

Stage 2 Evidence Gathering and Consultation

A. Title of Proposal:	New Replacement Secondary School in Galashiels
B. Service Area: Department:	Infrastructure & Environment Capital Projects
C. Lead Officer: (Name and job title)	Steven Renwick Projects Manager
D. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)	Lesley Munro, Director Education, SBC John Curry, Director Infrastructure & Environment, SBC Allison Stockman, Project Assistant, SBC Gillian Sellar, Principal Solicitor, SBC Carolyn Didcock, Quality Improvement Officer, SBC Doug Tullie, JM Architects
E. Date(s) IIA completed:	June 2023 – following completion of the current design stage and community engagement.

Section 1 Data and Information

A. What evidence has been used to inform this proposal?

(Information can include, for example, surveys, databases, focus groups, in-depth interviews, pilot projects, reviews of complaints made, user feedback, academic publications and consultants' reports).

Background and Project Need

In 2018, Scottish Borders Council approved the sequence and priority for capital investment in the School Estate as Galashiels Academy, Hawick High School, Selkirk High School and finally Peebles High School.

This came from the creation of individualised secondary school strategic plans following an assessment of condition, suitability, capacity as well as engagement with pupils, staff, parents, parent councils and the community in each cluster.

Funding to replace the existing Galashiels Academy with a new community campus was approved by the Scottish Government through their Learning Estate Investment Programme in December 2020.

Consultation and Involvement Findings

A formal Online Consultation was undertaken following the Proposal of Application Notice publication, starting the consultation process within the community for the new build replacement, this consultation period began on 24 May 2021 and concluded on 19 August 2021, a total period of 12 weeks.

[Scottish Border Council | Galashiels Community Campus \(eyesiteview.co.uk\)](https://eyesiteview.co.uk)

The website included boards explaining the proposals, an animation and an opportunity to comment.

The completion of this consultation process and a review of the comments made, allowed for the submission of a full planning application in February 2022. In September 2022, full planning consent was granted allowing the project to move to the detailed design and construction stage.

During the design stages from March 2021 to the end of this current design stage, a significant amount of statutory consultation and community/stakeholder engagement has been undertaken. More than 40 separate meetings and engagement sessions have been undertaken to describe the proposal, to listen to feedback and, where appropriate, make adjustments to the proposal.

In March 2023, a statutory consultation has commenced under Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This process is intended to conclude with a report to Education Scotland later in 2023.

B. Describe any gaps in the available evidence, then record this within the improvement plan together with all of the actions you are taking in relation to this (e.g. new research, further analysis, and when this is planned)

There are no gaps in evidence available to identify the need for the project.

Section 2 Consultation and Involvement

A. Which groups are involved in this process and describe their involvement

The Parent Councils of Galashiels Academy, Balmoral PS, Burgh PS, Clovenfords PS, Fountainhall PS, Glendinning PS, Heriot PS, St Margaret's PS, St Peter's PS, Stow PS and Tweedbank PS.

Galashiels Academy School Staff.

Community Councils: Galashiels, Clovenfords & District, Heriot, Stow & Fountainhall and Tweedbank.

Stable Life, Stow Community Development Trust, Eildon Area Partnership, Heriot Resilience Group and Focus Centre.

Live Borders, Tennis Borders and Rugby/Swimming Clubs.

B. Describe any planned involvement saying when this will take place and who is responsible for managing the process

During the period 9 July 2021 and 19 August 2021 a virtual public exhibition of the proposals was available to the community. An unstaffed physical public exhibition of the proposals were available to view at the Galashiels Transport Interchange from Friday 9 July until Thursday 19 August 2021. A live and interactive online public consultation session was carried out on 28 July 2021 between the hours of 6pm and 9pm, with a further session taking place on 4 August 2021 between the hours of 2pm and 6pm.

A live and interactive online consultation session with the Community Councils was undertaken as part of the PAN Application on 11 August 2021 from 6pm till 7pm.

C. Describe the results of any involvement and how you have taken this into account.

The key findings deriving from the PAN consultation period May 2021 are as follows:

The Council received 7 comments via the feedback form available on the online consultation space and via the dedicated project email address during the consultation period.

A number of common themes emerged from the feedback collated from the various consultations and grouped into the following main issues. Although these do not all necessarily relate directly to Planning, it was important to highlight the key issues raised nevertheless and these are shown below:

- Managing and Minimising Disruption during Construction.
- Preservation and Protection of Trees.
- Area of Archaeological Interest.
- Traffic Impact on Surrounding Roads.
- Improvements to Scott Park.
- EP11 Policy
- Life Expectancy of Facilities.
- Sports Facilities.

• How Do School and Community Facilities Co-exist?

Full details and responses to comments received are detailed within the separate Statutory Planning Consultation Report, all have been addressed to the satisfaction of the planning approval.

D. Describe any events held and views obtained (if applicable). Add or remove as needed.

Events

Date	Venue	Number of People in attendance	Protected Characteristics Represented
19/10/2022	Galashiels Academy – Public Engagement Event	No more than 100	Not separately identified
10/11/2022	Teams Call – Science & CDT Technicians	No more than 5	Not separately identified
22/12/2022	Teams Call – Visiting Services/Dry Therapy	No more than 5	Not separately identified
09/01/2023	Teams Call – Science Review	No more than 5	Not separately identified
12/01/2023	Teams Call – Cleaning Services	No more than 5	Not separately identified
25/01/2023	Teams Call – Enhanced Provision	No more than 5	Not separately identified
30/01/2023	Teams Call – School Layout Review (CMT)	No more than 5	Not separately identified
17/03/2023	Galashiels Academy – Layout Review CMT/Staff	No more than 10	Not separately identified
22/03/2023	Galashiels Academy – Design Change Review	No more than 10	Not separately identified

20/04/2023	Galashiels Academy – Education Scotland Consultation	No more than 30	Not separately identified
02/06/2023	Teams Call – Design Review	No more than 5	Not separately identified
07/06/2023	Teams Call – Enhanced provision staff and Parents	No more than 10	Disability – parents of learners with additional support needs

Views Expressed – Science / CDT	Officer Response
Request for Technicians Space to be separate from 6th Year Lab (Technician's H&S request) Chemical Store to be increased in size and door swing changed.	Change in use of shared Technicians & 6th Year Lab to be reviewed with Academy staff. Chemical store increased in size and door changed.
Views Expressed – Visiting Services	Officer Response
Dry Therapy Space to be called 'Visiting Services', and confirmation that school nursing will use Meeting Room on Level 01.	Room name changed. Provision within Meeting Room adjusted to suit use.
Views Expressed – Science	Officer Response
Additional 6th Year Lab to be provided.	Separate 6th Year Lab added (loss of double height space over Life Skills at Level 00)
Views Expressed – Cleaning Services	Officer Response
Request that Cleaner's Store at Pool is accessed directly from changing area, and id dedicated pool use. Request for additional cleaners store in Sports area. Request for additional cleaners store at Level 01 Request for additional cleaners store at Level 02	Cleaner's St at pool moved to be accessed off changing. Cleaner's Store added at sports (Accessible Changing Room omitted) Cleaner's Store added at Level 01 (near Stair 03) Cleaner's Store added at Level 02 (near Stair 02, Bulk Store omitted)
Views Expressed – Enhanced Provision/NHS	Officer Response
Pool cover to be floor mounted rather than wall mounted. Rails to be demountable.	Location of pool cover amended.
Views Expressed – CDT	Officer Response
More storage required within Machine Room. Request that door location is changed to aid deliveries. Request that Workshop Room layouts are altered to improve positioning of bandsaw.	Additional storage provided. Door location altered. Workshop layouts revised.

Views Expressed – Galashiels Academy CMT/Staff	Officer Response
Inspire Learning Space to change to 'Multi-Purpose Studio' Concerns around bleacher seating arrangement within Gymnasium, request to explore options to revert to Central Dining or alternatively 2 Court Hall. Concern around remoteness of Music from Drama, request to relocate to location closer.	Options proposed to accommodate Assembly/Performance within 2 Court Hall. Music relocated Level 01 (displacing Staff Student Hub & Open Digital Workspace) Pupil Support relocated to Level 02 as a result. Inspire Creative Space changed to Multi-Purpose Studio.
Views Expressed – Galashiels Academy CMT/Staff	Officer Response
Concern raised regarding extent of 'open' teaching bases Request to add store for Drama Stage. Request to add further separation to Pupil Support corridor.	Sliding doors added to 4 no. Teaching Bases. Door added to 1no. Teaching Base. Drama Stage store added. Cross corridor doors added to Pupil Support area.
Views Expressed – SBC Education	Officer Response
Metal balustrading to revert to glazed Assembly/Performance to revert to Gymnasium 'Multi-use Studio' to revert to 'Inspire Creative Space' Food Technology units to revert to Stainless Steel	Balustrading changed Assembly reverted to Gymnasium Inspire Creative Space reinstated Spec of units reverted to stainless Steel (Refer to Rev P16 of GA Floorplans-14.06.2023)
Views Expressed – Galashiels Academy CMT	Officer Response
Concern raised over arrangement of assembly/performance within Gymnasium space. Further meeting with department staff requested. Request to review extent of glazed screen into Staff Wellbeing area. Request to review blind provision to 4 Court Hall viewing gallery. Request to reduce width of opening to science super lab. Request to investigate opportunity for bike workshop - suggested use of external store at janitor's house.	Meeting with department staff arranged and design to be developed. Extent of glazing to be reviewed - to be revised in next design update. Width of science opening to be reviewed - to be revised in next design update. SBC to lead on use of external building/store at janitor's house.
Views Expressed – Enhanced Provision Staff & Parents	Officer Response
Request for removal of glazed side screens to quiet room, sensory, soft play and flexible room. Clarity of blind specification required. Clarity on external storage provision required. Clarity on ventilation and heating controls required.	Removal of side screens to be caught in next design revision. Further information being sourced to answer queries.

Stage 3 Summary and Next Steps

Section 1 Summary

Summarise what you have learned then develop this further.

(Describe the conclusion(s) you have reached from the evidence, and state where the information can be found.)

Please consider the following:

What have you learned from the evidence you have and the involvement undertaken? Does the initial assessment remain valid?

What new (if any) impacts have become evident?

Is the proposal not to proceed because of a disproportionate impact on equality or Fairer Scotland characteristics?

The design of the school has changed and evolved as a result of the engagement and stakeholder discussions undertaken during this current design stage.

A. Please indicate if the proposal will proceed

- Yes, please see below section 3 for next steps
- No, the proposal will not proceed based on disproportionate impact on equality or Fairer Scotland characteristics

Section 2 Sign Off

Signed by Lead Officer:	Steven Renwick
Designation:	Projects Manager
Date:	19 June 2023
Counter Signature Director:	John Curry
Date:	19 June 2023

Section 3 Monitoring and Review (complete if relevant, remove if not)

B. State how the implementation and impact of the proposal will be monitored, including implementation of any amendments? For example what type of monitoring will there be? How frequent?

The design at this stage is based on technical drawings, enhanced by visual images and computer aided modelling. While this provides for a comprehensive understanding of the building shape, form and composition, elements of the overall design are purposefully held back until later in the actual construction process such as wayfinding, branding, colour schemes and loose furniture selection. Prior to opening, the design stage noise assessment will be tested for compliance and adjusted if required.

During the final stages of construction, the ability will be taken to ensure that staff and learners are familiarised with the new building and layout through site visits and orientation exercises.

Following opening, a short term soft landing process will be implemented to ensure that the building operates and functions as intended. This will be followed up with a more comprehensive post occupancy evaluation (within the 1-3 years of opening timeframe).

C. What are the practical arrangements for monitoring? For example who will put this in place? When will it start?

The project team, working with the staff and learners will ensure continuity through the construction stage; the soft landing and post occupancy period to ensure that issues are able to be raised, monitored and responded to.

D. When is the proposal due for review?

Prior to the conclusion of the construction process.

E. Who is responsible for ensuring that this happens?

The project delivery team.

F. Please indicate if you have developed an Action Plan to take forward any remaining actions

- Yes, please see attached on final page
- No, no further actions required

Section 4 Action Plan (complete if relevant, remove if not)

Action Owner Name: Projects Manager	Action Date: Spring to Summer 2025
What is the issue? Final construction stage – testing out the design stage assumptions and decisions.	
What action will be taken? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Familiarisation visits 2. Engagement with staff and learners in colour selection, branding, wayfinding 3. Engagement with staff and learners with loose furniture and set up of learning spaces 4. Soft landing process prior to and following bringing the school in to the operational phase 	
Progress against the action:	
Action completed:	Date completed: