocation of the Academy and development of a new school offers the opportunity for the whole community to reflect on its vision, values and aims. A transition to a modern learning environment provides the whole community of learners the chance to re-set how high quality learning, teaching and curriculum is delivered. This extends beyond the school, encompassing adult learners and its approaches to community engagement and involvement. The new enhanced learning environment for the children with additional support needs opens up new and exciting opportunities for the whole catchment area to benefit from the investment.

### **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR PUPILS IN THE CATCHMENT**

- 7.2 The design of the proposed campus seeks to create a transformational learning environment, which is flexible and seeks to support teachers in the delivery of a dynamic curriculum that will prioritise pupil's core skills in literacy and numeracy but also assist in the development of the young people's essential interpersonal social skills, self-confidence and knowledge. The design seeks to ensure that the needs of all learners are considered. The delivery of an excellent learning environment will ensure that the facilities exist to deliver a curriculum that increases subject choice ensuring that learners can choose subjects that reflect their ability, aptitude and interests.

---

<sup>2</sup> [Schools \(Consultation\)\(Scotland\) Act 2010 s2](#) and [Schedule 1](#)

- 7.3 The Curriculum for Excellence introduced new ways of learning, seeking to allow the curriculum to adapt to the particular needs of individual pupils and requires subject breadth and depth in an excellent learning environment. The proposed design creates classroom clusters along with flexible learning spaces, with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Maths) and Creative Hubs which will relate to learning levels and will allow pupils to experience a range of subjects and environments more easily. The flexibility in the design will also ensure that the facilities meet the current and future demands of pupils and wider community.
- 7.4 The Academy is one of only 3 schools in Scotland to be recognised as an SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) Gold Ambassador School for their inspiring work on their curriculum. The SCQF have recognised the extensive work that has been undertaken by the school to broaden the curricular offered to pupils; developing pupil leadership, more flexible and innovative learner pathways and partnerships with local employers, universities and colleges, providing a significant range of senior phase pathways to ensure that the young people are equipped with the skills and qualifications to move onto the pathway that best suits their talents and ambitions.
- 7.5 The new building will inspire, motivate and encourage a wide range of learning and teaching approaches and learning spaces in to help take curricular development to the next level. The opportunities for staff collaboration will be greatly increased, with lessons comprising different subjects and disciplines. It will support innovation, creativity and the development of children and young people's skills for life-long learning and work by having a creative environment and access to vocational learning. The staff at the Academy have worked closely with the architects to achieve a design that will facilitate curricular development and the learning environment to support the young people in their aspirations and achievements.
- 7.6 The new school will allow an even more innovative broader curriculum to be introduced, with pupils sharing wider more varied learning experiences than currently possible. The national curriculum in Scotland is dynamic and undergoing a period of transformational change and this new school allows the community to adapt to and indeed continue to lead curricular developments in the country. The experiences young people should have at school are best undertaken in a learning environment where opportunities exist for co-operative, investigative and experiential learning. Those opportunities have been a priority within the design of the building to allow pupils enhanced opportunities within a modern learning environment to achieve the outcomes required to move onto their chosen career.
- 7.7 This curricular development will include increased opportunities for vocational learning and training in skills. The existing partnership with employers, businesses, colleges and universities will be further developed to deliver a lifelong learning commitment as the campus will look at supporting families and adult learners, identifying the skills and qualifications that are required in the workplace to meet the demands of employers.
- 7.8 The design optimises the internal and external learning experience, optimising natural daylight and ventilation with new social and nurturing spaces included, which will greatly enhance the pupils learning environment and well-being. There will be an emphasis on promoting healthy learning and lifestyle with new technologies incorporated maximising opportunities for sustainability and wider opportunities for learners regarding their environment.
- 7.9 The safety of children and young learners is paramount in the proposed design, with access to areas limited to pupils and staff only as appropriate. Pupil movement and circulation pathways will be designed to minimise congestion and disruption. Consideration will also be given to the acoustics, sensory needs and the optimised utilisation of the building.

- 7.10 A Department for Work and Pensions Report in 2022 stated that 27% of the children in the Galashiels and Ward District are living in low income families. Successful models emerging in the more deprived areas of the Borders highlight strong home /school links; high quality literacy teaching, and support around the family as key drivers in closing the attainment gap. One of the key success measures in 'closing the gap' is high quality staff with inclusive mind-sets. The new campus will help to attract and retain the best staff and student teachers who would become a high quality learning community with the expectation that they would become a leading workforce delivering the highest quality of education and community learning experiences.
- 7.11 The campus will provide an improved, innovative, learning environment, with facilities and resources designed to deliver the Curriculum for Excellence to support the learning and development needs for current and future learners. State of the art learning resources across the school will be shared by all learners to optimise each learner's journey.
- 7.12 There will also be enhanced provision for children and young people's personal, social and emotional health and wellbeing through improved social areas, sporting facilities and opportunities to learn and develop in a variety of settings.
- 7.13 The development of skills for life, learning and work will be further increased with a continued focus on vocational and technological pathways without reducing emphasis on academic achievement. The curriculum will seek to be a more relevant, challenging and enjoyable learning experience which is more clearly focused on a positive destination for all young people. Opportunities have been identified and will be expanded regarding construction, textiles, and the green economy. If the decision is made to progress with the new school there will be significant opportunities with the construction company for work experience, accreditation and guaranteed interviews for pupils undertaking the appropriate accreditation.
- 7.14 The new campus will offer enhanced sporting and recreational opportunities and experience for the young people and the wider community to meet the aspirations of both the Council and the Scottish Government to enhance the uptake and enjoyment of physical activity across the Community.
- 7.15 Dining and social areas will improve significantly from the current arrangements. This along with new external areas will create flexible space to encourage young people to socialise and engage which should improve health and well-being, while enhancing the existing strong sense of community already within the current school.
- 7.16 The Campus will provide opportunities for young people to develop skills for life, learning and work. Links will be strengthened with Economic Development to consider how industry and enterprise could be brought into the campus from existing local opportunities and new partners. South of Scotland Enterprise and the Borders Skills Partnership could work to bring investment and employment into the Campus whilst developing the necessary skills to support the jobs that are available in the young workforce.

### **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

- 7.17 The new build will provide world-class facilities for young people with a range of additional support needs. The building will be designed to provide a curricular offer that ensures those young people with complex physical and medical needs are able to learn across the whole school not just in their dedicated base. This will open up the curriculum offered for these young people particularly in specialist subjects. In addition, young people with social, emotional and

behavioural issues will have access to a wider range of appropriate learning and support opportunities in a building that has been designed to ensure that their needs are met across the whole school as well as in a dedicated support base.

- 7.18 The new Campus will be fully accessible to people with mobility difficulties and those with additional support needs. The Campus will also allow the opportunity for those pupils to form wider relationships with peers and the Community.
- 7.19 The development of an inclusive approach to meeting the needs of young people with a range of additional support needs will be at the heart of the new school. Dedicated space and a fully inclusive learning environment will enhance the opportunities available to this group of learners. Young people with emotional needs will benefit from the opportunity to work in a nurturing school environment.
- 7.20 Opening up specialist subject areas including the development of a pool, hydrotherapy pool, sports and practical subjects not only offers new learning environments and opportunities for pupils but also delivers the same benefits for adults across the area. The new campus will also include a room visiting therapists and medical professionals to have appointments and meetings with the young people and their family.
- 7.21 The new campus will offer pupils an enhanced environment for learning with opportunities for outdoor education, new and improved additional resources and areas for life skills development. The pupils will benefit from the opportunities within the campus to develop through work experience and Community involvement. The Council also recognises that the additional support needs learning journey should continue into work or to further skills and learning opportunities. The Council will work in collaboration with local employers and Borders College to help meet this requirement. The pupils will further develop their skills for learning, life and work in local real life contexts in collaboration with the local Community.

#### **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR OTHER USERS OF THE ACADEMY'S FACILITIES**

- 7.22 The Academy is currently used by many organisations and members of the community with a wide and varied programme each evening and at weekends. The proposed new campus has been designed to ensure that all these activities and more can be accommodated within the campus. The campus will be available for all learners within the area and the new improved sports facilities will be more widely available to all users. This will increase opportunities for participation and contribute and promote health and wellbeing to all.

#### **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR FUTURE PUPILS**

- 7.23 The benefits listed above will also apply to those within the catchment schools that will become pupils at the campus. All the pupils that will attend the campus will benefit from the opportunities offered by the new flexible state of the art of design that can evolve to accommodate curricular developments and innovations in learning. As part of this statutory consultation process, the Education team will also ensure that all the pupils, parents/carers attending all the catchment schools are fully informed and consulted with to ensure that their views form part of the consultation and decision making process and will be fully considered.

## **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR PUPILS AT OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE AUTHORITY AREA**

- 7.24 While the main benefits of the proposed new school will be for the children and young people in the catchment, there will be wider benefits to all children in the Scottish Borders who will also be able to access the facility. Currently pupils from the Academy collaborate and learn with pupils from Selkirk and Peebles. The curricular development that will be possible at the new campus will also provide increased opportunities to other young people within the Borders. This will also be facilitated through the Council's Inspire Learning programme where digital technology will allow more young people to access new curricular opportunities. Given the established wider collaboration among staff in the region will also the innovation and curricular developments from the campus to be shared and expanded into other secondary settings in the area.

## **IMPACT ON STAFF**

- 7.25 Staff development is a key component to delivering high quality learning and teaching. The campus will provide even more opportunities for staff to work together and collaborate, with space to develop their own personal learning and to make further improvements to the curricular offer. The design of the campus will support this more collaborative approach between teachers, subjects and departments, with the curriculum structured to allow cross collaboration between subjects and skillsets. This will support staff to build on the significant achievements already recognised by the SCQF regarding the innovative curricular developments.
- 7.26 The opportunities offered at the new campus regarding the increased opportunities to be more innovative with curriculum and learning journey should prove attractive to staff and assist with staff attraction and retention. The working environment will be inspirational and enhanced with staff having access to onsite facilities including fitness facilities.

## **IMPACT ON TRANSPORT – SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

- 7.27 The changes to the current transport arrangements will be minimal as it is proposed that the school is relocated within the same area. Care has been taken during the design process to ensure that pedestrian access to the campus is clear and improved, Safe Routes to School are identified for pedestrian and vehicular access will be amended to ensure that the current access road will not be used for general access with the new parking area being situated on the site of the current swimming pool.

## **LIKELY EFFECT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

- 7.28 The new campus is expected to have a significant impact on the community in Galashiels and beyond. The facilities within the campus will be available for sporting and recreational use by the larger communities, both individuals and groups. The campus will provide further opportunities to develop adult learning opportunities in partnership with Further and Higher Education providers. The school's facilities will be available for use by local clubs and organisations providing real community partnership opportunities. This could include Horticulture, Eco projects, textiles, local history all in partnership with local people. In addition the Hydrotherapy Pool will be available for other users.
- 7.29 The campus will provide a focal point for Community engagement and collaboration to harness the potential within the town and surrounding communities to deliver equitable and outstanding education provision.

- 7.30 The campus will also include facilities for the whole community – both recreation and social. The swimming pool, gym, tennis courts and sports facilities will be a significant improvement on the current provision and available to all. In particular the lighting of the external sports facilities will result in more use, increasing health and well-being across the community. Space will be available to individuals and groups within the community for events and meetings.

### **GALASHIELS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL VIEW**

- 7.31 The Parent Council have stated their overwhelming support for the new school development and consider that it is critical for their children and all future children that the development proceeds. They consider that the benefits will not only be for the students but for the community as well. They consider that the new development will:-

7.31.1 Enhance the teaching provision for all students and staff;

7.31.2 Create a centre of excellence where students enjoy attending and want to learn;

7.31.3 Provide first rate sports facilities for the students, the community and wider Eildon population;

7.31.4 The proposed new walkway around the campus and park would attract more use from a wider range of people;

7.31.5 Learning would be expanded with the first rate facilities, including sciences, music and drama;

7.31.6 Unlike other new schools this will be in the heart of the community not on the outskirts of the town, allowing everyone to benefit.

## **8. SUMMARY OF THE PROCESS FOR THIS PROPOSAL PAPER**

- 8.1 This Proposal Paper has been prepared by the Education & Lifelong Learning, in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended (**2010 Act**). The 2010 Act sets out a consultation procedure that a Local Authority must follow for certain proposals affecting schools in their area. The 2010 Act and its explanatory notes are available for reference at the following websites, respectively:

[Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#)

[Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010 - Explanatory Notes](#)

- 8.2 The proposal to relocate Galashiels Academy is deemed a relevant proposal in terms of the 2010 Act (**Proposal**) and is therefore subject to the statutory consultation procedure specified in the 2010 Act.

- 8.3 The Council has created an online survey at Citizenspace where you can access all the details of the Proposal and leave your comments and ask questions. This can be found at:-

<https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/children-and-young-people/galaacampus>

or



8.4 The Proposal Paper will be available for inspection, free of charge, at:

- Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose,
- Galashiels Academy
- Balmoral Primary School
- Burgh Primary School
- Glendinning Terrace Primary School
- Langlee Primary School
- St Margaret's RC Primary School
- St Peter's Primary School
- Clovenfords Primary School
- Fountainhall Primary School
- Heriot Primary School
- Stow Primary School
- Tweedbank Primary School
- Galashiels Library

And published on the Scottish Borders Council website:

<https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/children-and-young-people/galaacampus>

8.4 Copies of this Proposal Paper are available in English (and other languages upon request) from:

Education and Lifelong Learning  
Scottish Borders Council  
Council Headquarters  
Newtown St Boswells  
Melrose  
TD6 0SA

Telephone: 01835 825080

E-mail: [schoolestates@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:schoolestates@scotborders.gov.uk)



8.5 Formal notice of the Proposal and relevant information will be given and be made available, free of charge, to the consultees listed as follows:

- the parents/carers of the children who attend an affected school;
- the Parent Council of an affected school;
- the parent/carers of any children likely to attend an affected school within two years of the date of the publication of the Proposal Paper;
- the pupils attending an affected school;
- the Staff (teaching and non-teaching) at an affected school;
- any Trade Union which is representative of the staff;
- Community Councils;
- the community planning partnership (as defined in section 4(5) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015) for the area where an affected school is situated or any other community planning partnership that the Education Authority considers relevant;
- the constituency Member of the Scottish Parliament;
- the constituency Member of Parliament;
- the List Members of the Scottish Parliament.

#### 8.6 **Advertisement in Local Media**

Advertisements were placed in the relevant local media the week beginning 6 March 2023 giving the dates for the consultation period and for the public meeting. Press releases were made on and around, advertising the consultation in the local press and social media.

#### 8.7 **Consultation Period**

The consultation for these Proposals will run from **13 March 2023** and will end on **12 May 2023**. This period allows for the statutory minimum of six weeks, including at least thirty school days.

#### 8.8 **Public Meetings**

A public meeting will be held at Galashiels Academy on **20 April 2023** from **1830 until 2030**.

##### **Format of Public Meeting**

Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The meeting, which will be convened by Scottish Borders Council, will be addressed by officers from Education & Lifelong Learning, Infrastructure & Environment and other relevant officers.

The meetings will provide an opportunity to:

- Hear more about the Proposal
- Ask questions about the Proposal
- Have your views recorded so that they can be taken into account as part of the consultation process.

A note will be taken at the meeting of comments, questions and officer responses. These notes will be published on the Council's website and a copy will be made available on request. These notes will be forwarded to Education Scotland, along with other submissions and comments received by the Council during the consultation process.

## 9 HAVE YOUR SAY – HOW YOU CAN RESPOND TO THE PROPOSALS

9.1 A consultation regarding a proposed change to your child's or your community's school is your chance to share your views. Your responses can really shape and influence future decisions; you can play your part by:

- Submitting a written or electronic response to the Council as outlined below;
- Attending the meeting to ask questions; raise concerns/issues; make suggestions to be held on :-

**20 April 2023 at Galashiels Academy from 1830-2030.**

- Speaking to your local Councillors;
- Engaging with your school's Parent Council. The Parent Council can play a key role in engaging with the Council throughout the process;
- Make representations as part of your Community;
- Informing Scottish Borders Council if you think that this Proposal Paper has significant inaccuracies or omissions.

9.2. All interested parties are invited to respond to the Proposal by making written or electronic submissions to:

Galashiels Academy Consultation  
Education & Lifelong Learning  
Scottish Borders Council  
Council Headquarters  
Newtown St Boswells  
Melrose  
TD6 0SA  
Or

[schoolestates@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:schoolestates@scotborders.gov.uk)

9.3 A response form is available from Children & Young People's Services, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA or online at. A copy of the response form is attached as **Appendix 4**.

9.4 Use of the response form is not compulsory. If you wish to respond by letter or electronically, you are invited to state your relationship with the school – for example, "pupil", "parent", "carer", "relative", "former pupil", "teacher in school", "member of the community" etc. Responses from Parent Councils, staff and Pupil Councils are particularly welcome.

9.5 Those sending in a response, whether by letter or electronically, should note that their response will be open to public scrutiny and may be supplied to anyone making a reasonable request to see it. If they do not wish their response to be made publicly available, they should clearly write on the document: "I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to Councillors and Council Officers of Scottish Borders Council". Otherwise, it will be assumed that the person making the response agrees to it being made publicly available.

9.6 Any information that you provide will be processed by Scottish Borders Council, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA. You can contact the Council on 0300 100 1800 or [customerservices@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@scotborders.gov.uk). The Council's Data Protection Officer can be

contacted using the contact details for the Council as set out above or by email at [dataprotection@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotection@scotborders.gov.uk) We will use your information to assess the reaction within the community to our proposal. The Council is collecting and using this information to keep respondents up to date with the progress of the proposal. The information you have provided will be retained 6 months

9.7 All written responses must be received by the last day of the consultation period, **12 May 2023**

9.8 Education Scotland has prepared guidance regarding School Consultations. This can be accessed at [Education Scotland's Guidance on School Consultations](#).

## **10. INVOLVEMENT OF EDUCATION SCOTLAND**

A copy of this Proposal document will be 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 from any person during the consultation period or, if Education Scotland agree, a summary of them. Education Scotland will further receive a summary of any oral representations made to the Council at the public meeting that will be held 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 Authority. However, for the avoidance of doubt, the 3 week period will not start until after the consultation period has ended. 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.

## **11 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

11.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment must be completed to assess the policies and practices necessary to meet the requirements of anti-discrimination and equalities legislation. The aim of the Assessment is to examine policies and practice in a structures way to make sure that adverse effects on equality target groups are avoided. It is also a tool to enable the Council to assess what positive steps it can take to promote equality of opportunity and measure the results of the actions that have been taken.

11.2 As part of the consultation process the Council will consult with a range of stakeholders, including children, parents/carers, staff and the wider community and will address all the comments made during this process, some of which may include equality issues. The Integrated Impact Assessment will be finalised and referred to in the Consultation Report.

## **12. PREPARATION OF CONSULTATION REPORT**

12.1 The Council will review the Proposal having regard to the Education Scotland report, the written representations that it has received, and oral representations made to it by any person at the public meeting. It will then prepare a Consultation Report.

12.2 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, the public

library in Galashiels, as well as Galashiels Academy and all the cluster primary schools, free of charge. 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, and a summary of the written representations and oral representations (including those made at the public meeting). The report will also include the Council's response to the Education Scotland Report, as well as the Council's response to any written or oral representations it has received. A copy of the Education Scotland Report will be included alongside any other relevant information, including details of any alleged inaccuracies and how these have been handled.

12.3 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 the next scheduled Council meeting.

12.4 **NO** decision will be taken in regard to the Proposal by either the Council or the Council's Executive (Education) Committee until this statutory consultation process has been properly completed. It should be noted, that in order to progress the building programme and comply with funding requirements, the decision has been taken by the Council's project board to allow preparatory work to progress in tandem with this consultation process. The project board has acknowledged and accepted that there is risk attached to undertaking these works before a final decision is made regarding the Academy, but has balanced this against the budgetary and programme pressures of delivering a new school if the decision is made to proceed with the new school.

### **13 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.

**LESLEY MUNRO**  
**DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING**

**13 MARCH 2023**

*This consultation is being conducted in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended. The 2010 Act's principal purpose is to provide strong, accountable statutory consultation practices and procedures that local authorities must apply to their handling of all proposals for school closures and other changes to schools. These consultation processes are expected to be robust, open, transparent and fair, and seen to be so. They are also expected to be consistent across Scotland.*

# APPENDIX 1

## PROPOSED SITE FOR RELOCATION OF GALASHIELS ACADEMY



PROJECT NAME	PROPOSED SITE FOR RELOCATION OF GALASHIELS ACADEMY
CLIENT	SCOTLAND'S FOOTBALL FEDERATION
DATE	15/03/2017
SCALE	1:1000
DRAWN BY	...
CHECKED BY	...
DATE	...
PROJECT NO.	...
CLIENT NO.	...
PROJECT NO.	...
CLIENT NO.	...
PROJECT NO.	...
CLIENT NO.	...

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS THE PROPERTY OF THE CLIENT AND IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL, INCLUDING PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING, OR BY ANY INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM, WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE CLIENT.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS THE PROPERTY OF THE CLIENT AND IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL, INCLUDING PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING, OR BY ANY INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM, WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE CLIENT.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS THE PROPERTY OF THE CLIENT AND IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL, INCLUDING PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING, OR BY ANY INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM, WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE CLIENT.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS THE PROPERTY OF THE CLIENT AND IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL, INCLUDING PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING, OR BY ANY INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM, WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE CLIENT.



- LEGEND**
- █ **EXISTING**
    - █ Existing Building Footprint
    - █ Existing Parking
    - █ Existing Driveway
    - █ Existing Roadway
    - █ Existing Utility
    - █ Existing Tree
    - █ Existing Tree to be Retained
    - █ Existing Tree to be Removed
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New)
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Species
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Size
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Color
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Shape
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Age
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Height
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Spacing
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Density
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Orientation
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Placement
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Grouping
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Arrangement
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Pattern
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Style
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Theme
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Mood
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Atmosphere
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Character
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Personality
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Spirit
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Soul
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Heart
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Mind
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Body
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Soul
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Heart
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Mind
    - █ Existing Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Body
  - █ **PROPOSED**
    - █ Proposed Building Footprint
    - █ Proposed Parking
    - █ Proposed Driveway
    - █ Proposed Roadway
    - █ Proposed Utility
    - █ Proposed Tree
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Retained
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Removed
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New)
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Species
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Size
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Color
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Shape
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Age
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Height
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Spacing
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Density
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Orientation
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Placement
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Grouping
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Arrangement
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Pattern
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Style
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Theme
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Mood
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Atmosphere
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Character
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Personality
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Spirit
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Soul
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Heart
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Mind
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Body
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Soul
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Heart
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Mind
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Body
  - █ **PROPOSED**
    - █ Proposed Building Footprint
    - █ Proposed Parking
    - █ Proposed Driveway
    - █ Proposed Roadway
    - █ Proposed Utility
    - █ Proposed Tree
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Retained
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Removed
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New)
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Species
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Size
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Color
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Shape
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Age
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Height
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Spacing
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Density
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Orientation
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Placement
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Grouping
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Arrangement
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Pattern
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Style
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Theme
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Mood
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Atmosphere
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Character
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Personality
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Spirit
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Soul
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Heart
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Mind
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Body
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Soul
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Heart
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Mind
    - █ Proposed Tree to be Planted (New) - Different Body

THESE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE ARCHITECT AND ARE NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR COPIED IN ANY MANNER WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE ARCHITECT.

**ARCHITECT**  
**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT**

**PROJECT**  
 Geraldine Community Campus  
 Scottish Broom, Co. Wick  
 2024/25

**DATE**  
 03-03-2025

**SCALE**  
 1:1000

**PROJECT NO.**  
 03-03-2025-001

**PROJECT NAME**  
 Geraldine Community Campus

**PROJECT ADDRESS**  
 Scottish Broom, Co. Wick

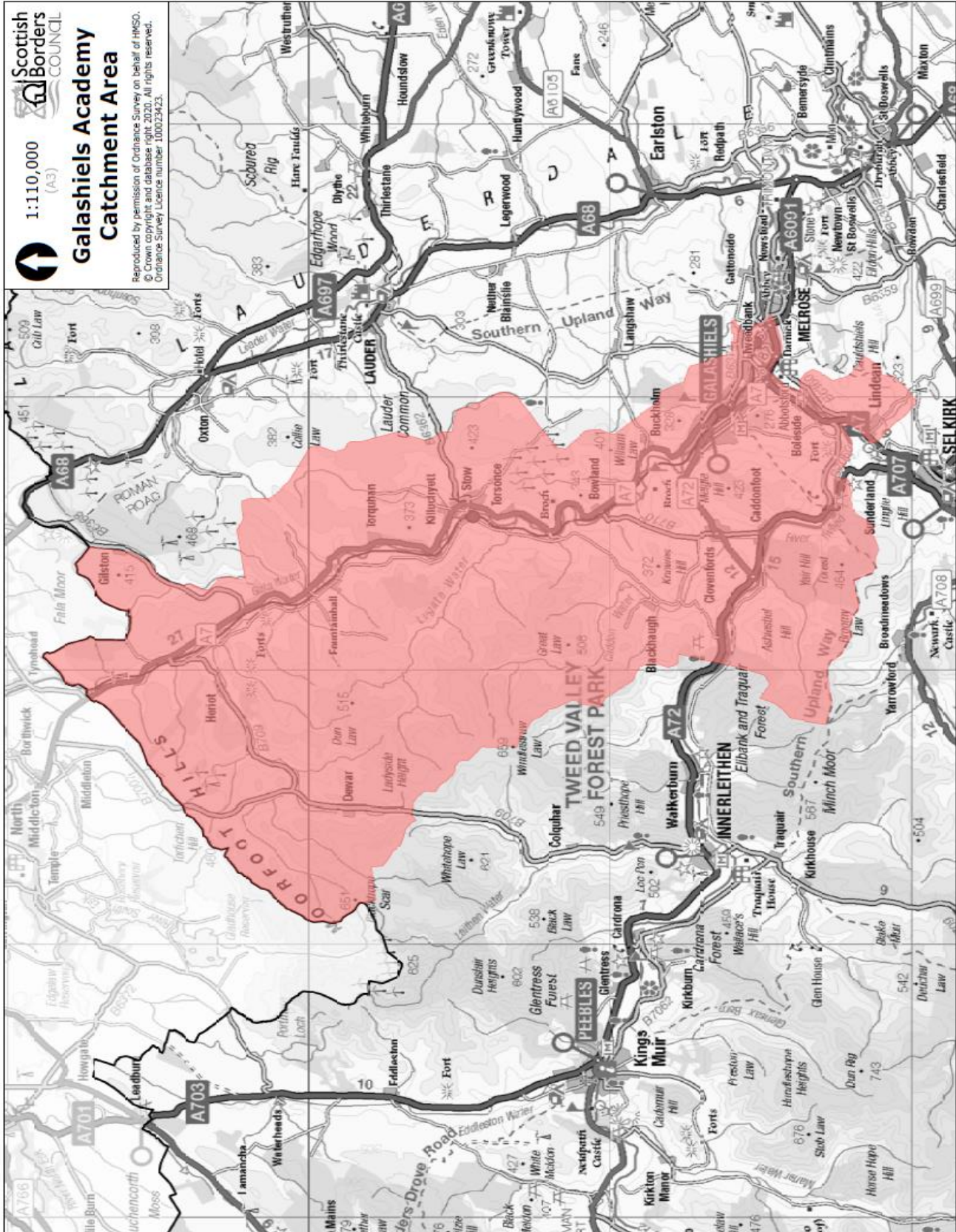
**PROJECT CONTACT**  
 01 977 1234

**PROJECT WEBSITE**  
 www.geraldinecampus.com



## APPENDIX 2

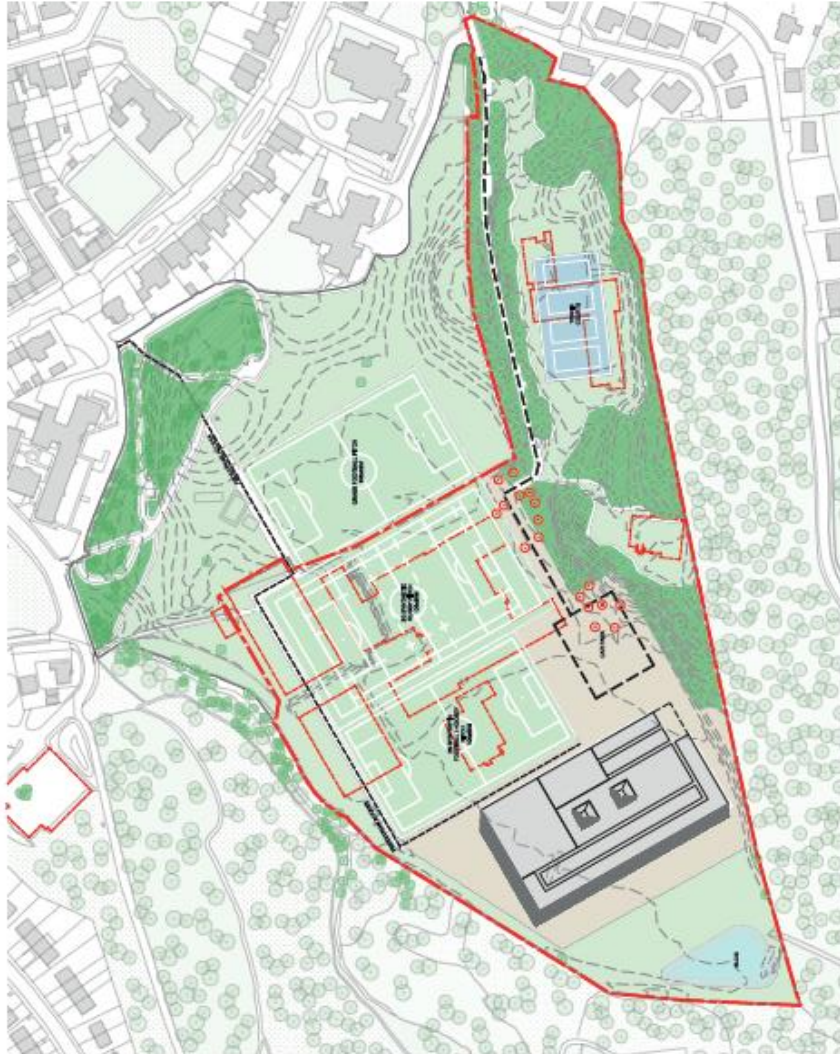
### CATCHMENT AREA OF GALASHIELS ACADEMY





## APPENDIX 3

### OPTIONS APPRAISAL OF SITES IN SCOTT PARK



#### Site Appraisal : Area 1

- ✓ Can facilitate construction of the new campus whilst the existing buildings remains fully operational.
- The new campus would not encroach on Scott Park, albeit the required campus sports provision (pitches) would.
- Campus car parking is provided on site and existing site access points are retained.
- Can work with the existing topography and relatively contained impact on the existing trees.
- Maintains a good distance between surrounding residential properties and the new campus.
- Tennis court facilities reprovided on site of Annexe building
- ✗ The new campus would be detached from the town and local community.
- The approach to the new campus from the town would be obscured by fenced sports pitches - diluting its civic presence and approachability.
- The distance from the town and the protracted, unwelcoming approach may risk reducing community use and out of hours usage.
- The daylighting afforded to the building will be compromised by overshadowing from surrounding woodland.
- The new building will be partially constructed on a flood risk zone associated with an adjacent watercourse.
- Loss of existing external sports provision during the construction phase.
- Construction traffic would use the full extent of the existing school access road; passing very close to a live school environment.
- Grass sports pitch provision required to be constructed on part of Scott Park

## Site Appraisal : Area 2



- ✓
  - The new campus would only marginally encroach onto Scott Park and the school's sports provision can be contained entirely within the site boundary.
  - The campus would have strong links to the town and the local community.
  - The new campus would generate a strong civic presence and frontage in its completed format.
  - Car parking can be facilitated offsite but nearby.
  - Minimal new footpath networks required.
  - New campus would have good south facing aspect.
  - Maintains a reasonable distance between surrounding residential properties and the new campus.
- ✗
  - The new campus would be located on a very constrained area of the site.
  - Partial demolition of the existing school building would be required to facilitate construction. There would be significant impact on the operation of the school during construction.
  - The construction site would be very close to the new ASN provision and would most likely require the most vulnerable part of the school's population to be decanted for the duration of the works.
  - The daylighting of the accommodation on the north side of the building would be compromised by the close proximity to the Gala Policies.
  - Some tree removal both within and outwith the site boundary would be required.
  - Construction access would be required via both Scott Park and the existing school playing fields.

## Site Appraisal : Area 3



- ✓
- Can facilitate construction of the new build whilst the existing facility remains operational.
- The building would have strong links to the town and the local community.
- Strong civic presence.
- Good aspect and daylighting.
- Minimal roads infrastructure.
- Maintains the existing buildings relationship with Scott Park.
- Establishes a relationship between Oakwood Park Sheltered Housing and Waverley Care home, promoting intergeneration use of the campus.
- Sports Pitches, playground spaces and resulting noise and light pollution are kept away from residential properties.
- Adequate play space can be provided around the building.
- Maintains a reasonable distance between surrounding residential properties and the new campus.
- ✗
- Would necessitate the partial re-provision of Scott Park.
- Planning considerations with regards Policy EP11.
- Would necessitate the partial removal of the existing tennis courts.
- Proposed reprovided parkland divided by vehicular service access.

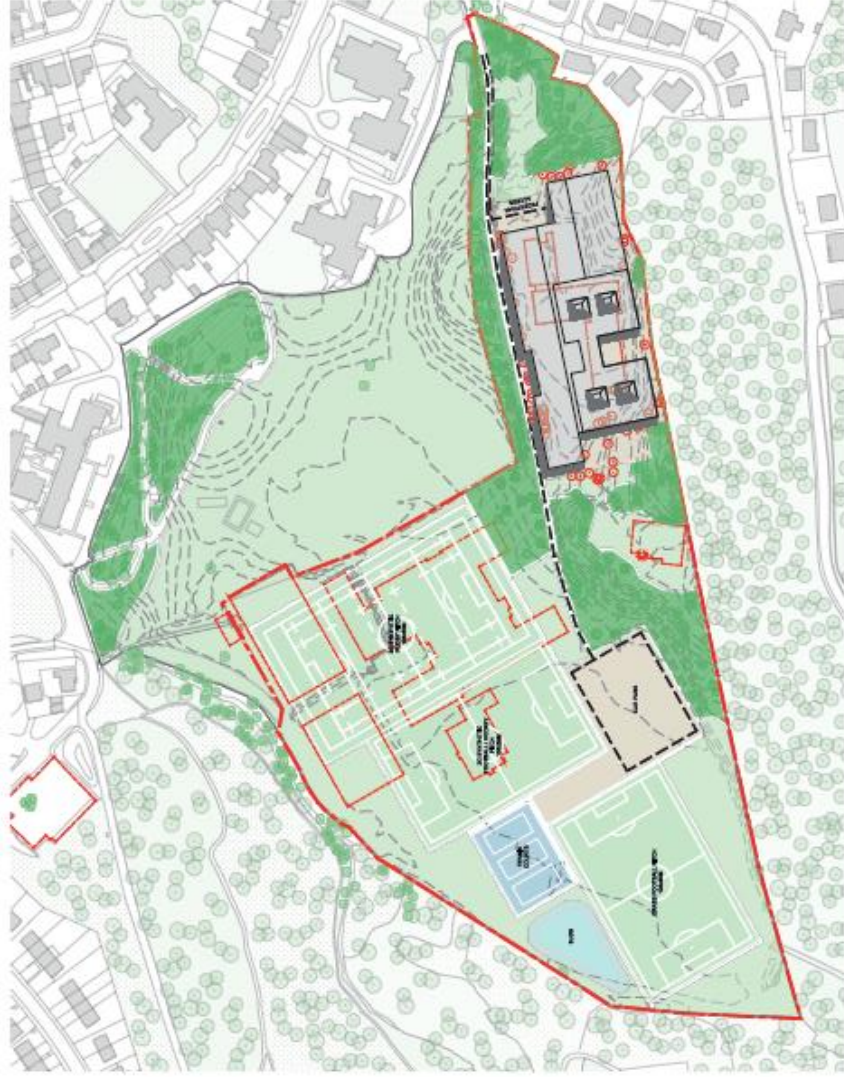
## Site Appraisal : Area 4



- The new campus and associated sports provision would all be contained within the existing school site.
- School car parking is provided on site and existing site access points are retained.

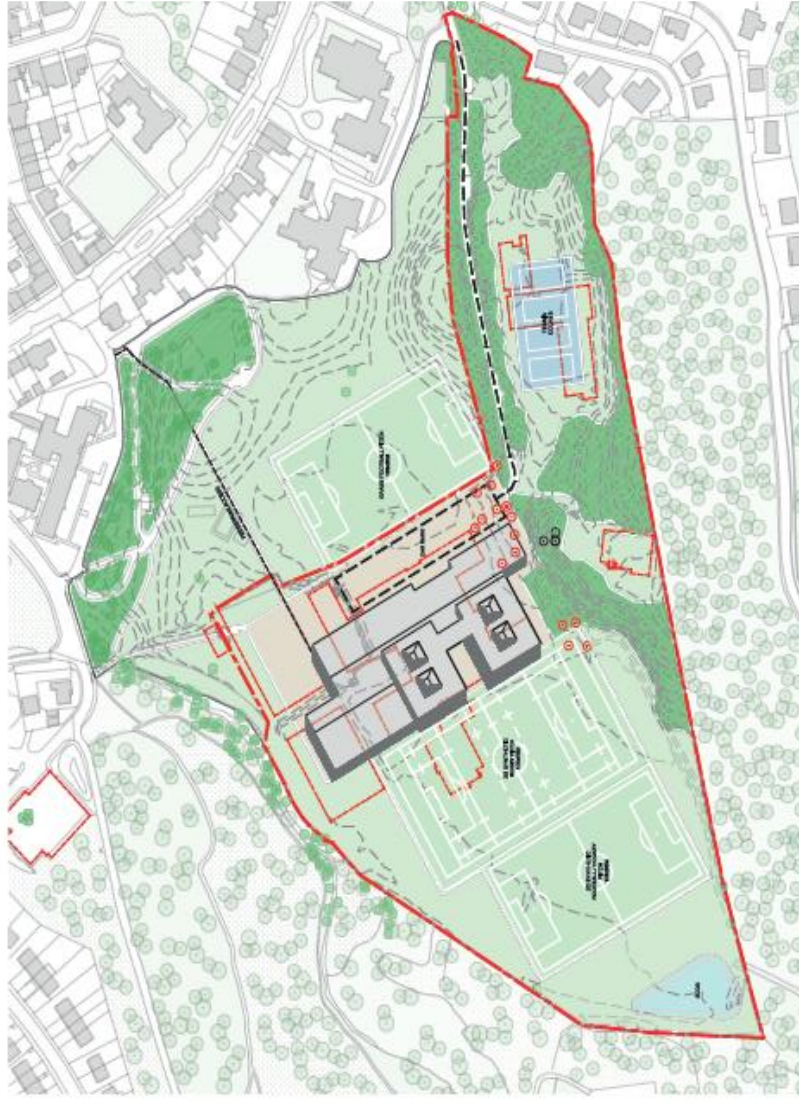


- The new campus would be remote from the site's main pedestrian links to the town centre.
- The civic presence of the campus would be greatly reduced due to its location - building appears tucked away and hidden from view.
- The campus would be particularly close to the housing on Elm Grove.
- The proposed location would involve constructing on or adjacent to challenging topography.
- Demolition of the existing school annex building would be required causing disruption to the operation of the school during construction.
- A significant number of protected trees would have to be removed.
- The daylighting afforded to the building will be compromised by overshadowing from surrounding woodland.
- Futureproofing options are limited as the proposed buildings location is constrained.



## Site Appraisal : Area 5

- ✓ The new building would not encroach on Scott Park, albeit the required school sports provision (pitches) would.
- School car parking is provided on site and existing site access points are retained.
- ✗ This proposal would require the temporary decant of the entire school roll in to either another available vacant and suitable building or in to temporary accommodation - off or on site.
- Sports pitches would require to be located on both the east and west elevations of the proposed building - lacking cohesion.



**APPENDIX 4  
CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM**



**EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING**

**STATUTORY CONSULTATION IN RELATION TO THE  
PROPOSAL FOR THE RELOCATION OF GALASHIELS  
ACADEMY**

**Detail of the Proposal**

Scottish Borders Council is seeking views on proposals to relocate Galashiels Academy to a new build learning and community campus site in Scott Park, Galashiels, comprising a major part of the existing Academy site and part of Scott Park.

The proposed site can be seen on the plan attached to this form:-

**Introduction**

**1. What is your name? (Optional)**

**2. What is your email address? (Optional)**

*If you enter your email address your email address will be added to SBC's list for future correspondence and updates regarding this Proposal. Your email will not be used for any other purpose*

**3. What is your postcode?**

**4. Please tick the most relevant box below to indicate which school(s) you are connected with**

- Galashiels Academy
- Balmoral Primary School
- Burgh Primary School
- Glendinning Terrace Primary School
- Langlee Primary School
- St Margaret's RC Primary School
- St Peter's Primary School
- Clovenfords Primary School
- Fountainhall Primary School
- Heriot Primary School
- Stow Primary School
- Tweedbank Primary School
- Other** – please state in box below

**5. Please tick the most relevant box below to indicate your interest in the in the School(s)**

<i>Parent/carer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Staff</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Pupil</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Relative of Pupil</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Parent Council Member</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Elected Member/MSP/MP</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Community Planning Partner</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Community Member</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Other</i>	



**6. Do you agree with the proposal to relocate Galashiels Academy to a new build campus site in Scott Park, Galashiels**

*Please select only one item*

Agree

Disagree

Don't Know

Please state your reasons

**7 Please provide us with your comments or alternative suggestions regarding the relocation/replacement of Galashiels Academy**

## CONFIDENTIALITY OF RESPONSE

**Your response, but not your personal information, will form part of a report that is submitted to Education Scotland and will be available to the public. Do you wish your comments to be considered as confidential so they will only be seen by Elected Members, officers of Scottish Borders Council and Education Scotland?**

Yes  No

---

## THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO GIVE US YOUR VIEWS

Your completed form can be handed into your local school or posted to: Galashiels Academy Consultation, Education & Lifelong Learning, And Scottish Borders Council, Newtown St Boswells TD6 0SA. You can also give us your views online at –

[Galashiels Academy Consultation On-line](#)

## BY 12 MAY 2023

If you have any queries, please email: [schoolestates@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:schoolestates@scotborders.gov.uk)

*The information you have provided will be processed by Scottish Borders Council, Newtown St Boswells, and TD6. You can contact the Council on 0300 100 1800 or [customerservices@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@scotborders.gov.uk). The Council's Data Protection Officer can be contacted using the contact details for the Council as set out above or by email at [dataprotection@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotection@scotborders.gov.uk) We will use your information to assess the reaction within the community to our proposal. The Council is collecting and using this information to keep respondents up to date with the progress of the proposal. The information you have provided will be retained 6 months*