East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/229

Educational impact - Orchardfield & Andrew Meikle

I am writing to request information on the methodology used to assess the educational impact of a) the completed development at Andrew Meikle Grove in East Linton, and b) the proposed development at Orchardfield, also in East Linton.

a) The original assessment for the Andrew Meikle Grove was carried out in 2008. The officer who carried out the assessment has since left employment with East Lothian Council (ELC) and it is not possible to determine the exact methodology used by the officer responsible at that time.

   In view of this, under Section 17(1)(b) of the Act, I must formally advise you that ELC has been unable to comply with this part of your request as the information you require is not held.

b) Please refer to Appendix I overleaf for the roll projection methodology used to assess the cumulative impact on the primary and secondary school rolls for the proposed development at Orchardfield in East Lothian.

Also, was there any assessment of the actual (vs forecast) impact on school capacity for the Andrew Meikle Grove development? If so, how accurate was the original forecasting methodology, and was it required to change when calculating the forecast impact of Orchardfield?

There has been no assessment of the actual vs forecast impact on school capacity for the Andrew Meikle Grove development.

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Appendix I

i. The number of proposed new housing units to be built within a school catchment area and the proposed completion phasing of these are added to existing annual housing completions from the current Housing Land Audit as well as additional known housing with planning consent (windfall sites). Both market and affordable housing tenure are included in the number of new houses to be built. Prospective housing is excluded from the figures where the site has less than 5 units or where it is known that the sites are to be developed exclusively for elderly populations or specialist need populations that prohibit occupation by children.

ii. Future P1 intake assumptions are made for the catchment primary school based on weekly live births data from the NHS, future birth assumptions, historical net birth to P1 admission rates, P1 catchment analysis data, P1 deferral rates and tracked P1 intake rates arising from new developments. These supporting datasets are analysed to assess the potential cumulative impact of future housing on P1 intakes over time.

iii. An analysis is then made on historical primary and secondary stage migration rates to assess the potential impact of future housing on the stage migration rates. Each school's historical stage migration rate is calculated individually within East Lothian and is the net migration in or out of a school during the academic session, excluding the contribution of children from new housing in that same year. The migration rate is averaged over the last 3 years, weighting more highly for the current year.

iv. The relevant average New Build CPHR for each catchment school is multiplied by the new build housing figures for the corresponding catchment area within each build year to obtain the potential output of primary and secondary children from the new housing who would be attending the respective schools initially during each year of new build completion.

v. The school roll forecasting system then projects the number of primary pupils by taking the initial start of session roll at each primary stage for the first year of the school roll projections and adding in the children at each stage from the new housing for the respective year divided by the 7 stages. The result is then multiplied by the stage migration factor (see para. iii above) to produce a start of session roll for the next stage (P2 to P7) for the following year with the projected P1 intake feeding in from point (ii) above.

vi. The system then projects the number of secondary pupils: for S1-S4 by adding the total children from new housing (using the average secondary New Build CPHR) divided by the 6 stages and then multiplying the stage migration factor to give a start of session roll at the next stage for the following year. S5 pupil forecasts require to be multiplied again by the S4:S5 stay-on rate to produce an S5 roll for the following year's start of session. For S6, the children from new housing is multiplied by the S5:S6 stay-on rate to account for there being fewer pupils in S5. This is then added to the S5 roll. The result is multiplied by the stage migration factor and then multiplied again by S5:S6 stay-on rate to produce a S6 roll for the following year's start of session. The stay-on rates are averaged over the last 3 years, weighting more highly for the current year.

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vii. S1 forecasts are calculated by multiplying the feeder catchment primary schools' P7 forecasted total for the previous year by the P7-S1 transfer rate (the migration rate of the P7's from the feeder primaries to S1 of the secondary school during an academic year, excluding the contribution of children from new housing during that same year. Again, data is used for the last 3 years to produce a weighted average transfer rate, weighting more highly for the current year).

The complete formula the Council uses to project the annual cumulative impact of new housing developments on primary school rolls over time is as follows:

Baseline school census roll
+
Average new build child per house ratio x no. of new houses in each build year
(*applied to the specific build years that new houses are projected to be built within*)
+
net annual stage migration rate
(*applied at each stage P1 through to P7 to reflect fluctuations that occur in inward/outward migration during the years of house build and following completion*)
+
annual start of session projected P1 intake
(*including projected P1 pupils from the new houses*)

The complete formula the Council uses to project the annual cumulative impact of new housing developments on secondary school rolls over time is as follows:

Baseline school census roll
+
Average new build child per house ratio x no. of new houses in each build year
(applied to the specific build years that new houses are projected to be built within)
+
net annual stage migration rate
(*applied at each stage S1 through to S6 to reflect fluctuations that occur in inward/outward migration during the years of house build and following completion*)
+
annual P7-S1 transfer rate
(*applied to the associated P7 cohort for the new S1 intake*)
+
annual S4-S5 stay-on rate
(*applied to the S4 cohort from the previous academic session*)
+
annual S5-S6 stay-on rate
(*applied to the S5 cohort from the previous academic session*)