

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Policy and Strategy Committee

Does this report require to be approved? Yes No

Ref JMcK/CMcC/AMcP Date 19/03/26

Ravenscraig Community Hub

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Executive Summary

Ravenscraig is a significant area of land within the North Lanarkshire area. There have been various iterations of the Ravenscraig masterplan over the years. It is expected that over time, additional homes will be built, requiring new facilities to serve the increased population.

Following a statutory education consultation, carried out by the Education and Families Service, new catchment areas were approved in 2021, affecting the catchment areas of eight existing schools. It is important that any new provision assesses the impact on the existing schools, which could make them vulnerable to closure.

To date, around 1,000 new homes have been created within the Ravenscraig area. Pupils from these houses have been accommodated within the existing estate and there is still space for more pupils in the existing schools.

Analysis has been carried out to understand the impact on the existing schools, and the growing population, to understand the impact of opening the new school provision around 2029 – the final year of the current Strategic Capital Investment Plan.

As the report outlines, building new school provision, at this time, would have a negative impact on the existing school estate, and would potentially leave the new schools, or some existing schools, with low levels of occupancy. Rather, it is more prudent to track the need for additional capacity against the rate and number of new homes delivered – as it is these indicators which will determine when any new mainstream school provision would be required.

What cannot be lost however, is that the key driver for Ravenscraig, is not centered around mainstream schooling, but around the wider placemaking ambition. So, although the current level of housebuilding does not currently justify the delivery of new mainstream school provision, there is still a need to continue with the drive to regenerate the area for the benefit of the local communities and adapt to the changing demands within such a large regeneration area.

As part of this placemaking ambition, there exists the opportunity to consider the establishment of a dedicated ASN facility on the site. Demand for ASN provision within North Lanarkshire continues to increase, reflecting national and local trends associated

with the rising identification of complex and profound needs. Current provision, both within mainstream settings and existing specialist resources, is under increasing pressure. The development of a dedicated ASN school within the authority would directly respond to this demand and support the Council in meeting its statutory duties to provide appropriate education for all children and young people.

Analysis also shows that the current agreed location for the community hub (as per the 2021 statutory education consultation) does not provide significant flexibility on the offering we could provide at that location. The site is approximately 2.5 hectares, and it would likely only accommodate two schools on that site. There is no scope for other facilities (e.g. cultural offering) at this site.

Conversely, the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) site (which was proposed for the community hub as part of the LUF bid) at approximately 7.5 hectares, offers significantly more space to marry current and future council ambitions - be that mainstream education, bespoke ASN education, cultural offering (theatre), or social housing. At around three times the size of the other site, it provides flexibility to bring the right assets forward at the right time. To take this forward, further ground investigation works will be required to fully assess the costs associated with any future development of the site.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Policy and Strategy Committee:

- (1) Acknowledge the outcome of the Options Appraisal exercise for the provision of mainstream school provision.
- (2) Acknowledge that a statutory education consultation would be required to change both the location, and the catchment area for the new schools (at the appropriate time).
- (3) Agree for officers to track the need for a new school against the rate and number of new houses built each year using the published Housing Land Audit.
- (4) Agree that further ground investigations are undertaken on the 'LUF' site.
- (5) Acknowledge that, following completion of the ground investigations works, the feasibility assessment for a dedicated ASN facility and on receiving the outcome from Historic Environment Scotland on the future of the Motherwell Concert Hall, a further report will be submitted to Committee outlining how future developments could continue with the place making ambitions for Ravenscraig in line with the Council's overall Programme of Work.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority	All priorities
Ambition statement	All ambition statements
Programme of Work	Transforming Places

1. Background

- 1.1 The Plan for North Lanarkshire is the key strategy linked to making North Lanarkshire the place to live, learn, work, invest and visit. The plan is delivered via a series of Programmes of Work, one of which is the Transforming Places Programme of Work. The Town and Community Hub programme reports through the Transforming Places programme of work
 - 1.2 In March 2025, Policy and Strategy Committee approved the Strategic Capital Investment Programme for 2024/25 to 2028/29. Within this approved capital programme, a commitment of £347m was allocated to the Town and Community Hub programme, outlining the aspiration to review projects in Abronhill, Glenboig, and Ravenscraig.
 - 1.3 Ravenscraig is a significant area within the Motherwell area, which has delivered around 1,000 houses over the last few decades. Public investment within the area has also been significant within the area, with a regional sports facility, a further education establishment, and a playpark with public open spaces.
 - 1.4 Various iterations of a masterplan for the area have been produced over the decades, with each showing a mix of housing and other infrastructure investment. As with many areas, plans can change over time, reacting to the perceived needs of the local and regional area at that time.
 - 1.5 The number of houses planned on the site has fluctuated over time, with the council monitoring this through the Housing Land Audit, which is produced and agreed annually. In recent years, the Housing Land Audit (HLA) has shown that an additional 3,448 houses could be delivered under plans.
 - 1.6 It is noted that some housing sites have also been earmarked for other potential developments, such as an AI datacentre. As has recently been demonstrated, the economic and community benefits associated with datacentres is significant, but what this also highlights is the dynamic nature of strategic development plans within an area the size of Ravenscraig, and the causal effect of projecting requirements for future pupils. The data centre proposal would reduce the overall housing projection within Ravenscraig by around 1,000 units, but this must be set in context against the significant economic benefit and the housing growth which would be stimulated elsewhere as a result.
 - 1.7 As a rule of thumb, pupils generated from new housing amount to three pupils for every ten houses built. Therefore, for around 1,000 houses, an approximate 300 pupils would be added to the pupil populations for local schools. These pupils are distributed amongst the various schools, based on catchment areas which predate the current masterplans.
 - 1.8 All pupils from the completed 1,000 homes to date, have been accommodated within the existing school estate and at present there is still sufficient capacity to accommodate additional pupils.
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2. Report

- 2.1 As outlined in the background section above, it is acknowledged that Ravenscraig is a significant development, and has increased and will continue to increase the local population. The development of land, and timescales, has changed over time which

requires recalibration of other plans, such as when new schools are required, in response to development changes.

- 2.2 The investment identified within the 2024 Strategic Capital Investment Plan, for the Ravenscraig Community Hub, provided an opportunity to evaluate what impact building school provision, to support the current, and future populations, may have on both the existing and new school populations. At that time, the investment concentrated on the potential immediate need for new (mainstream) schools to meet demand, with an understanding that this need was subject to analysis.
- 2.3 Whilst our Community Hub offering looks to deliver for the whole community, schools are the core and main service delivered from these hubs. The focus of this report is on the schools which would be within the hub. That said, whilst the immediate focus was on the need for new schools to meet demand, it was recognised that emerging plans to meet the ambitions of the council, along with the analysis of the school need, determined that the original site for the schools no longer marry with the ambitions of the council.
- 2.4 As reported to previous committees, analysis was required to understand how creating additional schools would affect the current schools and school populations. As such, an option appraisal exercise was carried out in 2025 to analyse the impact on both the existing and new school provision through analysing different scenarios linked to the creation of a new Community Hub by 2029.

Determining the need for new schools

- 2.5 Creating completely new schools is a rare occurrence and generally only happens when significant numbers of houses are created within a small geographical area – which without the new schools, would place significant and unmanageable pressures on the existing schools.
- 2.6 Generally, existing schools would be replaced by new schools, which could accommodate a larger number of pupils. Alternatively, an extension to the existing schools would facilitate the growth required for accommodating the increase in pupil numbers.
- 2.7 It has been evidenced that the number of births has been declining and is expected to continue to reduce over the decades to come. This coincides with an increase in the number of older adults within our communities – creating a different set of challenges. The point being that the rate of housebuilding is critical to understand if the new pupils generated from new housing can be offset by the reduction in births over the decades.
- 2.8 It is observed there is a dramatic difference between how the council would need to react to 3,000 houses being built over a decade, compared to 3,000 houses being built over five decades. This is because there is a marked difference between 100 pupils presenting at once, to 10 new pupils presenting each year. Using primary schools as an example, a pupil will attend for seven years, so in year eight, a new pupil can take the space vacated by the pupil who started seven years ago. Therefore, it can be illustrated that 10 pupils presenting from the houses built in year eight, could take the space of the pupils who presented in year one.
- 2.9 It should be noted that this is an illustrative example, rather than modelling of projected pupil numbers, which is much more nuanced. The example does, however, illustrate the point at a macro level – where housing is spaced out, the demand on the schools is much less than when high levels of housing are delivered within a short time.

Assessing the impact on the current school estate.

- 2.10 There are eight schools which currently serve the area (which would become the new

Ravenscraig catchment(s)), and where their overall catchment area would be reduced, and pupils realigned to the new Ravenscraig schools based on the currently agreed catchment areas (as approved through the Statutory Education Outcome Report presented to Education and Families Committee in May 2021).

- 2.11 The analysis for this exercise concentrates on the primary school estate. This is because the impact on these schools will be more acute than on the secondary school estate. Due to the way early years is operated, through private, public and third sector provision, there is more 'flex' with this provision where new spaces do not need to come from the local authority.
- 2.12 Within the primary estate, each house has the choice of two schools, one for non-denominational provision, and one for denominational provision. As such the analysis on the impact was run from two perspectives: impact on the non-denominational schools, and impact on the denominational schools which are impacted by the creation of new school provision in the Motherwell area surrounding Ravenscraig.
- 2.13 There are eight schools which would be impacted by the creation of new school provision within this area, these are outlined in the table below.

Non-Denominational Primary Schools	Denominational Primary Schools
Keir Hardie Primary School	Our Lady of Good Aid (Cathedral) PS
Muir Street Primary School	Our Lady and St Francis Primary School
Glencairn Primary School	St Thomas' Primary School
Knowetop Primary School	
Berryhill Primary School	

Table 2.13 – Existing primary school provision serving the area

- 2.14 The creation of completely new schools take land and pupils from other schools, through the creation of new school catchment areas. This can clearly have an impact on the occupancy levels and as a result, viability of the existing schools which now cover smaller geographical areas.
- 2.15 Occupancy levels in schools (which is the number of spaces used, when compared with the number of spaces available) are assessed annually, reported as part of a series of 'core fact' returns to Scottish Government, and are used to assess the 'efficiency' of the school estate.
- 2.16 Whilst there is no 'target' for school occupancy, there are thresholds which would be determined to be optimal, when looking at how efficient a school is. A school which has occupancy between 70% to 90% would be considered as operating effectively within our school estate.
- 2.17 Above 90% and in any given year, the school could face difficulties in configuring class sets. This is because, as year groups change, the number of pupils who can be accommodated change. For example, only 25 pupils can be in a P1 or a composite class, a P2 or P3 class can accommodate 30 pupils, and a P4 to P7 class can accommodate 33 pupils. School capacities (the number of spaces available) is generally calculated using these figures (assuming the size of the classroom is sufficient). So in a school with seven classes it is determined that it can hold 217 pupils (P1 (25), P2 and P3 (30), P4 to P7 (33) – 25+30+30+33+33+33+33 – 217)
- 2.18 If however, you have 34 P4s, for that year you are going to have to split them into two classes – if you create a P3/4 or a P4/5 you can only have 25 in that class (as it's a

composite). For every composite you create outwith P1, you reduce the number of spaces available by up to 8 (33-25). Hence the desire to set the threshold to 90% as it provides 'year on year flexibility' for class configurations.

- 2.19 At the opposite end of the scale, once a school falls below 70% it becomes less efficient. Once a school is operating below 50%, there are more spaces empty than being used – and this is clearly an inefficient use of space. When these scenarios appear, school closures are a possibility, as merging smaller inefficient schools with larger schools makes the estate more efficient.
- 2.20 As such, when a new school is introduced, which will take pupils either immediately or over time, from their existing school, it is reasonable to consider the impact of such action on the existing school estate, to avoid making any of these schools, and the overall estate, from becoming inefficient.

Ravenscraig Community Hub – Options Appraisal Analysis

- 2.21 The data from the 2024 Housing Land Audit (HLA) was used to assess the impact of the proposed housing, and associated phasing within the Ravenscraig area. The 2025 HLA has recently been created and there is no significant difference to the 2024 audit. As such the findings from the 2024 HLA analysis remain relevant.
- 2.22 The analysis looked at the impact of having a new Ravenscraig Community Hub open and operational by 2029, as this is the last year of the current Strategic Capital Investment Plan. The analysis looked at the impact on the existing schools and the newly created school provision using various scenarios:
 - 2.22.1 **Scenario 1** – do not build a new community hub by 2029, using the existing schools to accommodate any new pupils.
 - 2.22.2 **Scenario 2** – build new schools using the new catchment boundaries, as approved via the statutory education consultation. This scenario shows the impact on all existing schools, and the newly created schools. This scenario uses the catchment areas, as consulted on and approved in May 2021.
 - 2.22.3 **Scenario 3** – build new schools using alternative new catchments. This purpose of this scenario was to analyse if pupils could be distributed more evenly, using a different geographic (catchment) area than that consulted on in May 2021. The results are based on these alternative catchment areas, created to try and disperse pupils more evenly to manage the occupancy levels of the schools within the area.

Scenario 1 – Do not build new schools by 2029

- 2.23 This scenario looked at the house building proposed within the area, analysing the impact of the pupils from those new homes integrating into existing schools, based on existing catchment areas.
- 2.24 The table below looks at the number of permanent spaces within the schools. Those with an asterisk also have temporary spaces, created through the inclusion of modular units within the school grounds. These are generally not analysed as part of roll projections as they can be moved if they are no longer required. To include them would make a school look less efficient, when the removal of the units is manageable.

School	Capacity	2029 Projected Occupancy	Percentage of spaces utilised
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Muir Street PS	349	207	59%
Berryhill PS	292	242	83%
OLSF PS*	315	265	84%
Knowetop PS	534	447	84%
St Thomas' PS	292	264	90%
Cathedral PS	548	511	93%
Keir Hardie PS*	217	204	94%
Glencairn PS*	367	392	107%

Table 2.24: Scenario 1 - 2029 projections

- 2.25 The table above shows that Berryhill, Our Lady and St Francis (OLSF), Knowetop and St Thomas' primary schools are projected to be operating within optimal levels, should the houses come forward as projected and no new school provision is created by this time.
- 2.26 Cathedral PS would be operating at slightly above optimal levels, but still have capacity and flexibility, due to the size of the school.
- 2.27 Keir Hardie and Glencairn primary schools both have modular accommodation which is not accounted for within the above projections. If included, Keir Hardie would be operating at 76% capacity, and Glencairn would be operating at 85% capacity, both of which are within optimal levels.
- 2.28 Muir Street is the outlier, operating at 59% capacity which is below optimal levels. It should be noted that the proposed new school provision would each have a capacity of 217 pupils. This is noted to illustrate that, with a projected number of 207 pupils, it is not that Muir Street has low pupil numbers, but rather that the school has far too many spaces for current and future requirements. The optimal solution for this school would be to remove classrooms from the school and reallocate them for other community and/or educational needs, as promoted through the SARIS school strategy, reported through previous Policy and Strategy Committee meetings.

Scenario 2 – Open the new schools in 2029 – using ‘as consulted on’ catchment areas

- 2.29 This scenario looked at the house building proposed within the area, analysing the impact of the pupils from those new homes integrating into new schools, based on the catchment areas consulted on and approved in May 2021.
- 2.30 Similar to scenario one above, the table below looks at the number of permanent spaces within the schools. Those with an asterisk also have temporary spaces, created through the inclusion of modular units within the school grounds. These are generally not analysed as part of roll projections as they can be moved if they are no longer required. To include them would make a school look less efficient, when the removal of the units is manageable.
- 2.31 Different from scenario one above, there are now two new schools which have redistributed the pupils from their current schools to their new schools. It is accepted that a significant number of pupils may choose not to move schools. However, there is no clear number or percentage which can be attributed to those that may stay in the school they currently attend. Therefore, this could be viewed as a “worst case scenario”. However for each pupil that stays at their existing school, would be one pupil less in the projections for the new schools.

School	Capacity	2029 Projected Occupancy	Percentage of spaces utilised
Muir Street PS	349	164	47%
OLSF PS*	315	148	47%
Keir Hardie PS*	217	155	71%
Cathedral PS	548	407	74%
Knowetop PS	534	404	76%
Berryhill PS	292	240	82%
Ravenscraig ND	217	180	83%
St Thomas' PS	292	261	89%
Glencairn PS*	367	362	99%
Ravenscraig Den	217	233	107%

- 2.32 It is noted that for Keir Hardie, through to St Thomas's, the projections look to have occupancy levels within the 'optimal' range. If this option was taken forward, the modular units at Keir Hardie would not be required.
- 2.33 For Glencairn PS, as with Scenario 1, as there is modular accommodation within this establishment, which is not counted within the figures outlined above, the occupancy levels, when including the modular units, would show the school to be 79% occupied, so within optimal range.
- 2.34 For both OLSF (which also currently has modular units) and Muir Street primary schools, both of these schools are projected to fall below 50% occupancy making them very inefficient and vulnerable to closure.
- 2.35 Finally, the Ravenscraig Denominational school would be beyond capacity, if all pupils appeared as modelled. As outlined above, this is unlikely to be the case in the short term, but it is unclear how the projections would change as more housing is brought forward within the catchment area. There is not enough information at this time to determine what the long-term requirements would be. It is possible that a significant number of pupils would choose to stay where they are at present or put in placing requests at existing schools in future years. Parental choice, through placing request provide a significant level of uncertainty to roll projections. It cannot be clear, until a school is established over a significant number of years, how parents' choice will affect and impact on the school populations within the local area.

Scenario 3 – Open the new schools in 2029 – using 'alternative' catchment areas

- 2.36 This scenario looked at the house building proposed within the area, analysing the impact of the pupils from those new homes integrating into new schools, based on alternative catchment areas to those consulted on and approved in May 2021.
- 2.37 Due to the disparity of distribution when using the 'as consulted on' catchment areas, it was viewed worthwhile to attempt to redraw the catchments to create a better balance. Specifically, an attempt to address the results affecting Keir Hardie, Muir Street, and the new Ravenscraig Denominational primary schools.
- 2.38 There were constraints, including recognition that natural boundaries (such as roads, or streets) should be used where possible. The conclusion was, with the projected number of homes forecast to be built between now and 2029, there was no clear optimal boundary to prevent adverse impacts on some schools.

- 2.39 Below is the result of the option explored, by moving some catchment areas so distribute the pupils more evenly. As you'll note from the table below, there were still issues with the results.

School	Capacity	2029 Projected Occupancy	Percentage of spaces utilised
Muir Street PS	349	202	58%
OLSF PS*	315	220	70%
Keir Hardie PS*	217	165	76%
Cathedral PS	548	423	77%
Knowetop PS	534	406	76%
Berryhill PS	292	239	82%
Ravenscraig ND	217	122	56%
St Thomas' PS	292	260	89%
Glencairn PS*	367	367	100%
Ravenscraig Den	217	150	69%

- 2.40 It is observed from the results above, by proactively moving catchment boundaries to ensure existing schools are less vulnerable, there is a negative impact on the numbers for the two newly created schools.
- 2.41 It should also be noted that the projections are based on all pupils moving to the school, when their house moves into a new catchment area. As outlined above, there will be a significant number of pupils who may not choose to make this change and stay where they are currently.
- 2.42 There is a real risk, with implementing this option, that the council will open two schools which would remain extremely under occupied, with a strong possibility that the Ravenscraig ND school could open with less than 50% of spaces occupied. Should future house building slow and not materialise, there is a risk that this school would remain below optimal levels and create over capacity in this local area.

Options Appraisal – Conclusion: No identified need for new school by 2029

- 2.43 Based on the data outlined above, there is a risk with building the schools by 2029. The impact on the existing school estate is unpredictable, as are the numbers which could occupy the new school. It is also assuming that all housing that is targeted to be delivered between now and 2029 is delivered.
- 2.44 Given that Option One indicates that, should the housing come forward as currently projected, and should the pupils materialise as predicted, there is adequate provision within the existing school estate to accommodate pupils up to and beyond the year 2029.
- 2.45 As such, it is deemed a bigger risk to create the additional spaces by the year 2029, than to not build and open the schools by this time. A summary of all options in map/graphic form is enclosed at Appendix A.

Options Appraisal – Discussion and conclusion regarding hub location

- 2.46 As part of the options appraisal exercise, officers also assessed the benefits of the two sites. Site one is the school site to the north of the Ravenscraig Sports Facility which

was consulted on and approved as the location for the new community hub. Site two is the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) site, which is to the south of “The Craig’ community park. These are outlined at Appendix B.

- 2.47 Officers identified that the size of site one (approx. 2.5 hectares in size), which is expected to only accommodate the buildings required for two schools does not offer the flexibility for other options which are being explored as part of this community hub offering. Conversely, site two (approx. 7.5 hectares in size) provides significantly more opportunities to meet the emerging needs of the council – specialist ASN provision, cultural (theatre) offering, and social housing.
- 2.48 It was concluded by the officers that the LUF (7.5 hectare) site provides more opportunity and flexibility for both current and potential future requirements for wider council ambitions at this larger location. It is noted that, should this be agreed at Council level, a further statutory education consultation to change the agreed location for the new schools, would be required (at the appropriate time), to allow any new education provision to be located at the LUF site.
- 2.49 Previous ground investigations were undertaken for the LUF site in November 2022 as part of the preparation of a bid for Levelling Up Funds to support the substantial estimated remediation costs. It was understood that further ground investigation surveys would be required to fully establish the extent of remediation work required and associated costs.
- 2.50 It would be the intention therefore, to now commission this further ground investigation works which will provide a more detailed cost for remediation and how development options could be taken forward on site to maximise the potential of the site but reduce the overall remediation costs.
- 2.51 North Lanarkshire Council currently has a legal agreement with Ravenscraig Ltd to transfer the site identified as SC1 in Appendix B to the council for the purposes of building new primary schools (joint campus). If, following further ground investigation and feasibility assessment, the preferred site for future education provision is the LUF site, then the SC1 site could potentially be developed for housing by Ravenscraig Ltd, subject to satisfactory negotiation on the transfer of the LUF site. Prior to any formal agreement however, the full outcome of the ground investigation must be known and a further report to Committee will be provided providing this outcome and what the proposals would be for development across the two sites.

Evaluating when the new Community Hub will be required

- 2.52 At present, there is no clear answer to the question as to when the community hub will be required. Rather it is offered that the need for the new hub is directly related to the number of houses brought forward at a rate which dictates when that additional provision is required. As outlined in section 2.8 above, should the homes not materialise as per the phasing (outlined in the table below) it may be that a space may be recycled and reused by another pupil, rather than multiple spaces being required at the same time.

Timeline	Estimated number of new homes to be built
2025 – 2029	305
2030 – 2034	1048
2035 – 2039	722
2040 – 2044	833
2045 - 2049	540

- 2.53 It is further noted that of the 3,448 houses proposed, only 305 of these houses, which

equates to 9% of the total, are expected to be delivered by 2029. Around 1,770 additional houses are projected to be built in the following decade (between 2029 and 2039).

- 2.54 As outlined earlier within this report, there have been various iterations and amendments to the plans for this area. Indeed, there are currently plans being considered within this area, for an AI datacentre, which would reduce the overall number of homes by around 1,000. Whilst this change of use offers other economic opportunities, it is mentioned to illustrate the dynamic discussions around land use within this area, and the associated challenges this brings with projecting requirements for pupil spaces (and the timing of new school provision).
- 2.55 The strategy therefore is to monitor the house building over the coming years, as this will reduce the risk to the council and ensure that over provision is not created for pupils within this local area.

Alternative and Associated Consideration

- 2.56 As detailed above, although there is currently no specific date as to when new and additional mainstream school provision is required, the development of this area of the Ravenscraig site is primarily around place making and not solely about an education offering. The larger (7.5 hectare) site clearly provides more opportunities to meet council ambitions.
- 2.57 As previously reported to Committee, part of this consideration is the provision of a cultural offering. This is still very much dependent on the outcome of the ongoing discussions with Historic Environment Scotland around the de-listing of the existing Motherwell Concert Hall which is subject to a separate report to this Committee.
- 2.58 Coupled with the decision on the concert hall, the Council's Education, Children and Families service is currently reviewing its overall approach to ASN education. Within North Lanarkshire, ASN numbers have continued to rise through to 2026 with 19,844 pupils confirmed with ASN, equivalent to 40.9% of the school population.
- 2.59 Considering the increasing numbers of children now presenting with ASN and how the overall education estate manages this increase, of consideration is the delivery of a new dedicated and bespoke regional ASN facility to the standard of the new Community Hubs but dedicated to ASN education. A feasibility study on the size and scale of such a facility is now being progressed, following approval at the recent Education, Children and Families Committee.
- 2.60 A purpose-built ASN school would deliver highly specialised, needs-led education within a bespoke hub designed to promote learning, wellbeing, family engagement, partnership working, and inclusion. This approach aligns with *The Plan for North Lanarkshire* and the approved operating and leadership model. Such provision enables appropriately sized classes, access to specialist facilities, sensory and therapeutic spaces, and the flexibility required to meet a wide range of complex needs. Embedding health and partner services within the setting enhances coordination, supports early intervention, ensures continuity of care, and drives improved outcomes for pupils, all of which embodies the wider principle of "Whole Family Support".
- 2.61 The absence of sufficient local ASN provision increases the likelihood of parents seeking placements outwith the authority or within independent settings. Where it can be demonstrated that appropriate local provision is not available, the Council is at increased risk of unsuccessful outcomes at ASN tribunals.
- 2.62 A dedicated ASN school strengthens the Council's position by evidencing the

availability of high-quality, needs appropriate provision within North Lanarkshire. This reduces the risk of successful placing requests to independent or out of area schools, limits financial exposure, and supports the Council in evidencing compliance with its statutory duties under additional support needs legislation.

- 2.63 The dedication of our employees engaged in ASN provision must also be recognised. Daily, they deliver a level of care and education which although rewarding, can be exceptionally demanding, and it is important that we provide them with the best possible environment in which to provide this support.
- 2.64 The intention is for a feasibility study / business case to be undertaken to determine whether the commitment to the establishment of a dedicated ASN facility will address the risks detailed above, deliver the anticipated revenue cost reductions and operational efficiencies and, most importantly, improve the overall educational experience of our most vulnerable children.
- 2.65 Consequently, although the delivery of a mainstream education provision within the Ravenscraig site does not appear to be viable at this time, there are parallel workstreams still ongoing which will continue the regeneration of Ravenscraig and continue with the place making ambitions for this area.

Next steps

- 2.66 It is proposed that the next steps would be to agree the LUF (7.5 hectare) site is the correct location for the council to secure to meet both education and other related needs within this strategic area of land within North Lanarkshire.
- 2.67 It would therefore be recommended that the council commences the further site investigations detailed above as this will then inform the development options available at the site and the costs associated with remediation.
- 2.68 In the time taken to complete the site investigation, the Council should be in receipt of a decision from Historic Environment Scotland on the future of Motherwell Concert Hall, there will be an outcome on the feasibility study for a new ASN facility and there may be further clarification on housing development across the Ravenscraig site. Having all this information available will then allow the Council to be in a much more informed position on the best options for development across both sites, and a further report will be submitted to Committee outlining proposals on what future developments could continue the place making ambitions for Ravenscraig in line with the Council's overall Programme of Work.
3. It is also evident that, with a proposed change for the mainstream school location, another statutory education consultation would be required to allow the catchment areas to be adjusted. This would be the appropriate time to identify the optimal shape of the catchment areas, to ensure there is minimal impact on the existing surrounding schools.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 The creation of new schools, in a timely manner, in line with housing completions, demand and to ensure both existing and new schools have sufficient capacity and occupancy.
- 4.2 The continued successful delivery of the Council's place making ambitions across the Ravenscraig site.

5. Supporting documentation

- 5.1 Appendix A –
Graphical representation of the catchment boundaries, associated schools, and anticipated impact on each school within the local area.
- 5.2 Appendix B –
Graphic showing a version of the Ravenscraig masterplan, outlining the two sites (as discussed within this report).
- 5.3 Appendix C –
Core Fact data for the existing schools outlined within this report.



Andrew McPherson
Depute Chief Executive

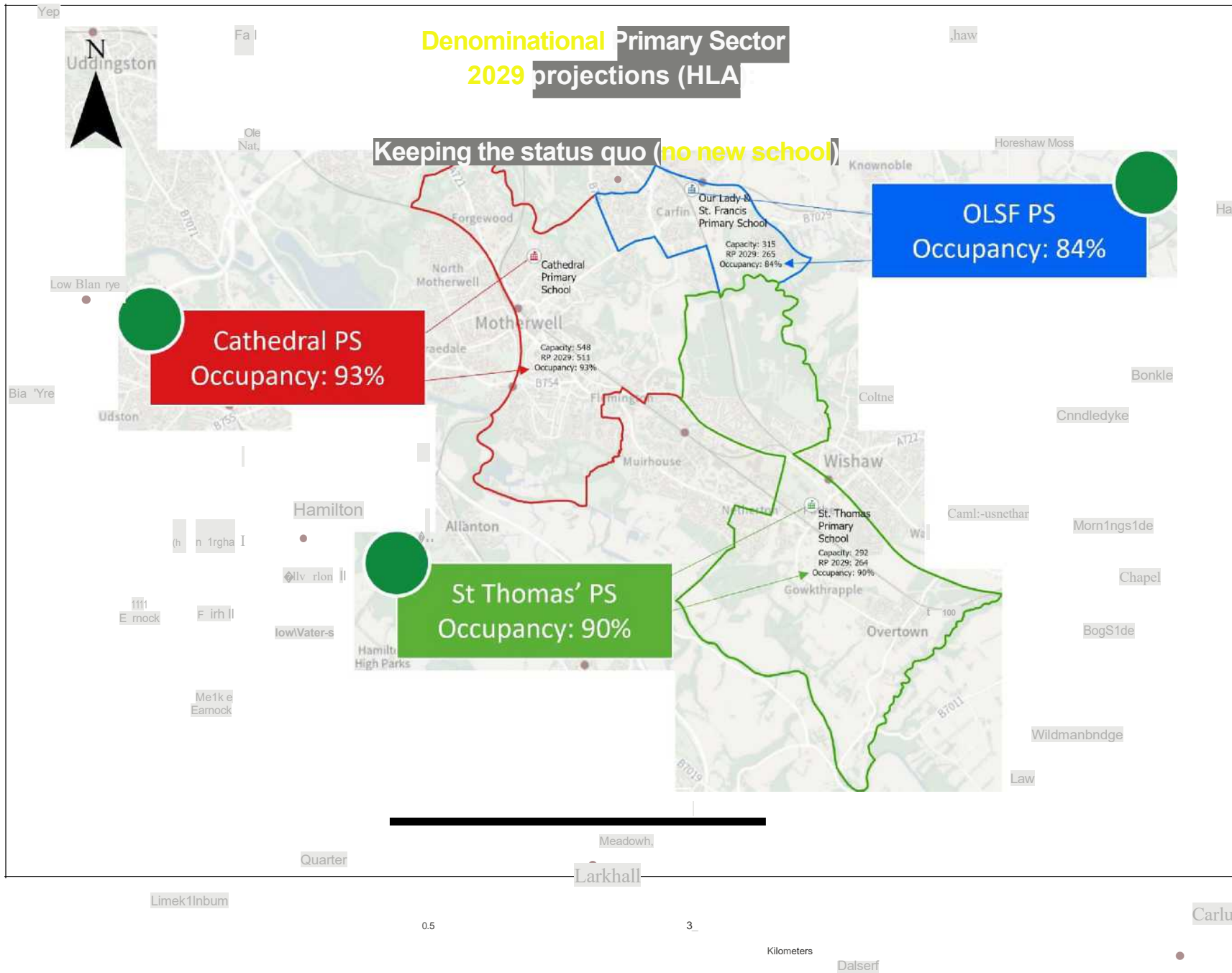
6. Impacts

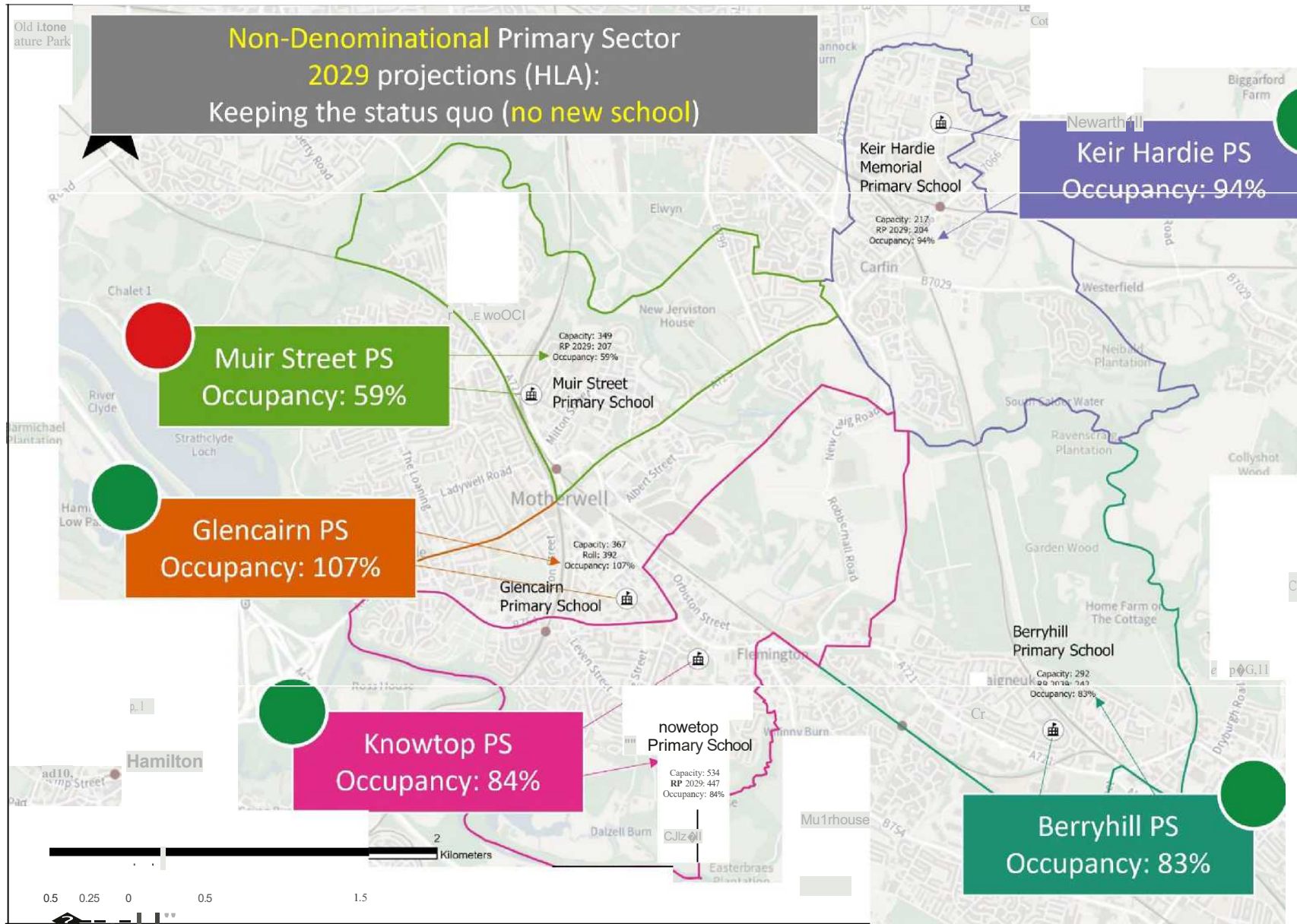
<p>5.1 Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's website? https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.2 Financial impact Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>There is capital funding allocated within the current five year plan which may need to be reallocated.</p>
<p>5.3 HR policy impact Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p>
<p>5.4 Legal impact Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>Statutory education consultations will be required as part of any proposals taken forward as a result of this report.</p>
<p>5.5 Data protection impact Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

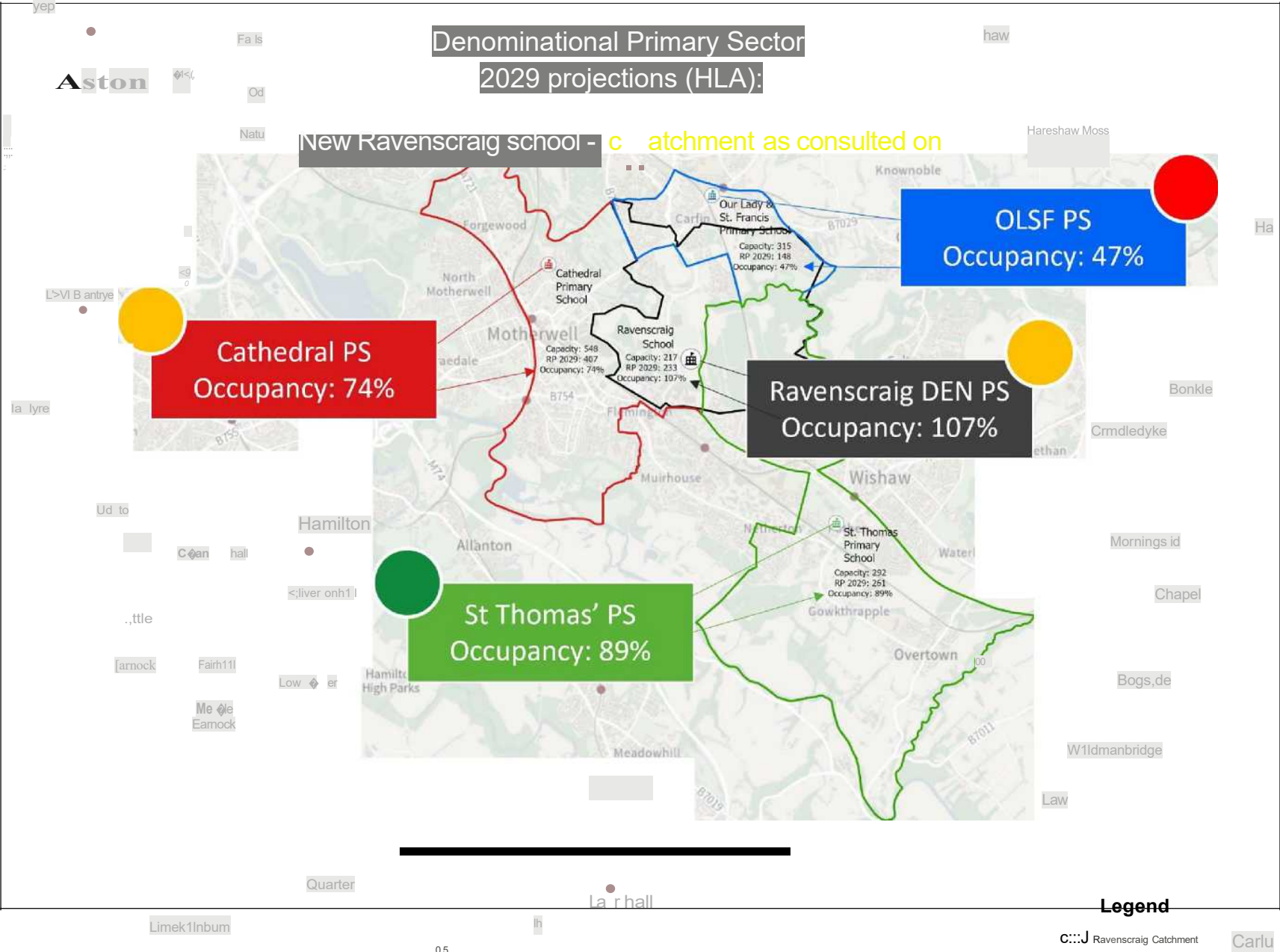
<p>5.6</p>	<p>Technology / Digital impact</p> <p>Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.7</p>	<p>Environmental / Carbon impact</p> <p>Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p>
<p>5.8</p>	<p>Communications impact</p> <p>Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>Potential comms around the proposed changes in site, and potential uses of the site for council facilities.</p>
<p>5.9</p>	<p>Risk impact</p> <p>Is there a risk impact?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed?</p>
<p>5.10</p>	<p>Armed Forces Covenant Duty</p> <p>Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the provision which has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the particular needs of the Armed Forces community to make sure that they do not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.</p>
<p>5.11</p>	<p>Children's rights and wellbeing impact</p> <p>Does the report contain any information regarding any council activity, service delivery, policy, or plan that has an impact on children and young people up to the age of 18, or on a specific group of these?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact and the provision that has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the relevant Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).</p> <p>If Yes, has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) been carried out?</p>

Yes

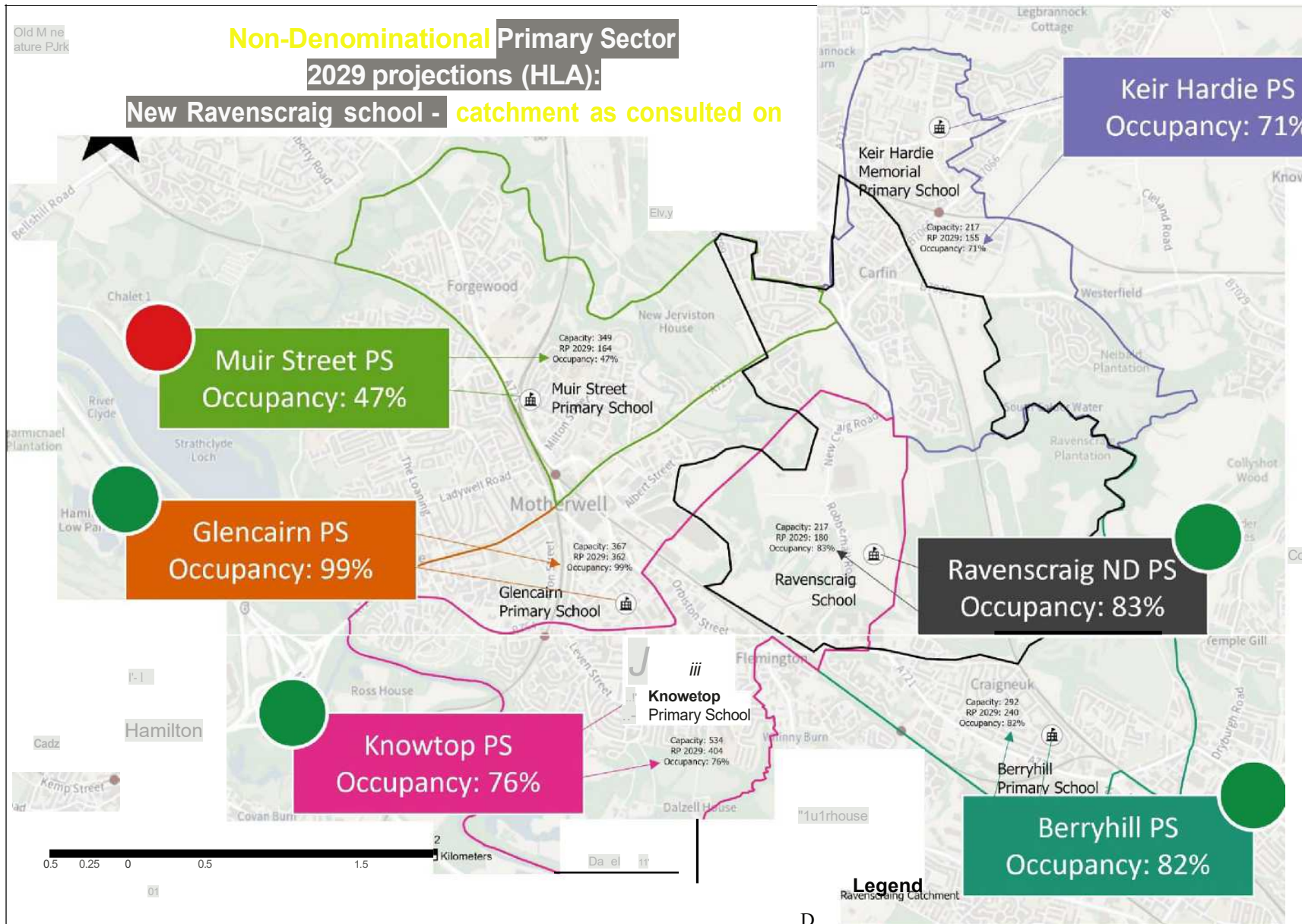
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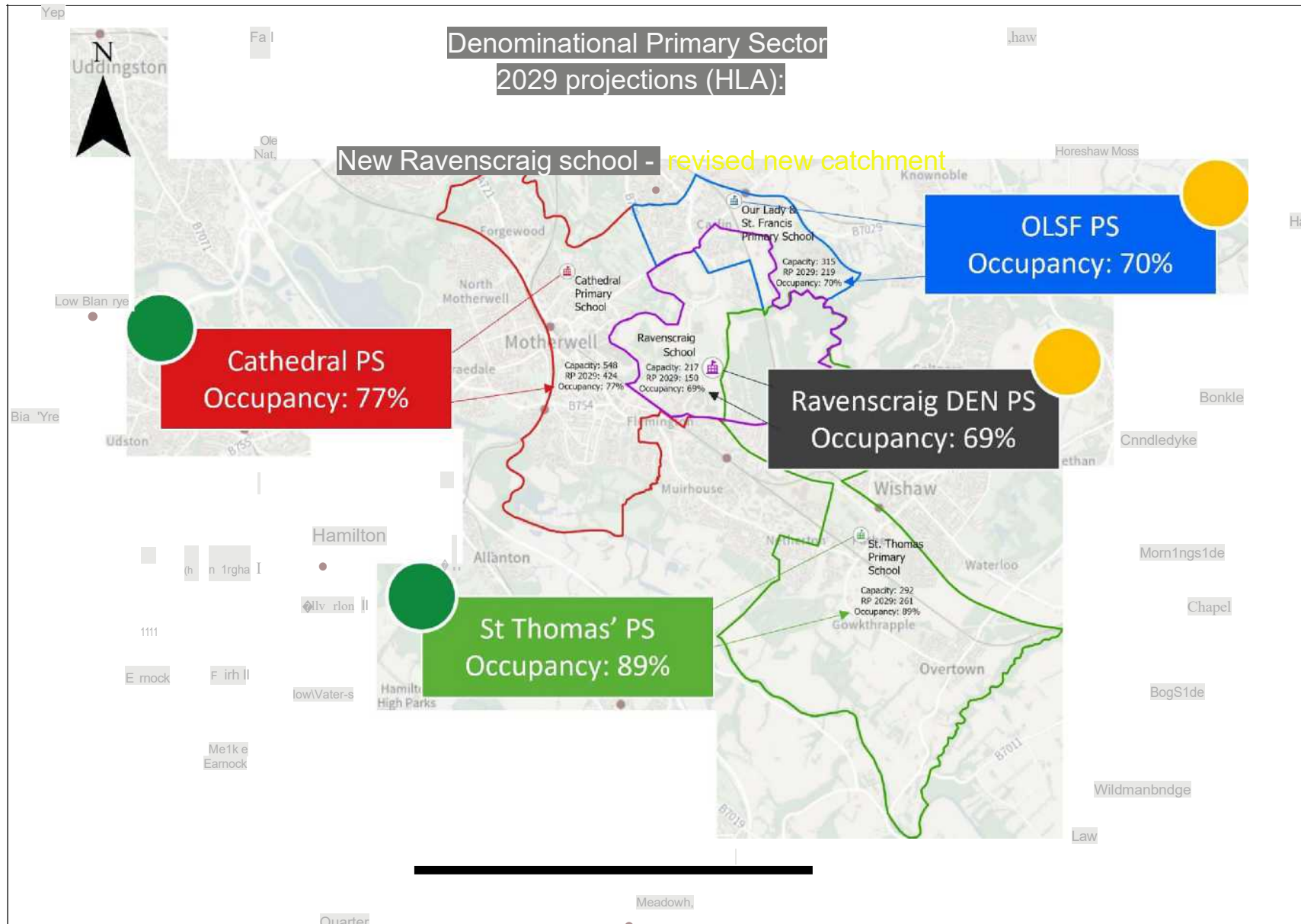






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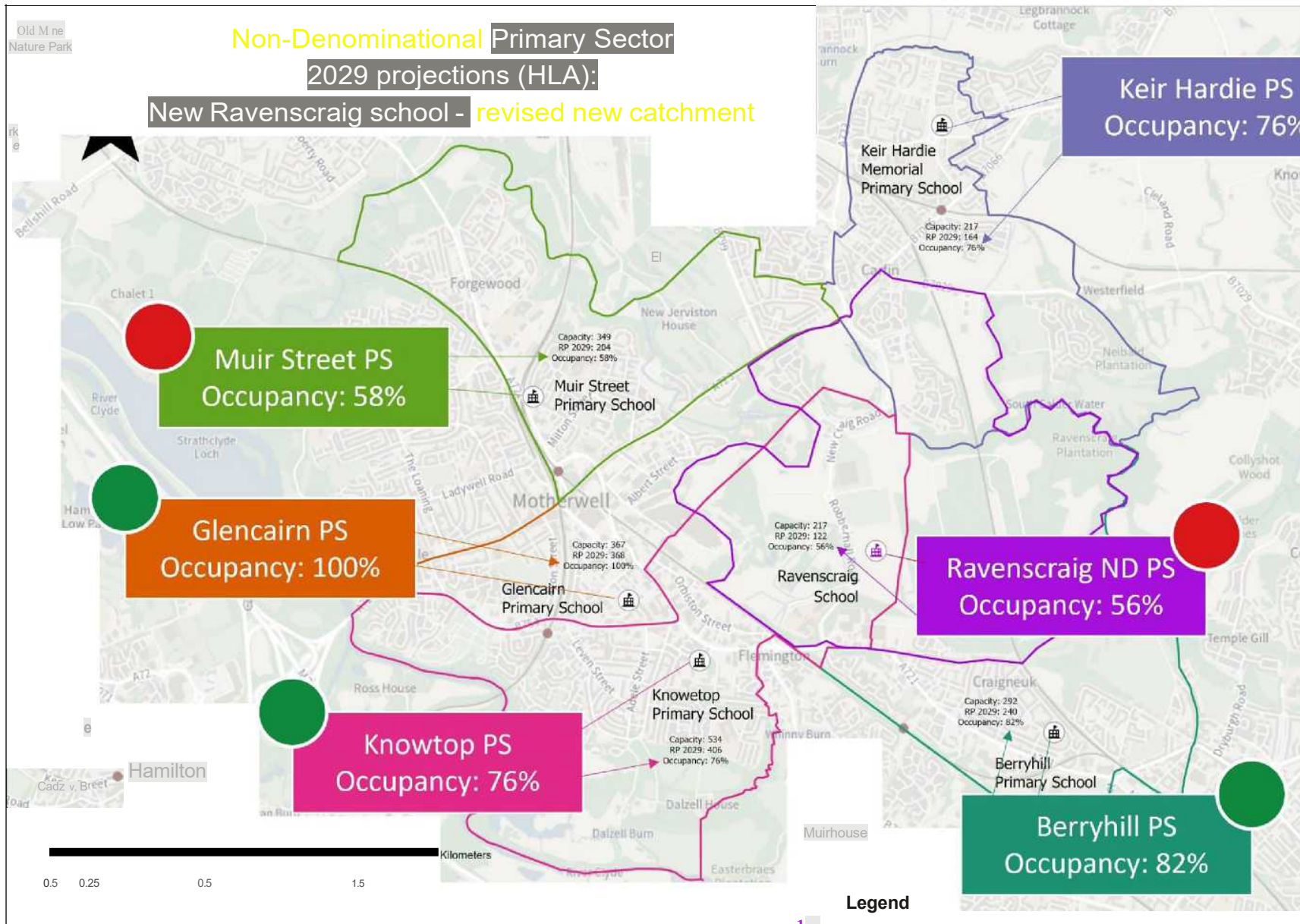
Legend

- - - Revised Ravenscraig Catchment

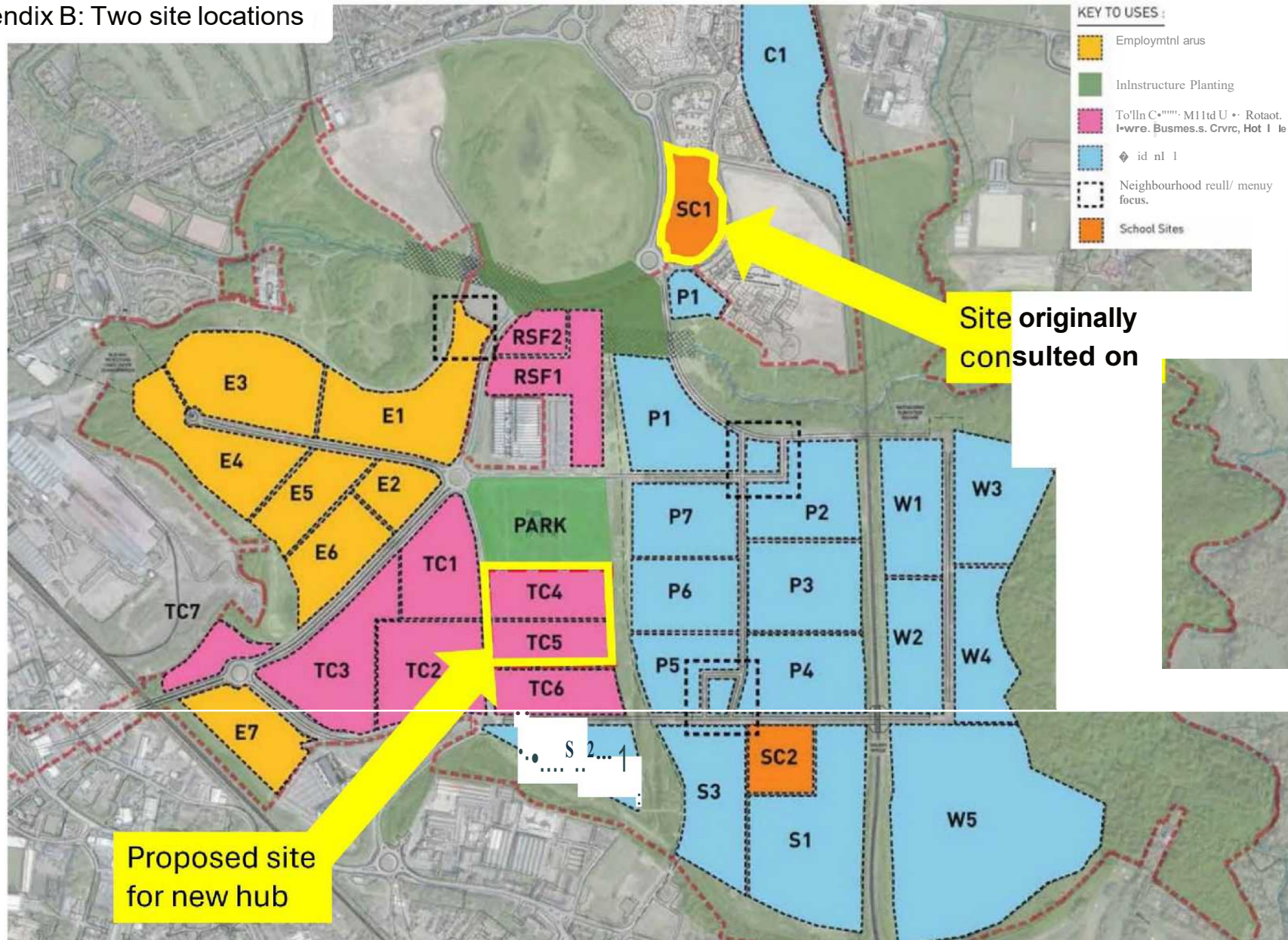
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Kilometers



Appendix B: Two site locations



Appendix C: Core Fact data for the eight existing schools in this local area

School name	Condition	Suitability	Pupil roll September 2024	Capacity	Capacity Percent
Keir Hardie Memorial Primary*	B	B	216	217	99.5
Muir Street Primary School	B	B	219	332	66
Glencairn Primary School*	B	C	355	367	96.7
Knowetop Primary School	B	C	487	534	91.2
Berryhill Primary School	C	B	228	317	71.9
Cathedral Primary School	A	A	522	548	95.3
Our Lady & St Francis Primary School*	B	B	302	315	95.9
St Thomas' Primary School	C	C	219	292	75

Core Fact Data is published by Scottish Government on an annual basis – with the table above extracted from the latest published data.

** Keir Hardie, Glencairn, and OLSF all have modular units, providing additional classrooms at these schools. These units are not included in the capacity figures, or capacity percentages outlined above. This is in line with the Scottish Government guidance for calculating capacity, where Local Authorities decide if temporary capacity is included or excluded from capacity returns. Due to the temporary nature of this type of capacity, North Lanarkshire Council does not include it for the returns at any of our schools. From an operational perspective, the spaces available for pupils at these schools equates to roughly 60 more pupil places at each school in addition to the number of spaces shown in the capacity figures for these three schools, within the table above. Therefore the “capacity percentage” from an operational perspective, is lower than shown.*