

Thurso Community PoD

Engagement Findings



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Prepared by streets-UK on behalf of The Highland Council

streets-uk





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Introduction

Background

The Highland Council's Highland Investment Plan (HIP) commits £2.1 billion of capital funding across the region over a 20-year period. The Point of Delivery (PoD) model is one of the primary mechanisms through which this investment is being directed, with the planned establishment of Community PoDs, Office PoDs and Depot PoDs. Community PoDs bring together education, community facilities, and public services within shared, purpose-built locations, improving accessibility and supporting sustainable community development across Highland communities. An initial phase of seven Community PoDs is being delivered across the Highland region by the Highland Council in partnership with hub North Scotland Ltd, their chosen delivery partner for the HIP.

Thurso Community Point of Delivery

Thurso is among the first communities to progress to active pre-design engagement. The Thurso Community PoD is a £100 million investment, one of the most significant commitments to public infrastructure in the Highlands in recent decades. Thurso is the largest town in Caithness (population approximately 7,500) and serves a substantial hinterland area across the wider county. Thurso High School is the focal point of secondary education for the town and its wider West Caithness catchment, and is the central element of the proposed development. The existing building, which was constructed in the 1950s, has faced ongoing maintenance challenges, and the Community PoD represents an opportunity to replace and significantly enhance provision for pupils and the wider community. The University of the Highlands and Islands North, West and Hebrides campus in Thurso maintains close links with the school, and the development offers an opportunity to build on these connections for the benefit of pupils, adult learners, and the community as a whole.



Purpose of This Report



This report presents the findings of the pre-design community consultation undertaken by streets-UK on behalf of Highland Council. The purpose of the consultation was to feed into the place-based approach and gather community views on the priorities, aspirations and concerns that should inform the development of the Thurso Community PoD moving into the design stage and before key decisions about its configuration are made. The findings will inform the development brief, shape subsequent engagement activity, and demonstrate that

the proposal has been grounded in genuine community engagement from the outset.



Summary of Findings

Demographic Profile of Respondents

The survey collected demographic information across six categories: age, gender, disability status, caring responsibilities, transport mode, and postcode. This enables analysis of how responses vary across different groups within the community and helps identify where particular needs or perspectives may require additional attention in future engagement phases.

The demographic profile of the 549 respondents is summarised below.

Age

The age profile of respondents is notably skewed toward younger age groups, with under-18s accounting for 189 responses: 34% of the total base. This is an unusually high proportion and the active participation from school-age pupils is perhaps reflective of the engagement activity undertaken with the High School as part of the consultation programme and the high levels of interest from parents, carers and teaching staff. The remaining age groups are broadly represented, with the 35-44 (n=98) and 45-54 (n=91) cohorts providing the largest adult contributions. 22 respondents did not state an age.

Age Group	n	%
Under 18	189	34%
18-24	28	5%
25-34	59	11%
35-44	98	18%
45-54	91	17%
55-64	26	5%
65 and older	40	7%
Not stated	22	4%

The high proportion of under-18 respondents is acknowledged throughout this report where it has a material bearing on the findings. In several questions, the removal or separation of this cohort reveals meaningful differences in how adults and younger people have responded, and these are highlighted in the relevant sections.

Gender

Women account for the largest share of respondents at 301 (55%), with men comprising 206 (38%). Five respondents identified as non-binary, and 17 selected "Prefer not to say"; these two groups have been combined in the analysis as "Other / Prefer not to say" (n=22) to protect respondent anonymity. 24 respondents did not state a gender.

Disability Status

449 respondents (82%) indicated that they do not have a disability. 42 respondents (8%) indicated that they do, and 37 (7%) preferred not to say. 25 respondents did not provide a response to this question. Where disability status produces notable variation in findings, this is discussed in the relevant section.

Caring Responsibilities

315 respondents (57%) identified as parents, making this by far the most prevalent caring role within the dataset. A further 26 respondents identified as kinship carers, guardians, legal custodians, or foster carers. 212 respondents did not indicate a caring responsibility. Given that the Community PoD proposal includes significant education provision, it is unsurprising that parents represent a majority of respondents.

Transport Mode

322 respondents (59%) identified as car owners. 102 respondents (19%) travel primarily on foot, 65 (12%) rely on public transport, and 18 (3%) use community transport. Cycling and motorcycle/scooter users represent very small numbers (6 and 2 respectively) and are noted where relevant but should be treated with caution given the small sample sizes.

Postcode

359 respondents (65%) provided a KW14 postcode, placing them within Thurso itself. 40 respondents (7%) gave other KW postcodes, representing the wider Caithness area. One respondent provided an IV4 postcode, which falls outwith the Caithness area entirely; this response is included in the full dataset for completeness but is excluded from postcode-specific narrative analysis. 146 respondents did not provide a postcode. The strong representation from KW14 respondents provides confidence that the findings primarily reflect the views of Thurso residents, while the Caithness-wide responses offer some additional context regarding wider area interest in the development.

Principal Findings

The consultation reveals a community that sees the Thurso Community PoD as significantly more than a replacement school. Across all twelve questions, respondents consistently articulate a vision of the development as a civic asset serving the whole community across education, sport, leisure, health, arts, and social provision.

Sport and leisure is the most selected service in Q1, chosen by 76% of respondents, narrowly ahead of education at 71%. This finding should be read in the context of the age profile: under-18s, who represent 34% of the base, selected education at a lower rate (57%) than adults (84-90%). When the under-18 cohort is removed, education rises above sport and leisure. Both findings reflect genuine community priorities.

Quality of education is the overwhelming priority when respondents consider education provision specifically. In Q7, 66% of respondents ranked it first, and 89% placed it in their top three, far ahead of any other factor. This consensus is the strongest single finding in the survey.

Specific and well-grounded facility gaps are identified throughout the open-text questions. The loss of the games hall to oil contamination is a recurring reference point. The most consistently requested facilities are: a multi-purpose indoor games hall capable of accommodating multiple clubs simultaneously; all-weather outdoor pitches including a dedicated hockey surface; a



gymnastics and dance studio with a sprung floor; a 400-metre athletics track; accessible, affordable hire rates for community clubs; a 25-metre swimming pool, although many comments also want existing facilities, including the swimming pool, to remain unaffected by the development proposals

The absence of a civic performance and community venue is one of the most consistent themes across Q2, Q4, Q10, Q11, and Q12. Arts, culture and performance was the most cited "other" service in Q2 (27%), and remained a persistent theme in Q10 (7%) and Q11 (10%), where respondents were asked to identify additional uses. Thurso has no town hall equivalent. Respondents call for a large-capacity performance space with a proper stage capable of hosting concerts, pantomimes, and public events, alongside smaller bookable rooms for community groups. The Wick High School hall is cited repeatedly as a specific design failure to avoid, with one respondent calling for seating for at least 400 people.

Additional Support Needs (ASN), neurodiversity and disability emerges as the most significant cross-cutting theme in the open-text questions, appearing across Q2, Q3, Q4, Q9, Q10, and Q11. In Q10, respondents with a disability cited ASN concerns at 50%, more than double the rate of non-disabled respondents (18%), and ASN was the third most cited category overall at 20%. Respondents provide technically specific design requirements including sensory rooms, Changing Places facilities, appropriate acoustics, and careful consideration of ASN department placement within the campus.

The UHI linkage attracts genuine enthusiasm and principled concern in roughly equal measure. The three leading Q8 benefit categories, smooth transition, wider curriculum access, and encouraging further education, are almost exactly level at 27% each. The three leading Q9 concerns, campus size and overcrowding (31%), intimidation and negative influence (16%), and developmental and pedagogical concerns (16%), are specific and grounded rather than reflexively negative. Safeguarding, particularly around PVG requirements for adult learners on a shared campus, is a design consideration raised consistently.

Process and communication is the single most cited category in Q10 (32%), Q11 (8%), and Q12 (35%), and has appeared as a thread from Q2 onwards. A significant proportion of respondents express concern about whether the development process will be transparent, whether community feedback will genuinely shape decisions, and whether the Council will deliver on its commitments. The Wick development is referenced repeatedly as a benchmark, with respondents identifying specific aspects they do not wish to see repeated in Thurso.

Accessibility and affordability is raised across multiple questions as a cross-cutting concern, cited by 16% of respondents in Q3 alone despite not being a prompted option. Respondents emphasise that facilities which are unaffordable, poorly located, or inaccessible by public transport will not serve the community equitably, and several note that campus consolidation could disadvantage older residents, those without cars, and those on lower incomes.



Consultation

Overview

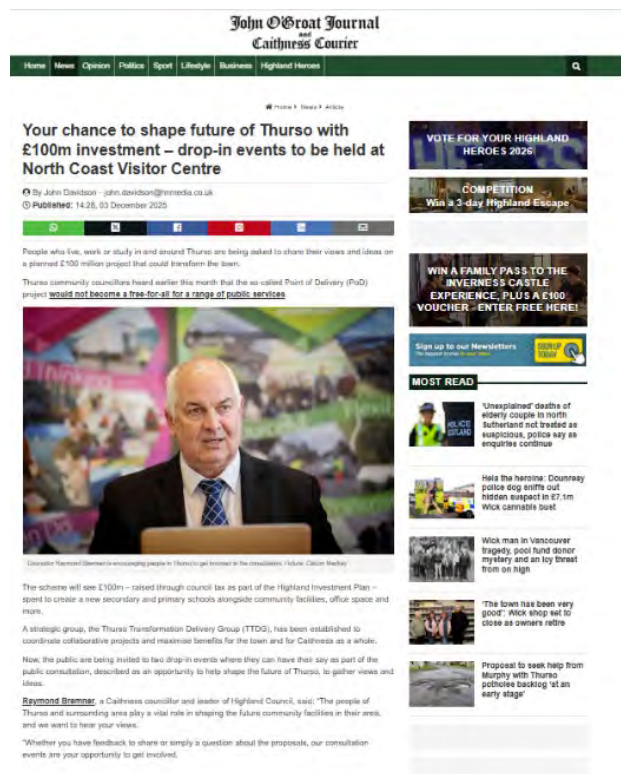
A programme of consultation and engagement activities was undertaken during December 2025 and January 2026 by The Highland Council, supported by streets-UK, to gather feedback from residents, stakeholders and local organisations regarding the proposed Community Point of Delivery (PoD) in Thurso. These activities build on a series of Highland Council-led workshops with partners and stakeholders undertaken in late 2024 and early 2025.

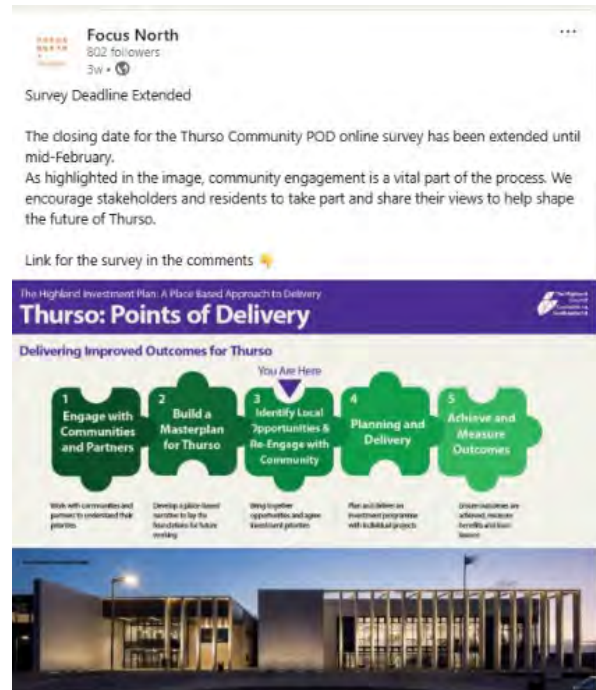
The engagement process combined in-person and digital consultation methods in order to reach a broad cross-section of the community. This included public drop-in events, engagement with the local high school and an online survey that allowed residents to provide structured feedback and open comments. Together, these methods formed an important part of the place-making approach priority of gathering community views as part of RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) design stages 0-1. This will enable The Highland Council and their design team to better understand community priorities, identify potential concerns, and gather ideas for the next design phase of the Community PoD.

Media and Promotion

The consultation was promoted through a range of channels to maximise awareness and participation across Thurso and the wider Caithness area. Promotional activity included:

- Social media posts via Highland Council, Focus North, Thurso Community Development Trust, and the Community PoD Focus Group Facebook pages
- Coverage in the local press, including the John O'Groat Journal and Caithness Courier, following Highland Council press releases
- Physical posters displayed at locations across Thurso, including Tesco, Co-op, the schools, Thurso Service Point, the library, the swimming pool, Thurso Development Trust offices, and Dounreay site





All consultation materials were also made available on the Highland Council website at <http://www.highland.gov.uk/thursopod> ensuring that residents unable to attend in-person events could still access information and participate.

Public Drop-In Events



Two public drop-in events were held at the Gallery Room, North Coast Visitor Centre, Thurso on 9 and 10 December 2025. The events were attended by over 150 members of the public.

Attendees were able to review consultation boards, speak directly with representatives from Highland Council and the project team, ask questions about the proposals, and receive information about how to participate in the online survey.

Consultation Materials

A suite of consultation materials was developed to support both the in-person events and the online engagement process. These materials were designed to present information in an accessible format, to encourage discussion and questions, and to ensure that residents could engage meaningfully with the proposals regardless of their prior familiarity with the Community PoD concept.

The materials included a series of consultation presentation boards, which were displayed at the public drop-in events and made available online.



The boards covered the following topics:

- The Highland Investment Plan and the wider programme of investment across the region
- The concept of Community Points of Delivery and the rationale for the model
- The proposal to replace Thurso High School
- Opportunities to integrate education, community facilities, and public services within a shared campus
- Potential links with UHI North, West and Hebrides
- Opportunities for sport, leisure, and community facilities within the development
- The consultation process and how residents could provide feedback

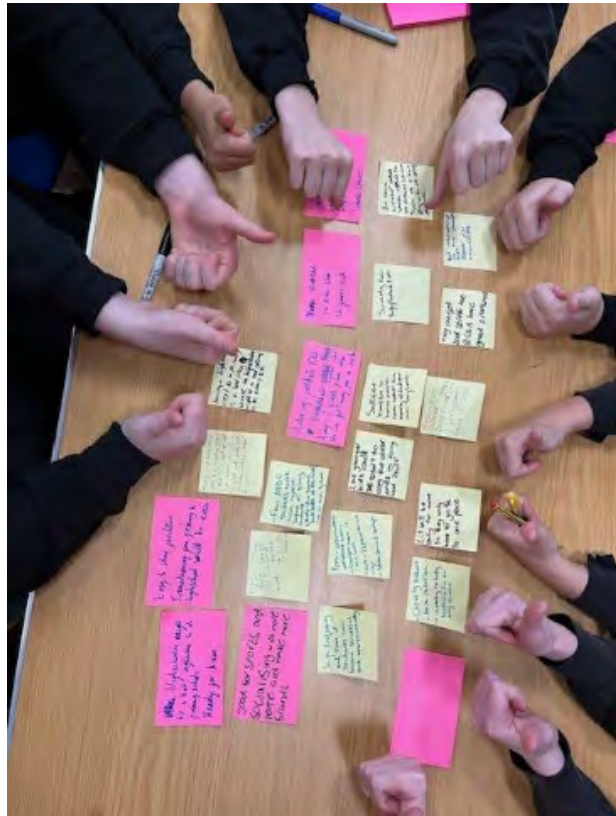


All consultation materials were made available on the Highland Council website alongside the online survey, ensuring that residents who were unable to attend the in-person events could still access the information and participate in the consultation. The materials are included in **Appendix 1**.

School Engagement

Engagement with local schools formed a significant component of the consultation programme and is directly reflected in the survey response base. Around 50 S1 and S6 Thurso High School students took part in workshops on 10th December, facilitated by streets-UK. These interactive discussions not only encouraged the pupils to share their personal preferences for a Community PoD but to also consider, by using personas, what other pupils with different needs might appreciate. Ideas included climbing walls, trampolines, quiet spaces, music rooms and a better library.

Pupils were also asked for their thoughts on the pros and cons of a new primary school being on the same campus as the secondary school. The majority had a balanced view, recognising the pros of bigger and better facilities, simplified travel arrangements and easier transition to secondary school along with potential cons of younger pupils being intimidated, embarrassed or negatively influenced by being in shared areas with older pupils.



Pupils were also given the opportunity to participate in the online survey as part of structured school engagement activity. Highland Council's Estates team used the Area Quality Improvement Managers (AQIM) school management system to coordinate direct engagement with Thurso High School, which generated a substantial uplift in responses, with approximately 100 responses received in a single morning following targeted outreach. The under-18 cohort accounts for 34.4% of all valid survey responses (n=189 of 549), reflecting the importance placed on capturing the views of young people who are among those most directly affected by the development's outcomes.

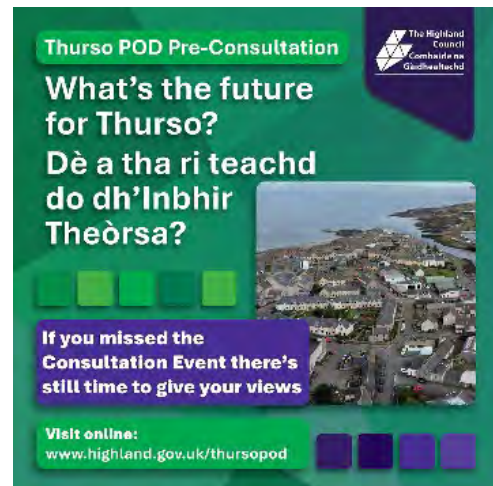




Online Survey and Information

In addition to the in-person events, information about the proposed development was made available online through the Highland Council website. The website provided background information about the project, details about the consultation process, and access to the online survey, ensuring that individuals who were unable to attend the drop-in events could still participate fully.

The online survey was open to all members of the public and structured to be accessible to a wide age range, including younger respondents engaging through school settings. The survey comprised twelve questions covering services that could be included within the Community PoD. Respondents were also able to leave feedback and make suggestions about the proposals.



Social Media Discourse

There has been a lot of active discussion online around the options for the Community PoD, both in the run-up to the consultation period and during it. The most prominent discussion forum has been the group set up in September 2025 on Meta (Facebook) called PoDs Focus Group. The Group aims to share as much information on the PoDs as possible, encourage the sharing of views and opinions, and to try and act as a 'bridge' between the Thurso Transformation Delivery Group and the wider community.

Issues of concern that have been raised include:

- Future use of (and funding for) redundant buildings
- Traffic management with one campus
- Integration and well-being issues with one primary/secondary campus
- Need for additional cycling infrastructure at expense of road space
- Lessons to be learnt from previous education/community developments, particularly Wick

Opportunities identified and potential uses within the Community PoD include:

- 400m athletic track
- All weather and/or indoor pitches
- Dance studios
- Skate and pump park
- Games hall for school and community use with lock-up facilities for clubs and toilet/changing facilities
- Netball
- Badminton
- Better support for Additional Support Needs education and sport
- Employment opportunities during build and operational phases
- District heating
- Linking up transport with workers village site
- Community transport opportunities



Survey and Methodology

Survey Design and Purpose

The consultation survey was the primary evidence-gathering tool for the Thurso Community PoD engagement programme, comprising twelve substantive questions covering:

- Services and facilities to be accommodated within the Community PoD (Q1, Q2)
- Priorities for sport, leisure, wellbeing and social provision (Q3, Q4)
- Views on education campus configurations and the factors informing those views (Q5, Q6, Q7)
- Perceived benefits and disadvantages of strengthening links with UHI North, West and Hebrides (Q8, Q9)
- Additional services, uses, and wider comments (Q10, Q11, Q12)

Questions were a mix of multi-select, single-select, ranking, and open-ended formats. Closed questions allow consistent quantitative comparison across the dataset; open-text responses allow respondents to articulate reasoning, nuance, and specific concerns that structured options cannot fully capture.

Response Base and Data Cleaning

The survey received 549 submissions. Response rates vary slightly by question, and the base figure (n) for each question is stated within the analysis where relevant. Percentages are calculated against the number of respondents who answered each individual question, not the total survey base, unless otherwise stated. For multi-select questions, percentages reflect the proportion selecting each option and will therefore sum to more than 100%.

Open-text responses were reviewed in full and coded thematically. Responses consisting solely of non-substantive content were excluded from thematic analysis, though they remain part of the response count. The volume of substantive open-text engagement was high throughout, indicating that respondents were motivated to share their views in detail.

Analytical Approach

The analysis combines quantitative and qualitative methods. For closed questions, headline percentages and counts are presented alongside demographic breakdowns, with small subgroups (typically n=10 or fewer) flagged and treated with appropriate caution. For open-text questions, responses were grouped thematically and discussed in order of prominence, with attention to tensions or contradictions within the response set. Selected verbatim quotes are included to ground the analysis in respondents' own words. Where findings across questions connect or complicate one another, these links are noted explicitly to present the dataset as a coherent whole.

The sections that follow present the findings for each survey question in turn; All open question responses are included in Appendix 2 and full response tables are provided in **Appendix 3**.



Survey Responses – Q1

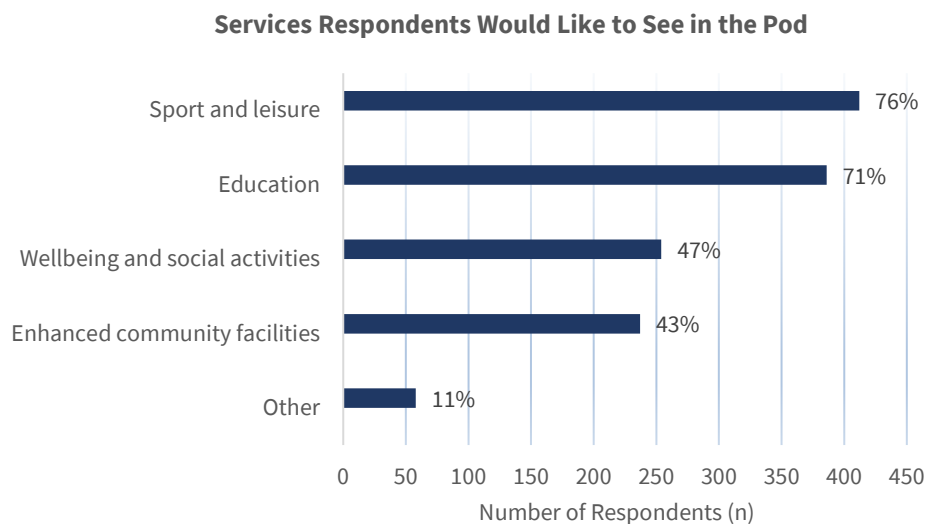
Q1 – What services would you like to see accommodated in your Community PoD?

Overview

The opening question asked respondents to identify which services they would like to see accommodated within the proposed Community PoD. It was a multi-select question, meaning respondents could choose as many options as applied to them. Four options were presented: sport and leisure; education; wellbeing and social activities; and enhanced community facilities. A fifth "other" option allowed respondents to specify services not covered by the core choices. That free text is analysed separately under Q2.

Headline Findings

546 respondents answered this question (n=546); 3 are excluded as they left it blank. As this was a multi-select question, percentages add up to more than 100%.



Sport and leisure was the most selected category at 76%, narrowly ahead of education at 71%. Wellbeing and social activities (47%) and enhanced community facilities (43%) were closely matched at roughly four in ten respondents each.

The age profile of the response base is relevant to interpreting the headline education figure. Under-18s, who account for 34% of all respondents, selected education at a notably lower rate than adult respondents (57% versus 84-90% across older age groups). If the under-18 cohort is excluded, education rises above sport and leisure as the top-ranked category. This does not diminish the sport and leisure finding but provides important context for how the headline figures should be read.



Demographic Breakdown

Age

Support for enhanced community facilities shows a notable age gradient, rising from 21% among under-18s to 65% among 45-54 year olds, suggesting that interest in the Community PoD as a broader civic asset increases with age. A similar pattern is visible for wellbeing and social activities.

Gender

Gender differences are modest. Men selected sport and leisure at a slightly higher rate than women (80% versus 75%), while women selected wellbeing and social activities at a higher rate (51% versus 42%).

Disability

Respondents with a disability selected sport and leisure at a lower rate than non-disabled respondents (60% versus 78%), while selecting wellbeing and social activities at a higher rate (57% versus 47%). The implications for accessible sport and leisure provision are discussed further under Q3.

Caring Responsibilities

Parents (n=314) selected education at 76%, notably above the 63% recorded for respondents with no stated caring responsibility, reflecting their direct stake in the education component of the Community PoD.



Survey Responses – Q2

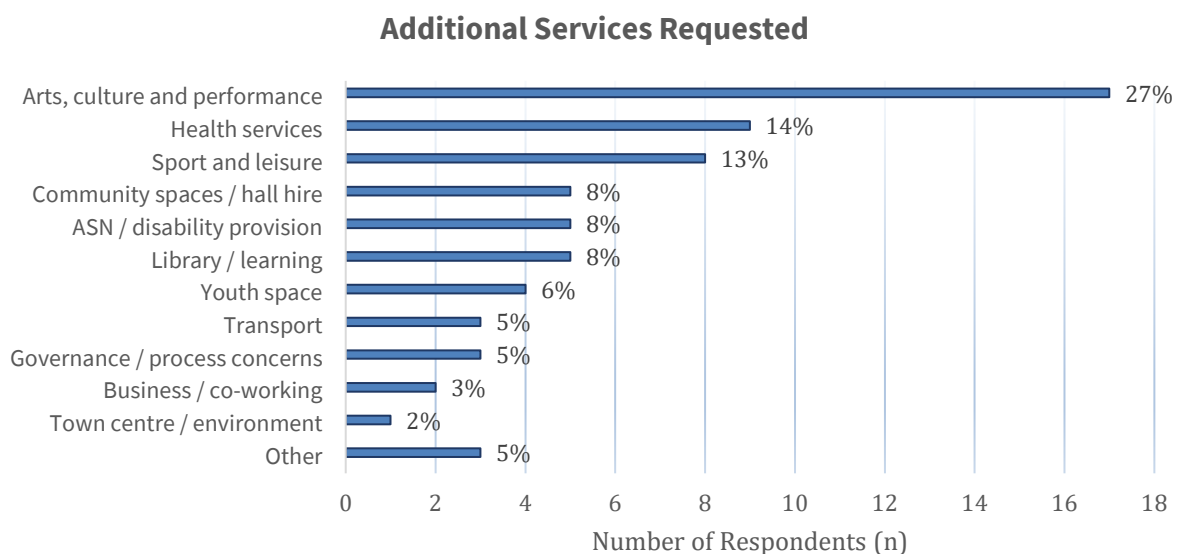
Q2 – If you selected 'other' in Q1, please provide more information

Overview

Q2 invited the 58 respondents who selected "other" in Q1 to specify what additional services they would like to see in the Community PoD. 63 substantive responses were received, with some respondents referencing more than one theme. While the volume is small relative to the full survey base, several themes recur in later open-text questions and are noted here accordingly.

Headline Findings

As this is a multi-select question, percentages add up to more than 100%.



Thematic Analysis

Arts, culture and performance

The most prominent theme is arts, culture and performance, cited by 27% of the 63 respondents. Responses reference theatres, concert venues, dedicated performance and rehearsal spaces, and the continued ability to host local theatre groups. Several responses suggest that existing cultural infrastructure in Thurso is inadequate and that the Community PoD represents an opportunity to address this gap. This theme recurs in later open-text questions.

“Thurso needs a good venue for Music and the arts. A large and medium venue would be ideal”

Health services

Health services (14%) represent the second most cited category. Responses range from general health clinics and GP provision to more specific requests for a minor injuries unit and children's health services, with one respondent placed particular emphasis on “*Children’s services – Health visitors, school nursing and allied health professionals*”. The geography of healthcare provision in Caithness, with significant distances to secondary care and limited specialist provision locally, gives this theme a particular local relevance.

Additional sport and leisure

Eight respondents used the “*other*” field to specify sport and leisure requests not captured by the general Q1 category, including swimming pools, squash courts, skateparks, and outdoor all-weather pitches. One respondent captured this directly, noting they would like “*a community skatepark for all to use*”. These responses are consistent with what emerges more fully in Q3.

ASN and disability provision

Five respondents specifically requested enhanced provision for people with additional support needs and for adults with learning or physical disabilities, calling for dedicated spaces and specialist environments. ASN provision is a theme that appears across multiple open questions and represents a consistent community expectation that the Community PoD will serve those with specialist needs alongside mainstream users.

Library, learning and community spaces

Library provision and community hall hire are both cited by five respondents. These responses reflect a concern that existing civic functions, including meeting spaces and accessible learning resources, should be retained and not lost in the transition to a new campus model.

Youth space

Four respondents raised the need for a dedicated youth social space distinct from formal sport or education provision, describing a hangout or informal environment for young people within the Community PoD.

“A space for young people to go”

Governance and process concerns

Three respondents used the “*other*” field to raise concerns about communication and transparency, including requests for clearer information about what is being planned and how the community will be kept informed as the project progresses.

Demographic Notes

Given the small base (n=63), demographic observations should be treated with caution. Arts, culture and performance requests were most concentrated among older respondents, while sport and leisure dominated “*other*” responses among under-18s, consistent with the Q1 findings. Health services and ASN provision were more commonly cited by women than men.

Survey Responses – Q3

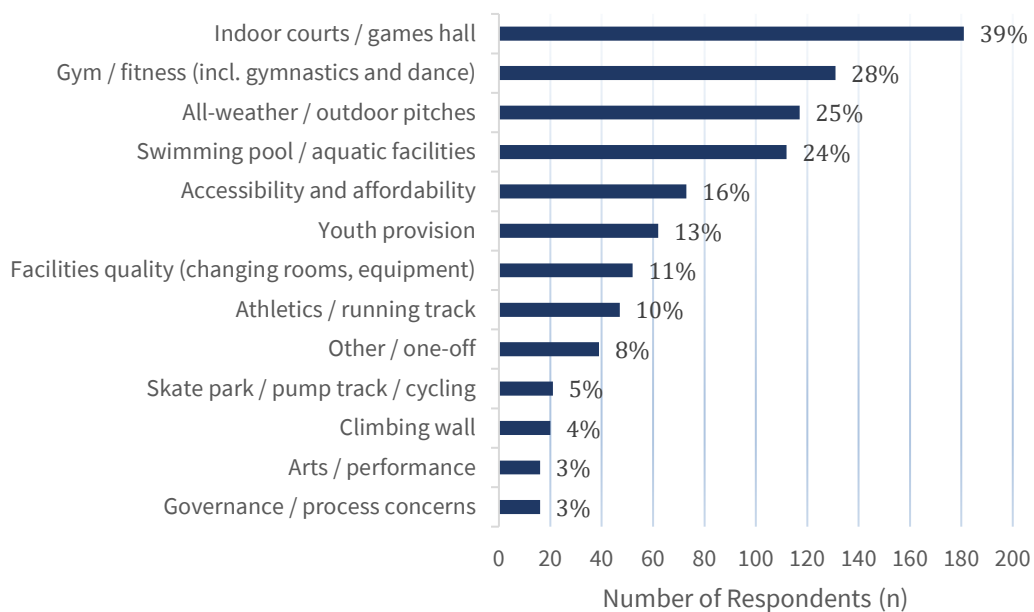
Q3 – To help us understand how the PoD can best serve the community, what are your top priorities for sport and leisure facilities?

Overview

Q3 was the first open-text question in the survey and generated one of the largest response volumes in the dataset. 463 substantive responses were received from a base of 471 respondents, with 8 excluded as non-substantive. Respondents were asked to describe their top priorities for sport and leisure facilities in their own words. Responses were coded into thirteen thematic categories and are presented in order of frequency. The themes here connect directly to Q1, where sport and leisure was the most selected service category, and several themes recur in later open-text questions.

Headline Findings

Top Priorities for Sport and Leisure Facilities



Thematic Analysis

Indoor courts and games hall

The most cited priority at 39% is indoor court and games hall space, encompassing multi-purpose halls capable of accommodating badminton, netball, basketball, volleyball, football, and gymnastics. Respondents consistently describe difficulty accessing bookable indoor space, with existing provision described as expensive, poor quality, and oversubscribed. The demand for



parallel use is a recurring theme, with respondents calling for space large enough for multiple clubs to hire simultaneously.

“An 8 badminton court space (which can be split in two) would be ideal to keep the community active after school time so more than one club can hire at once. Indoor football/rugby space is much needed for winter training”

Gym, fitness, gymnastics and dance

At 28%, this category covers general fitness provision but the responses reveal a more specific concern: the future of gymnastics in Thurso. Caithness Gymnastics Club is referenced repeatedly, with respondents noting that the club depends on high school gym space and that no alternative venue of sufficient size exists locally. The absence of a sprung floor is a specific and recurring complaint, with respondents noting that gymnasts from Thurso compete at events where sprung floors are standard. Dance is raised alongside gymnastics, with both disciplines requiring appropriate flooring and dedicated studio space. General fitness provision including extended opening hours for shift workers also features prominently.

All-weather and outdoor pitches

25% of respondents cite all-weather outdoor pitch provision. Football and rugby dominate, though hockey features with notable consistency, with several respondents specifically advocating for a dedicated hockey pitch. A number of respondents express a preference that new provision should complement rather than replace the existing Naver pitch. The case for covered outdoor provision is made with reference to local conditions: *“Though the surface may be all weather often the wind is prohibitive and coaching kids outside in 1 degree with a wind is not going to encourage participation.”*

“We want a hockey pitch for our local club”

Swimming pool and aquatic facilities

Swimming pool provision is cited by 24% of respondents, but the responses on this topic are notably divided. A significant portion are not requests for new provision but objections to any proposal to move or replace the existing facility, which respondents describe as well-located and recently invested in. A separate group makes the case for a new or upgraded pool as part of the Community PoD, typically a 25-metre lane pool. This division is an important consideration for future planning and communications.

Accessibility and affordability

16% of respondents raise accessibility and affordability as a priority despite it not being prompted by the question. Affordability concerns focus on facility hire costs and session pricing, particularly for community sports clubs. Physical accessibility is raised separately, with requests for wheelchair-accessible facilities, adapted gym equipment, and a hydrotherapy pool.

“Indoor football pitches, gymnastics facilities that can remain in situ, large hall suitable for all types of dance classes available locally, all to be accessible to people with disabilities”



Youth provision

13% of respondents raise youth provision as a distinct priority, calling for facilities designed for and accessible to young people outside school hours and during holiday periods. This theme connects to the Q2 findings on dedicated youth space and to the skatepark and climbing wall requests below.

“Children's ability to train more than once a week, have more matches and to attract other teams north is hugely impacted by the lack of facilities.”

Facilities quality

11% of respondents raise the quality of supporting facilities, particularly changing rooms, showers, and storage. Changing rooms are described as insufficient for visiting teams and not fit for purpose. Storage is a recurring practical concern for sports clubs managing shared space.

Athletics and running track

10% of respondents request an athletics track and associated field event facilities, noting that there are currently no dedicated athletics facilities in north Highland. Respondents reference North Highland Harriers and draw comparisons with Orkney's Pickaquoy Centre, which can host competitive athletics events.

Skatepark, climbing wall, and niche provision

Skateparks and climbing walls are each cited by around 5% of respondents. Both represent facilities with no current equivalent in Thurso or wider Caithness. They appear disproportionately in younger respondents' answers and align with the youth provision theme. The climbing wall request is framed by several respondents as a facility that would serve the whole of Caithness, with the nearest equivalent in Kirkwall or Inverness.

“Our weather means we have to have indoor spaces - picture a centre where grannie can take grandchildren to soft play/climbing/bouldering whilst mum attends yoga or grabs coffee.”

Demographic Breakdown

Age

The demographic breakdown below covers the six most frequently cited categories, each selected by 10% or more of respondents. Categories below this threshold returned insufficient responses within individual age groups to support reliable comparison.

Indoor courts are the most cited priority across almost all age groups, peaking among working-age adults at 45-47%. Accessibility and affordability is notably more prominent among adults, rising from 4% among under-18s to around 20-31% across working-age groups, reflecting that cost is a more immediate concern for adults managing club fees and household finances.

Gender

Women cite gym and fitness at a higher rate than men (34% versus 22%) and swimming pool provision (27% versus 20%). Men are more likely to raise all-weather pitches (32% versus 22%) and skateparks (8% versus 2%).



Disability

Respondents with a disability cited indoor courts at a lower rate than non-disabled respondents (7% versus 44%), instead expressing a preference for swimming pool provision, which was cited at a higher rate among this group (32% versus 23%).

Survey Responses – Q4

Q4 – To help us understand how the PoD can best serve the community, what are your top priorities for wellbeing and social activities?

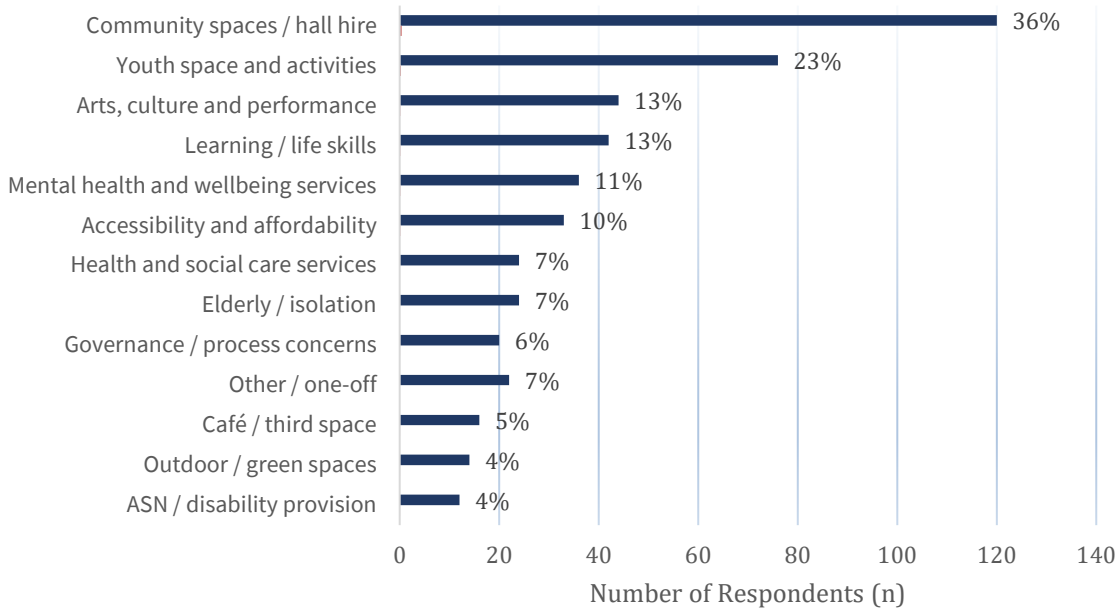
Overview

Q4 invited respondents to describe their top priorities for wellbeing and social activities within the Community PoD in open-text format. 336 substantive responses were received from a base of 391 respondents, with the remainder excluded as non-substantive. The themes that emerge are broader than those in Q3, extending from community spaces and mental health support through to arts provision, youth activities, and adult learning. Several responses use the question to make a wider point about what Thurso currently lacks in civic provision, with a number of themes recurring in later open-text questions.

Responses were coded into thirteen thematic categories, with multi-coded entries counted across more than one category.

Headline Findings

Top Priorities to support Wellbeing and Social Activities



Thematic Analysis

Community spaces and hall hire

The most cited priority at 36% is accessible community space: halls, meeting rooms, and hireable venues for local groups, clubs, and organisations. The volume and consistency of this theme reflects



a specific gap: the absence of a town hall or equivalent civic venue in Thurso. Requests range from large-capacity event spaces capable of hosting concerts and public gatherings to smaller bookable rooms for workshops and support groups. Cost is a recurring concern alongside availability. One respondent captures the broader point directly: *"Thurso has no town hall, little wonder the community has no heart."*

"Well sound-proofed rooms for quiet activities, yoga, Pilates, therapy spaces, meeting rooms"

Youth space and activities

23% of respondents prioritise provision for young people as a distinct social need, describing a gap in safe, welcoming, non-prescriptive space where teenagers can spend time outside school hours. Several respondents propose that young people should be involved in designing their own spaces: *"An after-school area where teenagers can go that is warm, fun and safe (young people can be involved in its development from early)."* The after-school childcare gap is also raised, with respondents noting its impact on working parents.

Arts, culture and performance

13% of respondents prioritise arts, culture, and performance, reinforcing the pattern from Q2. Requests include music venues, drama and rehearsal spaces, and a proper performance space with a stage. Several respondents frame arts provision in terms of social cohesion and community connection rather than purely as a facility request, with the annual pantomime and local theatre groups specifically mentioned as activities that need a home.

"UHI NWH link to provide night classes again. Film nights, viable community space to run events so the self serving clubs which have now formed can pull together in the same direction to share a space they all care about and utilise"

Learning and life skills

13% raise learning and life skills as a wellbeing priority, encompassing evening classes through UHI, practical skills workshops, and adult learning opportunities. The desire to see UHI evening classes reinstated is referenced specifically by several respondents. A separate strand focuses on practical life skills including cooking, financial literacy, and sustainability, framing the Community PoD as a potential vehicle for community capacity building.

Mental health and wellbeing services

11% specifically cite mental health and wellbeing support as a priority. Respondents note that Caithness is underserved relative to other parts of the Highland region and call for accessible drop-in services, therapy spaces, and provision specifically for young people. A small number raise a safeguarding question about co-locating mental health services with a school campus.

Elderly people and social isolation

7% raise the needs of older people and those experiencing social isolation, calling for day care facilities, befriending programmes, and activities designed for older adults. Several respondents frame isolation as a particular concern during winter months and request indoor social spaces that can serve as community warmth and connection hubs.



“A place where older isolated people can come together and enjoy activities and each others company”

Accessibility and affordability

10% raise accessibility and affordability as a distinct concern, consistent with Q3. The framing here is often about social equity, with several respondents noting that relocating provision to a campus site could disadvantage older people, those without cars, and those on low incomes who currently benefit from centrally located, walkable facilities. Twelve respondents explicitly identified the existing swimming pool and leisure centre as facilities that should remain in their current location. The library and council offices are also cited.

Demographic Breakdown

Age

The demographic breakdown below covers the six most frequently cited categories, each selected by 10% or more of respondents. Categories below this threshold returned insufficient responses within individual age groups to support reliable comparison.

Community spaces and hall hire is the most cited priority across almost all age groups. Mental health is cited most prominently among 25-34 year olds (22%), twice the rate of any other age group. The elderly and isolation theme increases steadily with age, reaching 15% among those 65 and over. The café and third space category shows a clear age gradient, rising from 1% among under-18s to 12% among those 65 and over.

Gender

Women cite youth space and activities at a notably higher rate than men (26% versus 17%), alongside stronger representation in mental health (13% versus 8%) and learning and life skills (16% versus 9%). Men are slightly more likely to raise governance concerns (6% versus 3%).

Disability

Respondents who identified a disability show a higher rate of ASN and disability provision responses (14%) relative to non-disabled respondents (3%), confirming that this group is identifying a specific and unmet need.



Survey Responses – Q5

Q5 – Education provision is one element of the Community PoD approach. The future configuration of schools is a key factor in identifying suitable sites in terms of capacity, location, and suitability. Please select your preferred option for consideration.

Overview

Q5 presented respondents with four possible configurations for education provision within the Community PoD. It was a single-select question: respondents were asked to choose the option they considered most appropriate. 528 of 549 respondents answered the question; 21 left it blank.

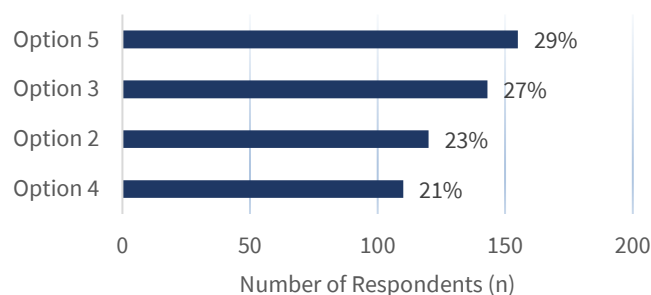
The options were:

- Option 2, an Education Campus incorporating the high school, a combined, large primary school, ELC and ASN provision
- Option 3, an Education Campus incorporating the high school and one primary school with ELC and ASN provision; a second primary school elsewhere
- Option 4, a separate high school and one large combined primary school
- Option 5, a separate high school and two separate primary schools.

There was no Option 1 in the survey; all 528 responses recorded are distributed across Options 2 through 5.

Headline Findings

Preferred Education Configuration



Option 5, a separate high school and two separate primary schools, is the most selected option at 29%, though the margin over Option 3, a shared education campus combining the high school and one primary school with ELC and ASN provision, with a second primary separate (27%), is narrow. Taken together, these two options that retain primary provision across two separate sites account for 56% of responses. The two configurations that consolidate primary provision into a single site (Options 2 and 4) account for 44%. There is no dominant consensus: all four options receive meaningful support, and the spread across them suggests genuine divergence of opinion within the community rather than a settled preference.



The single-select format of this question means that the findings should be interpreted alongside Q6, which captures the reasoning behind each choice, and Q7, which establishes the factors respondents consider most important in education provision. Together, these three questions form an integrated picture of community views on the education component of the Community PoD.

Demographic Breakdown

Age

The age breakdown reveals the most significant variation in the dataset. Option 4, the separate high school with one large combined primary, is the most popular choice among under-18 respondents at 33%, but falls to single figures among those aged 45 and over, reaching just 5% among those aged 65 and over. This reversal is striking. Under-18 respondents may be less attuned to the practical and pedagogical implications of primary school consolidation, while older adults, many of whom may be parents, grandparents, or former educators, appear to favour retaining smaller, locally distinct primary schools.

Option 5, a separate high school and two separate primary schools, is the most popular choice among all adult age groups from 35 upwards, peaking at 43% among those aged 65 and over. Option 3, a campus and one separate primary school, performs most strongly among 18–34 year olds (37% in both groups) and those aged 55–64 (40%), suggesting a degree of support for campus consolidation among younger adults and older working-age respondents. The age profile of respondents is relevant to reading these figures: under-18s account for 35% of those who answered Q5 (n=184 of 528), and their strong preference for Option 4 pulls the overall figures for that option upward relative to what adult respondents alone would produce.

Gender

Women favour Option 5 more strongly than men (35% versus 21%), while men show higher support for both Option 3 (32% versus 24%) and Option 2 (25% versus 20%). Option 4 is supported at similar rates across genders (20–21%). The gender gap on Option 5 is the most pronounced difference on this question and may reflect women's higher representation among the parent group and their greater stated concern for transition, school identity, and community belonging as evidenced in Q6.

Disability

Differences by disability status are modest. Respondents who indicated a disability show slightly higher support for Options 3 (29%) and 2 (27%), both campus configurations, compared to non-disabled respondents (Option 3: 27%; Option 2: 22%). This is consistent with the cross-cutting ASN and disability theme in the open-text questions, where respondents with disabilities more frequently raised smooth transition and specialist support as priorities, both of which may be associated with campus proximity.

Caring Responsibilities

Parents (n=310) follow the overall pattern closely, with Option 5 first (29%), Option 3 second (27%), and Options 2 and 4 roughly level (23% and 21%). The small kinship carer and guardian subgroups (n=9 and n=10 respectively) split more evenly across all four options; percentages for these groups should be treated with caution given the sample sizes.

Transport Mode

Respondents who travel primarily on foot show stronger support for Option 5 (36%) compared to car owners (28%), possibly reflecting a preference for retaining geographically distributed primary

schools accessible on foot. Those who rely on public transport show notably higher support for Option 4 (31%) than any other transport group, which may indicate a preference for consolidated provision at a single accessible location. Car owners are the only group for whom Option 3 leads over Option 5 (32% versus 28%), though the margin is modest.

Survey Responses – Q6

Q6 – Please explain why you have chosen the above option (selected in Question 5) over the others.

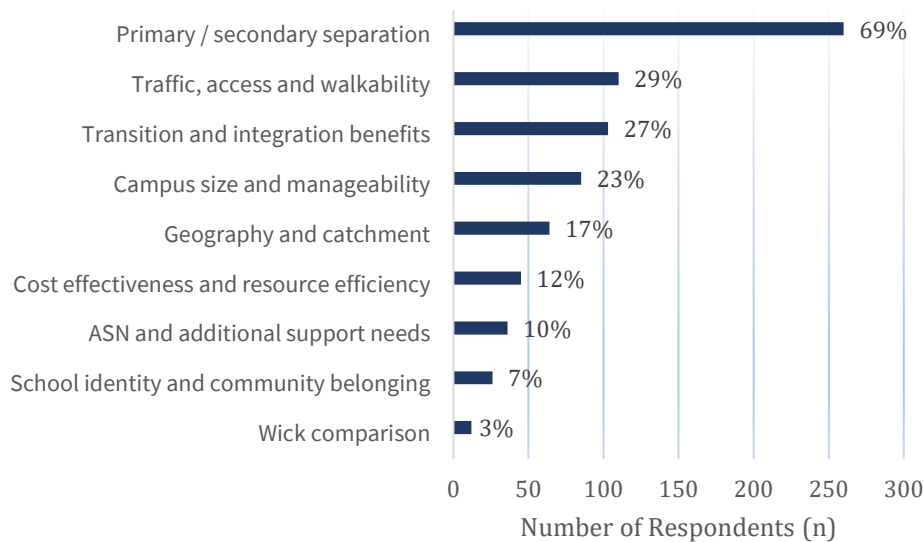
Overview

Q6 invited respondents to explain in their own words why they chose the education option they selected in Q5. It is the qualitative counterpart to Q5's structured choice and provides essential context for interpreting the headline figures. 378 substantive responses were received; 107 respondents left the question blank and a further 66 responses were excluded as non-substantive (single words, unclear text, or responses that did not address the question). Responses were coded into eight thematic categories, with multi-coded entries counted across more than one category where relevant. Percentages are calculated against the substantive base (n=378) and will therefore sum to more than 100%.

Q6 should be further read in conjunction with both Q5 and Q7. Q7 establishes the factors respondents consider most important in education provision, and the reasoning in Q6 consistently reflects those priorities: quality of education, school environment, and the implications of campus configuration for children's experience are the dominant threads across the response set.

Headline Findings

Reasons Given for Preferred Choice in Q5



Thematic Analysis

Primary and secondary separation

The single most prominent reasoning category at 69% is the principle that primary and secondary schools should be separate. This category encompasses two positions: respondents who chose

Options 4 or 5 explicitly because they want primary and secondary education kept apart, and respondents who chose Options 2 or 3 while arguing that the campus model can still achieve adequate separation through design. The dominant voice is the former. Many respondents articulate a clear view that primary-age children require a distinct, appropriately scaled environment and that mixing age groups on a shared campus, even with internal zoning, is developmentally inappropriate. The reasoning here connects directly to the Q9 concerns about campus size, intimidation, and developmental impact. One respondent highlighted *“the benefit of diversity and competition etc of having 2 primary schools”*.

A recurring reference is to the Wick High School development, which several respondents cite as evidence that campus consolidation does not always deliver the promised outcomes in practice. Respondents who favour campus options tend to acknowledge the separation concern and argue that good design can mitigate it, rather than dismissing it outright.

Traffic, access and walkability

29% of respondents cite traffic, access, and the ability to walk safely to school as factors in their choice. This is the second most prominent category and is almost entirely associated with respondents choosing Options 4 or 5, the non-campus configurations, on the grounds that retaining local primary schools preserves safe walking routes for younger children and avoids concentrating vehicle movements at a single campus site. The Ormlie Road bottleneck, identified in Q9 as a specific concern about site access, appears in several Q6 responses as a reason to favour distributed provision. Respondents who use the question to argue for campus options occasionally address the traffic concern by proposing that good site planning can manage access more effectively than the current dispersed arrangement.

“I am concerned about the traffic management for more than one primary school and a high school.”

Transition and integration benefits

27% of respondents cite the benefits of smoother transitions and greater integration between education stages as reasons for their choice. This category is closely associated with respondents favouring Options 2 or 3. The reasoning mirrors the Q8 findings on the UHI linkage: familiarity with a shared environment reduces anxiety at transition points, particularly for children with additional support needs. Several respondents specifically reference the primary-to-secondary transition as a key vulnerability and argue that campus proximity offers a tangible developmental benefit. A smaller strand within this category supports the separate options (4 or 5) while still valuing transition, arguing that well-connected but distinct campuses can achieve this without the drawbacks of full co-location.

“Seems like a more consistent standard if all in one place, also would make transition to high school easier”

Campus size and manageability

22% of respondents raise concerns about the scale of a combined campus as a specific reason for preferring distributed options. Responses frame the concern in human terms: children getting lost in large buildings, the difficulty of forming relationships in very large schools, and the risk that the needs of individual pupils become invisible within a large institution. This concern is the Q6 counterpart of the Q9 campus size and overcrowding category, and respondents who raise it in Q6

almost universally use it to justify choosing Option 4 or 5. A small number argue the opposite: that a well-designed campus can achieve economies of scale that a fragmented estate cannot, and that size concerns are manageable with appropriate internal organisation.

Geography and catchment

17% of respondents cite geographical factors in their reasoning, including the physical extent of Thurso as a town, the distances children would need to travel under different configurations, and the implications for families in different parts of the catchment. Respondents noting that Thurso is a sufficiently large and geographically spread town that a single primary campus would create meaningful travel burdens for some families tend to use this reasoning to support Option 5. A smaller group argues that the geography of the catchment, particularly families in the wider Caithness area, points toward a more centralised model to avoid disadvantaging those who already travel furthest.

Cost effectiveness and resource efficiency

12% of respondents explicitly mention cost and resource efficiency as factors, most commonly as reasons to support a campus configuration (Options 2 or 3). The arguments are practical: shared staff and facilities, lower estate management costs, and the ability to invest more in a single high-quality building rather than maintaining multiple ageing structures. A smaller number of respondents raise cost sceptically, questioning whether the savings projected from consolidation will materialise in practice. Car owners cite cost efficiency at a higher rate than those who travel on foot (14% versus 3%), which may reflect a generally more pragmatic orientation toward the economic case for consolidation among respondents who do not face personal travel implications from campus location.

ASN and additional support needs

10% of respondents raise ASN and additional support needs as a specific factor in their choice. Responses fall into two broad camps. One group argues that a campus configuration provides the best environment for children with additional support needs because specialist staff and resources are co-located, transitions between education stages are smoother, and children with ASN benefit from continuity of relationships. The other group argues the opposite: that large campuses are more difficult to navigate for children with sensory, social, or mobility needs, and that smaller, locally distinct schools provide a more manageable and nurturing environment. The internal division within this category reflects the genuine complexity of the ASN dimension of the campus question, which does not resolve neatly in favour of any single option.

“Having a choice of school and location is so important. The option to put them where they will thrive. Having a primary with secondary and asn at a location will be good for sharing facilities, staff, teaching, ease for parents too. Will be good for asn transitions too”

School identity and community belonging

7% of respondents express the importance of school identity and its connection to community belonging as a reason for their choice. Responses in this category typically support Options 4 or 5, with respondents citing the role of named local primary schools in anchoring neighbourhood identity and in giving children a sense of belonging to a specific place before they move into the larger and more anonymous environment of secondary school. Several respondents note the symbolic significance of local schools to communities that have experienced significant public service rationalisation over recent decades.



Demographic Breakdown

Age

The primary and secondary separation category rises steadily with age, from 53% among under-18s to 80% among those aged 65 and over, confirming that it is a more strongly held principle among older respondents. Traffic, access and walkability shows a similar age gradient, peaking among those aged 65 and over (37%), while under-18s show a markedly lower rate (14%), consistent with younger respondents having less personal concern for walking routes or travel logistics. The transition and integration category is most prominent among the 45–54 age group (33%), a group likely to have children either currently in or recently having completed the school system, and therefore attuned to the practical implications of transitions.

Gender

Women cite primary and secondary separation at a higher rate than men (63% versus 53%), consistent with their stronger support for Option 5 in Q5. Men show somewhat higher rates for transition and integration (29% versus 26%) and cost efficiency (15% versus 10%). The ASN and additional support needs category is cited at a similar rate across genders.

Disability

Respondents with a disability show elevated rates for transition and integration (38%) and ASN and additional support needs (32%) compared to non-disabled respondents (26% and 8% respectively). This confirms that disabled respondents engage with the campus question through a specific lens of continuity and specialist provision, consistent with their patterns across Q7, Q8, and Q9.

Postcode

KW14 (Thurso) respondents cite primary and secondary separation (70%) and traffic, access and walkability (30%) at higher rates than those in the wider Caithness area (56% and 26% respectively), while those outwith Thurso show higher rates for transition and integration (35% versus 27%). This is consistent with the postcode pattern across the survey: Thurso residents engage most directly with the practical implications of the development for their own community.



Survey Responses – Q7

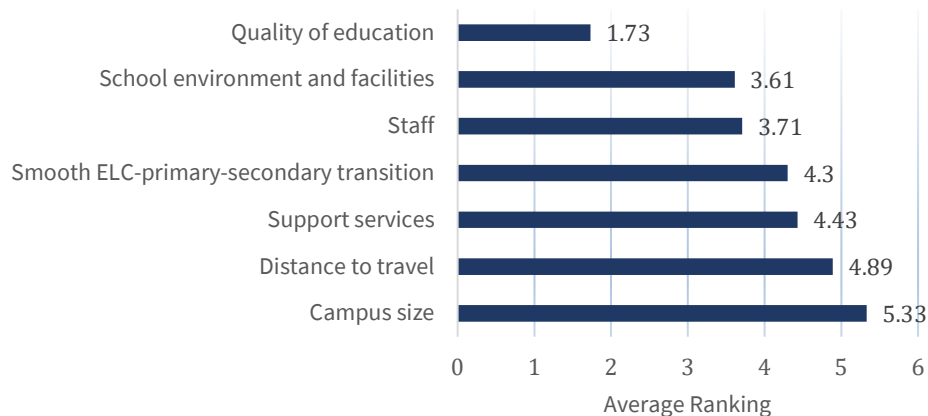
Q7 – When considering education provision for your child/children, what are the most important factors? Rank in terms of importance.

Overview

Q7 asked respondents to rank seven factors relating to education provision in order of importance, from first (highest priority) to seventh (lowest). All 467 respondents who answered the question provided a complete ranking across all seven factors, giving a consistent and directly comparable dataset. The seven factors presented were: quality of education; school environment and facilities; staff; smooth ELC-primary-secondary transition; support services; distance to travel; and campus size. The results provide important context for interpreting both the Q5 findings and the open-text reasoning in Q6.

Headline Findings

Most Important Factors in Education Provision (Average Ranking, 1= Highest Priority)



Quality of education is by far the most important factor, ranked first by 66% of respondents and appearing in the top three of 89%. It was ranked last by only 1% of respondents. School environment and facilities (avg rank 3.61) and staff (avg rank 3.71) are closely matched in second and third place, together with quality of education forming the most consistent top three responses across the dataset.

Distance to travel (avg rank 4.89) and campus size (avg rank 5.33) are ranked last by 28% and 34% of respondents respectively, suggesting that for the majority these practical considerations are outweighed by educational quality concerns. However, distance to travel was ranked first by 11% of respondents, a higher rate than staff (5%), smooth transition (4%), support services (2%), or campus size (5%). This bimodal pattern indicates that distance to travel is not a uniformly low priority but a polarising one: for most respondents it matters relatively little, but for a meaningful minority it is the primary concern.



Demographic Breakdown

Age

Quality of education is ranked first across all age groups, most emphatically among 35-44 year olds (avg rank 1.40), reflecting the direct personal stake of parents with school-age children. The most significant age variation is in distance to travel. Among 35-44 year olds it receives an average rank of 5.65, making it effectively their second least important factor. Among those aged 65 and over it rises to 3.97, making it their third most important factor. This reflects the greater sensitivity of older respondents to the practical implications of travel distance, particularly those with reduced mobility or limited transport options.

Gender

Gender differences are modest on this question. Women rank quality of education marginally higher (avg rank 1.61 versus 1.90) and support services higher (4.29 versus 4.61). Both groups place campus size last or near-last.

Disability

Respondents with a disability rank smooth ELC-primary-secondary transition notably higher (avg rank 3.88) than non-disabled respondents (4.35), making it effectively their third priority rather than fourth. Support services is also ranked more highly by disabled respondents (3.91 versus 4.47). Both findings are consistent with the greater importance of continuity and specialist support for children with additional support needs.



Survey Responses – Q8

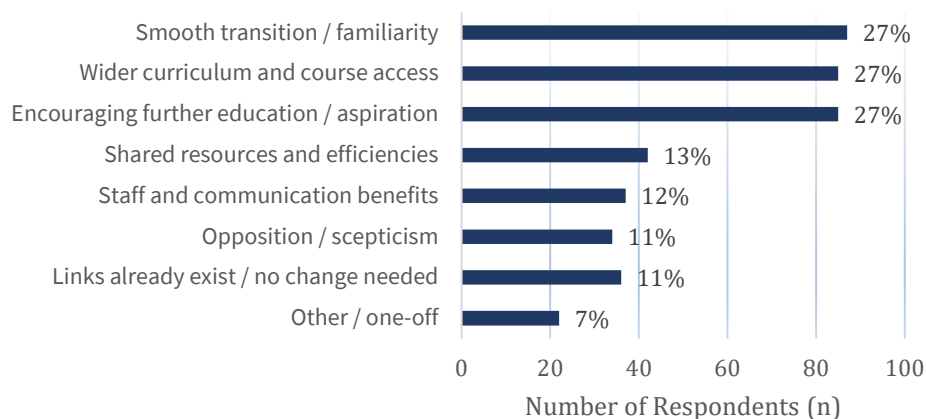
Q8 – There are also opportunities to strengthen connections between the local high school, primaries and the UHI North, West and Hebrides campus. What benefits do you think there are to school provision and college/university provision being on the same education campus?

Overview

Q8 invited respondents to describe the **benefits** they saw in strengthening connections between the school estate and UHI North, West and Hebrides as part of the Community PoD development. 351 substantive responses were received from a base of 385 respondents, with the remainder excluded as non-substantive. The question was open-text and asked specifically about benefits, though a meaningful proportion of respondents used it to express opposition or scepticism, and those responses have been retained and coded accordingly. Responses were coded into eight categories, with multi-coded entries appearing across more than one category where relevant. The themes here connect directly to Q4, where the reinstatement of UHI evening classes was specifically requested, and to Q9, which addresses the perceived disadvantages of the linkage and should be read alongside this section.

Headline Findings

Identified Benefits of Connecting High School, Primaries and UHI



The three leading categories, smooth transition and familiarity, wider curriculum and course access, and encouraging further education and aspiration, are almost exactly level, each cited by around 27% of respondents. This near-equal weighting suggests that respondents see the UHI linkage as delivering value across multiple dimensions simultaneously rather than through a single primary mechanism.



Thematic Analysis

Smooth transition and familiarity

The most cited benefit at 27% is the smoothing of educational transitions, particularly from secondary to further or higher education. Respondents note that familiarity with a campus environment reduces anxiety at transition points and that proximity to UHI allows younger pupils to develop a sense of where their education might lead. The benefit is understood both practically and psychologically, with several respondents noting it is particularly significant for pupils with additional support needs. A caveat raised by several respondents is that the transition benefit is more convincing for secondary-to-UHI than for primary-to-secondary, with reservations expressed about mixing primary-age children with young adults on the same campus.

Wider curriculum and course access

27% of respondents identify access to a broader curriculum as a primary benefit, pointing to existing senior phase link courses as proof of concept and arguing that closer integration would allow these to be expanded. Specific subject areas cited include STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), vocational and trade courses, arts, and sports science. Several respondents frame curriculum access in terms of routes into local employment in renewables, decommissioning, and marine industries: *"Huge potential benefits of upskilling a young workforce to keep them in the county – renewables, decommissioning, agriculture courses, marine... but nothing being done currently."*

"Huge benefits - especially for secondary pupils looking for alternative pathways. An SQA pathway is very narrow for many young people and having access to engineering based workshops/ tutorials for example would be excellent. An added layer of subject help could also work here, with broader subject opportunities too, we know how small the SQA choice already is at THS"

Encouraging further education and aspiration

27% focus on the aspirational dimension of the linkage: the idea that visibility of further education opportunities within the everyday school environment encourages more young people to continue their education locally. A recurring theme is the retention of young people in Caithness, with several respondents identifying out-migration as a significant community concern and local further education provision as a potential counterweight. The psychological value of demystifying further education for those who might not otherwise consider it is also noted.

Shared resources and efficiencies

13% identify shared resources and operational efficiencies as a benefit, including jointly used specialist facilities, combined estate management, and reduced duplication across institutions. Several responses note that financial pressure on both the school and UHI NWH makes resource-sharing not merely convenient but necessary.

Staff and communication benefits

12% identify improved communication and professional relationships between teaching and academic staff as a benefit, focusing on easier referrals, shared professional development, and curriculum coordination. Several responses note that UHI's evening class tradition would sit naturally within a shared campus model.



“It makes sense grouping all together and working together closely with each other. Smoother transitions, more opportunity for closer working relationships. Strength as one together and investing in Thurso's children and young people. Could be beneficial for teachers with career options also”

Links already exist: no change needed

11% observe that meaningful links between Thurso High School and UHI NWH already exist and question whether co-location would materially improve them. These respondents are not opposed to the linkage but are sceptical about the specific added value of physical co-location beyond what is already achieved through existing collaboration.

Opposition and scepticism

11% use Q8 to express opposition or scepticism rather than identify benefits. Objections fall into three broad groups: concerns about mixing age ranges on a single campus, particularly primary-age children with young adults; questions about the institutional credibility of UHI NWH; and a preference for separate campuses with strong connections over full co-location. These concerns are addressed more fully in Q9.

Demographic Breakdown

Age

Smooth transition is the most cited benefit among under-18s (34%), while the aspiration and further education theme is strongest among 25-34 year olds (38%). Opposition and scepticism is most concentrated among those aged 65 and over (28%), more than double any other age group. Wider curriculum access drops sharply among those aged 65 and over (10%) relative to working-age parents (30-32%).

Gender

Gender differences are modest. Women cite wider curriculum access (27% versus 22%) and encouraging further education (28% versus 25%) at slightly higher rates, while men are more likely to raise shared resources and efficiencies (17% versus 10%).

Postcode

Opposition or scepticism about the UHI linkage was cited at a higher rate among Thurso residents (12%) than among those in the wider Caithness area (4%). This is consistent with the general pattern in the dataset where KW14 respondents engage more critically across multiple questions.

Disability

Respondents with a disability show a higher rate of aspiration and further education responses (43% versus 26%) and smooth transition responses (38% versus 27%), consistent with the Q7 finding where disabled respondents ranked smooth transition more highly than others.



Survey Responses – Q9

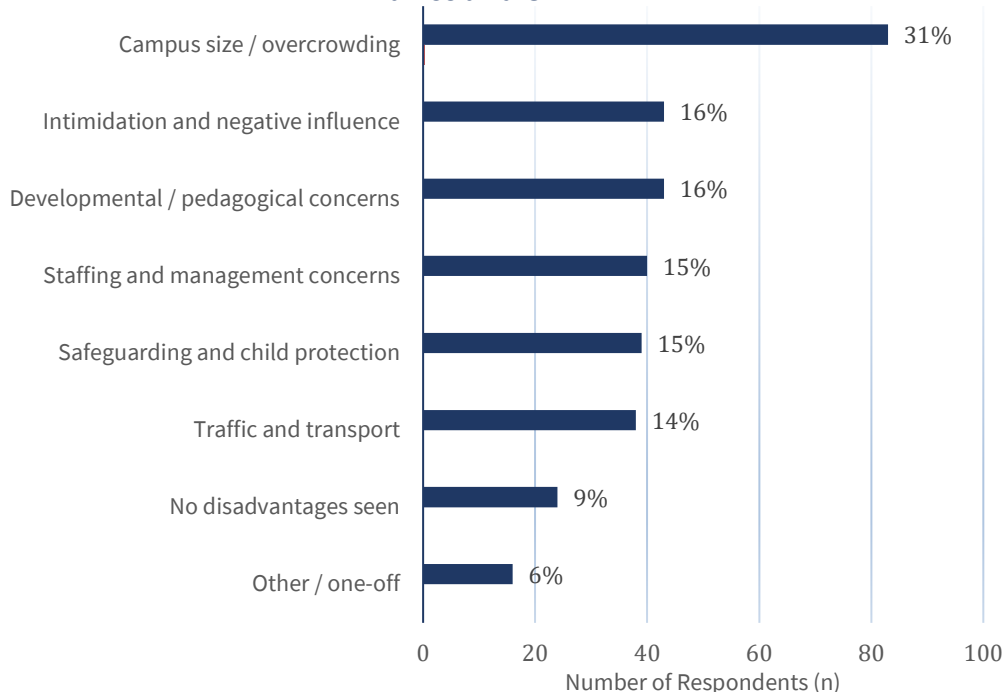
Q9 – There are also opportunities to strengthen connections between the local high school, primaries and the UHI North, West and Hebrides campus. What disadvantages do you think there are to school provision and college/university provision being on the same education campus?

Overview

Q9 is the direct counterpart to Q8, inviting respondents to describe the **disadvantages** they saw in strengthening connections and should be read alongside it. 267 substantive responses were received from a base of 302 respondents, with the remainder excluded as non-substantive. 24 respondents (9%) stated they saw no disadvantages, and these are reported separately. Responses were coded into seven categories, with multi-coded entries appearing across more than one category where relevant.

Headline Findings

Identified Disadvantages of Connecting High School, Primaries and UHI



Campus size and overcrowding is the most cited concern at 31%, more than double the next tier. The remaining five concern categories cluster tightly between 14% and 16%, suggesting the community holds a broad and fairly evenly distributed set of reservations beyond the scale concern.



Thematic Analysis

Campus size and overcrowding

31% of respondents cite concern about the scale of a combined campus. The concern operates on several levels: the sheer number of people on site, the difficulty of maintaining the relational fabric of smaller institutions, and specific operational challenges around parking, lunchtime facilities, and road infrastructure. One respondent with specific local knowledge notes *"traffic congestion, bottlenecks due to the campus only being accessible via Ormlie Road."* A resilience dimension is also raised: in a Highland location where severe weather disruption is a real risk, concentrating all provision on one site means that a closure affects everything simultaneously. Several respondents raise concern about future capacity if population growth from energy sector development materialises, noting that consolidating onto one site limits the ability to expand.

Intimidation and negative influence

16% raise concern that older pupils and adult students will be intimidating or a source of negative influence for younger children. This takes two forms: younger children feeling overwhelmed by proximity to much older students, particularly those with additional support needs or anxiety; and concern about behavioural exposure, including smoking, vaping, and peer pressure. One response raises a nuanced point: that for some young people, the distinctiveness of the college environment is itself a motivator for progression, and that a campus which blurs those boundaries may reduce rather than increase aspiration for this group.

Developmental and pedagogical concerns

16% raise concerns about the educational and developmental appropriateness of co-locating children of widely different ages. The core concern is that primary-age children require a nurturing, appropriately scaled environment that a large multi-age campus is ill-suited to provide. Several respondents also note that remaining in the same physical environment from early years to post-secondary removes an important developmental stimulus: *"Children need to experience visiting different campuses and being in unfamiliar environments. Having one campus limits this and does not set children up for experiencing life outside of education."*

"Children need to learn about transition and need to move on to different sections of their education. This allows for them to make a new start, particularly good for those who have had difficulties in the past. They need new experiences - being in the same campus for their whole education means they don't experience new settings and lose the excitement of moving on"

Staffing and management concerns

15% raise concerns about the management complexity of a large multi-institution campus, including maintaining adequate staffing ratios and ensuring specialist care is not diluted by shared management structures. A scepticism familiar in Scottish public service contexts is expressed by several respondents: that structural mergers are used to justify staffing reductions. Concerns about the council's track record of delivering on public facility commitments in Thurso also feature in this category.

Safeguarding and child protection

15% raise safeguarding and child protection as a specific and named concern, going beyond general unease about age mixing to articulate structural and regulatory issues. The most consistently raised



concern is around PVG checking for adult learners using shared facilities. Several respondents frame this not as an objection in principle but as a design requirement: *"There would naturally be some safeguarding considerations and these would need to be clearly mapped out in terms of shared outdoor space planning – and shared with parents in an accessible manner to avoid confusion."*

"You need to keep the primary, secondary and even UHI separate. There may be a few facilities that are shared for economic benefits, but I can see no advantage in mixing such a large and diverse age group"

Traffic and transport

14% identify traffic and transport as a significant concern, covering daily operational logistics including drop-off and pick-up congestion, parking, and pedestrian safety for younger children. The specific reference to Ormlie Road bottlenecks reflects genuine local knowledge of site access constraints.

No disadvantages seen

9% stated they could see no disadvantages in the UHI linkage. Several add a conditional note, with responses such as *"None, as long as the design is matched to the needs of both"* suggesting that even among broadly supportive respondents, good design and governance are understood as prerequisites.

Demographic Breakdown

Age

Campus size is the dominant concern among under-18s (54%), reflecting a more immediate sense of what a very large campus would feel like as a pupil. Among 35-44 year olds it falls to 19%, with safeguarding, intimidation, developmental concerns, and staffing all rising, suggesting parents of school-age children engage with the full range of concerns more equally. Safeguarding concern peaks among the 45-54 cohort (25%), more than five times the rate among under-18s (5%). Developmental and pedagogical concerns are most prevalent among those aged 65 and over (33%).

Gender

Women cite campus size more frequently (35% versus 28%) and are slightly more likely to raise safeguarding and developmental concerns. Men are more likely to see no disadvantages (14% versus 6%).

Disability

Respondents with a disability raise traffic and transport concerns at a notably higher rate (20%) than non-disabled respondents (13%), reflecting the practical accessibility implications of a large, heavily trafficked campus.



Survey Responses – Q10

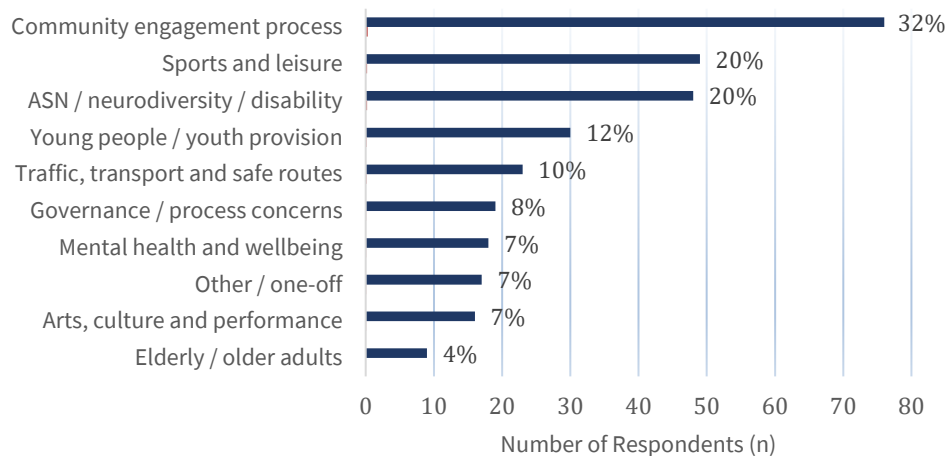
Q10 – Are there specific groups and/or topics of interest you feel we should give additional attention to for the future phases of engagement on the Thurso PoD?

Overview

Q10 invited respondents to identify groups or topics deserving particular attention as the Community PoD development progresses. 241 substantive responses were received. The question is addressed to the consultation process itself rather than to the Community PoD's content, and the result is a response set that functions simultaneously as a programme of priorities and a reflection of concerns accumulated across the preceding questions. The governance and process thread that has appeared consistently from Q2 onwards reaches its highest recorded level here, with community engagement process the single most cited category at 32%. Responses were coded into nine substantive categories plus an other/one-off grouping.

Headline Findings

What Groups Should We Pay Specific Attention To?



Thematic Analysis

Community engagement process

The largest single category at 32% concerns not what should be in the Community PoD but how the consultation and development process should be conducted. Responses cover three distinct concerns: reach, transparency, and stakeholder inclusion. On reach, respondents call for greater use of both trusted community intermediaries such as Thurso Community Development Trust and Thurso Community Council, and for in-person engagement with specific population groups. On transparency, respondents request clear communication about what has been done with their input and how community feedback is shaping decisions. On stakeholder inclusion, school staff are



specifically identified as underserved, alongside parent councils and a wide range of named community organisations including Caithness Gymnastics Club, Thurso Hockey Club, Thurso Netball Club, Caithness Amateur Athletics Club, Thurso Players, and various youth groups.

“Sharing info. Just continually put it out there. Engaging with the schools, having a third sector event regarding community use. Consulting with businesses or the chamber to ensure everyone feels heard. Also, a lot of people don’t know what pod is”

Sports and leisure

20% of respondents identify sports and leisure as requiring additional attention, consistent with its position as the leading Q1 priority. Responses are club-oriented and specific, naming Caithness Gymnastics Club, Thurso Netball Club, Caithness Amateur Athletics Club, and Caithness Rugby as groups with direct and unmet facility needs. The facility gaps identified in Q3 recur here: inadequate indoor courts, the absence of all-weather pitches, and the lack of a full athletics track. The competitive implications are raised by several respondents, including the inability to host visiting teams and the cost burden of travelling to Inverness or Wick for competitions.

ASN, neurodiversity and disability

20% of respondents name ASN, neurodiversity and disability as the group most urgently requiring additional engagement, making this one of the most significant cross-cutting themes in the survey. It has appeared across Q2, Q3, Q4, Q9, and now Q10. Responses are among the most technically specific in the survey, covering built environment requirements including sensory rooms, Changing Places toilet facilities, and acoustic design. The placement of ASN departments within the campus is raised as a sensitive concern, with respondents noting that design choices affect the dignity and self-perception of pupils with additional support needs. Adults with disabilities and post-school provision for young disabled adults are also specifically named as groups requiring attention.

“Sensory aspects of new build to make it truly accessible and provision of Changing Places toilet facilities”

Young people and youth provision

12% identify young people as requiring additional attention, focusing on two gaps: the absence of non-prescriptive social space for teenagers and the lack of after-school childcare for working parents. Several respondents call for dedicated qualitative engagement with young people as a group, noting that while the under-18 cohort is well represented in the quantitative data, their specific views on youth provision have not been gathered through focused consultation.

Traffic, transport and safe routes

10% specifically call for traffic, transport, and safe routes to receive additional attention, with the Ormlie Road junction named as a critical pressure point. The active travel dimension is raised constructively by several respondents, with one suggesting that the development of Juniper Lane could be enhanced to create a walking and cycling route to the new campus. The safe routes concern is directly connected to the implications of a single large campus for children who currently attend local primary schools within walking distance of their homes.

Mental health and wellbeing

7% identify mental health and wellbeing as requiring additional attention, consistent with the Q4 finding. The tension identified in Q4 between mental health support as a desired community facility and the appropriateness of co-locating it with a school campus reappears here in several responses.

Arts, culture and performance

7% name arts, culture and performance as requiring additional attention, with responses focused on the need for a dedicated performance space with a proper stage. The Wick High School hall is cited as a specific comparator to avoid: *"Please ensure there is a big hall that has a large stage and seating for at least 400 people so that pantomimes and music concerts can still take place – the hall in the recently built Wick High School is completely unfit for purpose."* Thurso Players and the Scottish Community Drama Association Caithness District are named as groups currently using the high school hall who should be formally consulted.

"Arts and cultural provision as this could lead to increased use of PoD, increase sense of community engagement, wellbeing and ownership"

Governance and process concerns

8% raise governance and process concerns focused on accountability structures, the fate of existing buildings, and the risk of promises not being kept. The concern about redundant buildings is specific: respondents point to the old high school and swimming pool in Wick as examples of vacated public buildings becoming eyesores and ask directly what will happen to Thurso's primary schools, library, swimming pool, and council offices if or when they are vacated. A related concern about the potential impact of campus consolidation on Thurso town centre is also raised.

Demographic Breakdown

Age

Community engagement process concerns are most prevalent among 25-34 year olds (46%) and 45-54 year olds (41%). Among under-18s, sports and leisure dominates at 52%. ASN concern is highest among 45-54 year olds (29%). Traffic and transport concern rises steadily with age, from 3% among under-18s to 18% among those aged 65 and over.

Gender

Women cite ASN concerns more than twice as frequently as men (26% versus 13%). Men cite governance and process concerns at 13% compared to 2% for women.

Disability

Respondents with a disability cite ASN concerns at 50%, more than double the rate of non-disabled respondents (18%). The community engagement process category is notably lower among disabled respondents (13%) than non-disabled (34%).



Survey Responses – Q11

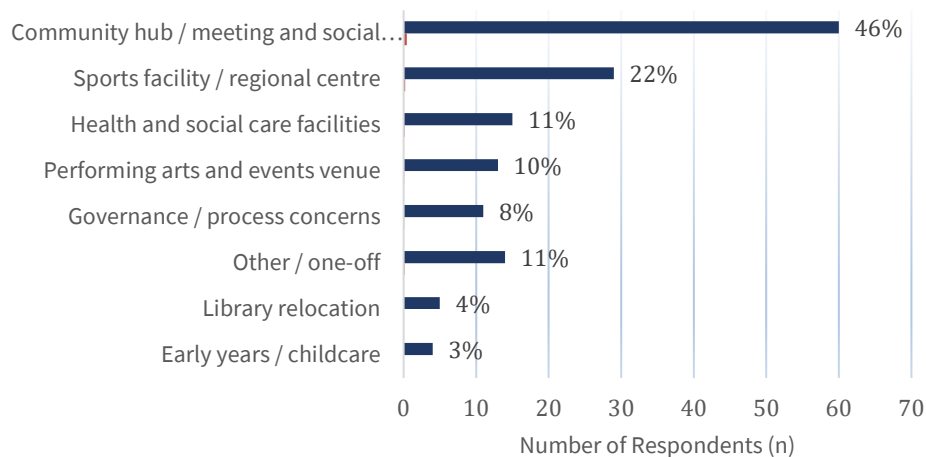
Q11 – Are there other uses for the Thurso PoD we haven't thought about?

Overview

Q11 invited respondents to identify uses for the Community PoD beyond those already covered in the survey. 132 substantive responses were received. Many responses revisit and reinforce themes raised earlier, particularly around community hall provision, sport, and arts, but Q11 also produces some genuinely novel suggestions and sharper articulations of ideas that have appeared only in outline elsewhere. Responses were coded into seven categories plus an other/one-off grouping.

Headline Findings

Suggested Other Uses for the Community PoD



Thematic Analysis

Community hub, meeting and social spaces

The dominant theme at 46% is the Community PoD as a genuine community hub serving the whole population across a wide range of social, civic, and economic purposes. Responses revisit the town hall and civic venue gap but also produce more specific proposals. A dedicated community development trust base is suggested in concrete terms, with one respondent proposing a purpose-built space similar to the Pulteneytown People's Project in Wick. Hot-desking and co-working space for remote workers is raised as an economic development opportunity, with respondents noting it could support the local economy rather than drawing activity away from the town centre. A warm space for struggling families and older people is specifically proposed. Storage for community organisations including Scouts, Boys Brigade, and the Pipe Band is raised as a practical low-cost inclusion. A community café appears in several configurations, as a social enterprise, a post-parkrun gathering point, and a general community third space.



“Isolated workers from home. A hot desking space out with the campus would be a wonderful thing for the council to invest in in the town. This could provide increased custom to town cafes and shops as well as benefit those working from home alone”

Sports facility and regional centre

22% identify the Community PoD's potential as a regional sports facility. The Pickaquooy Centre in Orkney is referenced explicitly and repeatedly as a benchmark. The regional dimension is made explicit by several respondents, with proposals for Thurso to become a sporting hub for Caithness and north Sutherland, hosting competitions and attracting visiting teams. One response identifies potential additional funding sources including SportScotland, the Scottish Government, and renewable energy companies operating in the county. The 400-metre athletics track proposal from Q10 is repeated with added specificity, with one respondent describing the current track condition as a hazard.

Health and social care facilities

11% propose some form of health or social care co-location, including a base for community health staff, school nurses, dental provision, and support services for adults with disabilities. The connection between the Community PoD and the wider Highland Council service reform agenda is noted by one respondent, who raises the potential to accommodate council staff from the Burgh Chambers on Rotterdam Street, currently under consideration for asset rationalisation. Post-school provision for young adults with disabilities is raised again as a specific and unmet need.

Performing arts and events venue

10% return to the performing arts venue gap, with responses centring on the need for a proper stage and seating for at least 400 people. The Wick High School hall is again cited as a comparator to avoid. One response adds useful context: *“Wick has the Assembly Rooms which are separate from the WHS campus – THS has one hall for the whole town. So it is really difficult for the school to access if the community is using it.”* New specific proposals include music rooms, space for small gigs, and flexible indoor space capable of accommodating both performance and other community uses.

Other notable proposals

Several responses in the other/one-off category are worth noting. An outdoor nursery is proposed as a provision model with strong evidence backing not mentioned elsewhere in the survey. Emergency resilience use is raised, with a large well-resourced campus potentially serving as a designated resilience facility during extreme weather. A proposal to connect the Community PoD site with the redevelopment of the Boating Pond area for water sports envisions the campus as part of a wider outdoor leisure corridor rather than a standalone development.

“Sensory therapy/ play for all, not just kids or neurodiverse. Indoor tree house and zip wires. Modular changeable design. Play and keep fit and mentally healthy. Learning kitchen access for all”



Demographic Breakdown

Age

Sports facility is the dominant theme among under-18 respondents (60%), while community hub rises steadily with age, reaching 58% among 55-64 year olds. Health and social care co-location is most prominent among 25-34 year olds (22%) and those aged 65 and over (19%).

Gender

Women cite community hub at a higher rate than men (51% versus 41%). Men cite governance concerns at 13% compared to 4% for women.

Disability

Respondents with a disability cite health and social care facilities at 42%, more than five times the rate of non-disabled respondents (8%), the clearest demographic signal in Q11 and consistent with the disability and ASN thread running throughout the survey.

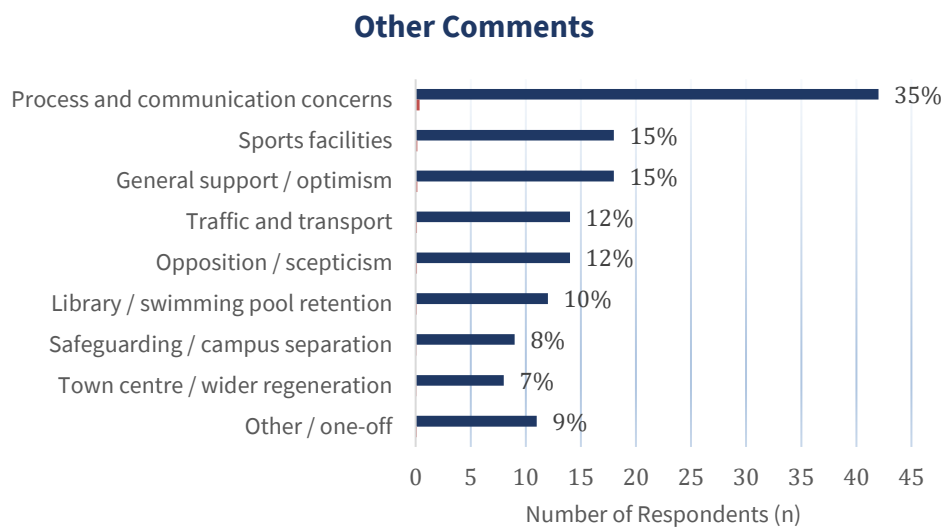
Survey Responses – Q12

Q12 – Are there any other comments you’d like to make?

Overview

Q12 is the survey's final question and its most open invitation. 119 substantive responses were received, the smallest base of any open-text question, consistent with its position at the end of a substantial questionnaire. Those who did respond tend to do so with particular directness, either reinforcing priorities raised earlier or raising specific concerns the structured questions had not fully captured. The process and communication thread that has run through the survey from Q2 onwards reaches its highest level here at 35%. Responses were coded into eight categories plus an other/one-off grouping.

Headline Findings



Thematic Analysis

Process and communication concerns

35% of Q12 respondents raise process and communication concerns, the highest level recorded across any question in the survey. Responses are more direct than in earlier questions, covering three recurring themes: the expectation that the Council will act on what communities tell it; requests for transparent and frequent communication about how feedback is shaping decisions; and calls for broader engagement beyond digital channels, including leaflet drops and in-person events. The Wick development is referenced repeatedly as a benchmark, with respondents naming specific aspects they do not wish to see repeated: an inadequate performance hall, dislocation of town centre facilities, insufficient community dialogue during design, and a derelict old building after the new one opens. Several respondents also raise the procurement and delivery model, asking whether local creatives, designers, and suppliers will be involved in the process.



"Thank you for engaging. I would request parent councils are kept in the loop and also can be part of recruitment processes later on. Also to be given info to be shared with the parents and schools"

General support and optimism

15% use Q12 to express genuine enthusiasm for the Community PoD concept. These responses are among the most thoughtful in the dataset: *"The town needs this, desperately — do not let the ball be dropped with this massive opportunity. We have the options to make this something wonderful and stop the decline of the town."* Another respondent captures both the aspiration and the geographic context: *"I think it's a great opportunity for Thurso to be noticed and invested in as we sometimes feel forgotten about as we are so far North."* Support in Q12 is frequently conditional, with respondents expressing optimism alongside specific requirements around community access, hours of use, and build quality. Several respondents raise durability and whole-life cost as factors they expect to be considered alongside initial capital cost.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for Thurso and it's important that the community make their views known"

Sports facilities

15% make additional points about sports facilities, reinforcing themes from Q3, Q10, and Q11. The Pickaquooy Centre benchmark appears again, as does the athletics track and the sequencing concern that sports facilities must be built concurrently with the school. A capacity planning point is raised that has not appeared prominently in earlier questions: whether the proposed maximum capacity of 750 pupils at the new high school adequately accounts for potential population growth from energy sector development.

Traffic and transport

12% raise traffic and transport, sharpening points made in Q9 and Q10. The Ormlie Road bottleneck is named again. The absence of public transport serving parts of Thurso, particularly Mount Vernon and the north-east of the town, is raised as a specific equity concern. The sustainability dimension is raised constructively, with one respondent calling for low-carbon public transport links, EV charging infrastructure, and net zero design principles.

Opposition and scepticism

12% register broader opposition to the Community PoD concept. Objections range across educational grounds, process grounds, and strategic concerns about the scope and complexity of the project. Several respondents question whether the co-location model is the right approach and express concern that the development is primarily financially driven rather than community led.

Library and swimming pool retention

10% specifically oppose any relocation of the library and swimming pool, describing both as well-located, recently invested in, and serving their communities effectively in their current form. The Wick parallel is drawn explicitly, with respondents calling on the Council to learn from that experience. A Gaelic medium education concern also appears here for the first time: one respondent notes the existing Gaelic medium provision at Mount Pleasant School and asks how this is reflected in the Community PoD's education plans.



Safeguarding and campus separation

8% return to the safeguarding and campus separation themes from Q9. One response from a secondary school pupil is worth noting for its perspective: *"As a high schooler who cares about primary children, I would definitely say to keep the primary children away from the high schoolers – I have seen how ruthless some teenagers can be and think it is best for some distance between schools to save any hassle to younger children."*

Town centre and wider regeneration

7% raise the town centre impact, with several respondents citing the East Caithness Community facility as a cautionary example of how centralisation can affect town centre footfall. The prospect of vacant buildings is raised again. One respondent raises a constructive design question: whether all elements need to be in the same location, or whether some provision could be retained in or near the town centre. Two responses note the opportunity to express local identity and heritage through the architecture of the new development, referencing the Basil Spence legacy and the Dounreay heritage as potential sources of inspiration.

Demographic Breakdown

Age

Process and communication concerns rise sharply with age, from 0% among under-18s to 56% among those aged 65 and over. Sports facilities dominate among under-18s (38%) and 18-24 year olds. General support peaks among 35-44 year olds (25%), the cohort most likely to have children who will directly benefit from the development.

Gender

Men cite process and communication concerns at a higher rate than women (43% versus 31%) and are substantially more likely to express opposition or scepticism (21% versus 3%). Women are more likely to raise library and swimming pool retention (14% versus 5%) and safeguarding and campus separation (11% versus 2%).


Disability

Respondents with a disability show a notably higher rate of process and communication concerns (60%) than non-disabled respondents (36%), and a substantially higher rate of library and swimming pool retention concerns (40% versus 10%), reflecting the accessibility and familiarity value of existing central facilities for this group.

Appendix 1 – Consultation Boards

The Highland Investment Plan: A Place Based Approach to Delivery

Thurso: Points of Delivery



What is the project?

In partnership with local communities, public agencies, private and third sector, Highland Council is leading the development of a place-based approach to planning for the future of each sub-regional area. Area based plans are being produced as a clear statement of shared priorities for development and investment, service delivery and community action.

Key element of the approach is the creation of Community Points of Delivery (PODs), which are designed to integrate various services and improve accessibility for residents.

What is a 'place-based' approach?

The Place Principle is a Scottish Government and COSA initiative to encourage better collaboration and community involvement. It's about understanding the issues, opportunities and relationships in a place, so we can work effectively together to improve the quality of life for our communities.


Knowing how a community is structured and how it works helps us make good decisions on investment and how to coordinate change.

How we are taking a place-based approach?

Following recent changes to the national planning system, communities have been invited to consider preparation of their own Local Place Plans – a community's proposals for the development or use of land and buildings in their local area.

Across Highland, several groups are engaging their local community to reflect on how to make their place better, agree priorities for the future, and how to act on them (often working with others). While Local Place Plans have a particular role in the planning system, they may also highlight other priorities for service delivery and community action.

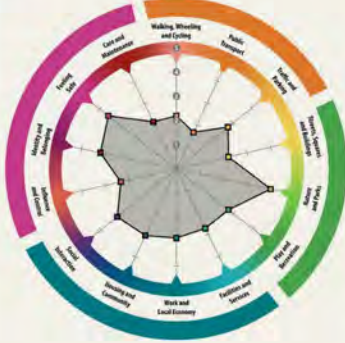
Map from Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan 2




Key:

- Housing Opportunity
- Mixed Use Opportunity
- Community Opportunity
- Industry Opportunity
- Long-Term Housing Site
- Long-Term Mixed Use Site
- Long-Term Industrial Site

Thurso Place Standard Tool



Thurso Walkable Access to Services Map




Key (50m Hexagon Grid):

- Very high level of walkable services (12.0 - 15.0)
- High level of walkable services (8.0 - 11.0)
- Some walkable services (4.0 - 7.0)
- Few walkable services (1.1 - 3.0)
- Very few walkable services (0 - 1.0)


The Highland Investment Plan: A Place Based Approach to Delivery

Thurso: Points of Delivery



Place Narrative: Guiding Principles

Local Development Plan




Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan Adopted 2018

Thurso & Sutherland Placemaking Priorities

Caithness and Sutherland Town Centre Strategy Adopted 2020

Ongoing Initiatives: Context





Caithness Area Place Plan Adopted 2025

Focus North Masterplan

Highland Local Development Plan Evidence Consultation, Caithness Area Profile 2024-2025

Architecture & Design Scotland Collaborative Local Development Plan Offer: Evidence, mapping and analysis report





The Highland Investment Plan
A Place Based Approach to Delivery

Thurso - Points of Delivery (PODs)
Appendix 3 - Map of Opportunity & Analysis of Individual Sites in Thurso
13th June 2025

A Responsible Place

Contributes positively to inclusive growth, well being and Net Zero potential in all parts of Thurso and the local Caithness community.

A Coherent Place

Facilitates a more accessible and connected Thurso with multiple partners delivering.

A Vibrant Place

Builds on current successes & opportunities of the Thurso locality and existing positive community enthusiasm.

A Considered Place

Realises best use of past, current & future resources through supporting infrastructure & facilities.

The 4 Guiding principles

The Highland Investment Plan

The Council approved a report in May 2024 setting out a **Highland Investment Plan (HIP)** worth £2 billion over the next twenty years. The plan will see wide-ranging investment across communities in the Highlands with over **£1 billion of investment in schools and roads over the next 10 years.**

A new annual "2% of Council Tax Fetched" investment model has been adopted, which will help deliver **£38 million for the Built Estate over the next five years, and £59 million for Roads Improvements Projects.**

Prepared for Highland Council

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The Highland Investment Plan: A Place Based Approach to Delivery

Thurso: Points of Delivery



Project Methodology

Step 1: Analysis

A number of buildings and sites across Thurso were identified through discussions with Partners, stakeholders and THC. From this, 44 of the most impactful sites / buildings were selected. These could accommodate Community, Office or Depot PoDs. Some of the sites could accommodate several PoD uses and some have potential for residential development.

Step 2: Workshops

A series of workshops were held, both remotely and in person in Thurso throughout Q4 2025 and 2025, with Partners, stakeholders and THC, to review the identified sites/buildings and agree which to explore as 'What If?' Opportunity Studies.

Step 3: What If? Opportunity Studies

A series of high level 'What if?' feasibility studies were then undertaken identifying potential for accommodating different POD scenarios and complementary uses.

Step 4: Conclusion of Study & Publication

All studies were organised by location/type and compiled into a report together with context, analysis and recommendations for next steps.



Key Aspects of the Highland Investment Plan's Place-based Approach

Community Involvement

The plan emphasises engaging with local communities to understand their needs and priorities for development and investment.

Asset Reconfiguration

The plan involves a review and potential reconfiguration of the Council's assets, including buildings and land, to ensure they are fit for purpose and support community needs.

Community Points of Delivery (PoDs)

These hubs will co-locate various Council and partner services, creating more integrated and accessible service delivery points for residents.

Modernised Operating Model

The PoDs are linked to plans to modernise the Council's operating model, promoting more integrated and efficient service delivery across the ten Council areas.

Partnership Working

The plan encourages collaboration and partnership working between the Council, other public bodies, the private sector, and community organisations.

Focus on Sustainability

The plan aims to create sustainable communities by addressing housing needs, updating infrastructure, and reducing carbon emission through various initiatives.

The Highland Investment Plan: A Place Based Approach to Delivery

Thurso: Points of Delivery

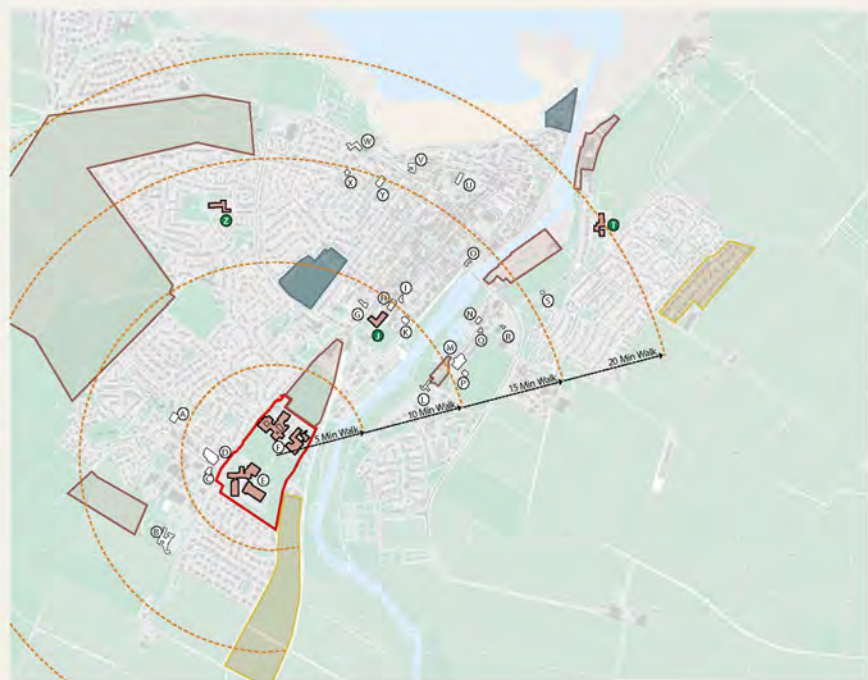


Map of Opportunities

The masterplans will follow the place-based and asset mapping approaches with options developed and tested to determine the best long term solutions for the area.

Key:

- A Thurso Community Garden
 - B Dumbur Hospital
 - C Thurso Ambulance Station
 - D Merlin Cinema Thurso
 - E UHI North, West and Hebrides
 - F Thurso High School
 - G Princes Street Surgery
 - H Thurso Art Gallery & Library
 - I Thurso Health Centre
 - J Miller Academy Primary School
 - K Three Harbours Surgery Thurso
 - L Thurso Youth Club/Mill Theatre
 - M Thurso Leisure Centre
 - N Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Thurso
 - O Diddgess Health Care Centre
 - P Callness Rugby Club
 - Q Highlife Highland Thurso
 - R Thurso Bowling Club
 - S Thurso Football Club
 - T Thurso (Sealand) Primary School
 - U Thurso Community Greenhouse
 - V Police Scotland Thurso
 - W Bayview House Assisted Living Residence
 - X Scottish Environmental Protection Agency Thurso
 - Y UHI Environmental Research Institute
 - Z Thurso (Sealand) Primary School
-  Neer Community PoD Location
 -  Key Location
 -  Existing School
 -  Residential Opportunity
 -  Mixed Use Opportunity
 -  Community Opportunity
 -  Est. Walking Time



The Highland Investment Plan: A Place Based Approach to Delivery
Thurso: Points of Delivery



Providing Points of Delivery (PoDs)

What is a PoD?

The Point of Delivery (PoD) initiative is a Highland Council led program designed to consolidate public service provision, bringing together all public service providers to establish integrated community, office, and depot facilities.

This initiative aims to identify opportunities for sharing facilities and resources, thereby increasing efficiency. It also offers the Highland Council an opportunity to review and rationalise its existing estates, creating various opportunities across both public and private sectors, including residential development.

Thurso has been selected as one of the priority locations for a Community PoD.

“The local community in Caithness are being given a unique opportunity to feed into proposals that will see £100 million of investment in Thurso, starting with a new high school community Point of Delivery (PoD).

We are talking about significant investment in the town by Highland Council, which will in turn encourage other partners to engage and contribute.



I am delighted that plans are progressing, particularly during a time of economic challenge. This is a really positive project not just for Thurso but for the whole of Caithness.

Our Points of Delivery are a new way of co-locating and delivering services so that they are easier for people to access, designing spaces where partner agencies can work better together, encouraging organisations, where possible to share facilities where they have similar needs.

This is a key driver for our future operating model, and part of our wider strategy to devolve and decentralise council operations over time. This is essential to help sustain communities and populations throughout the Highlands. I would encourage people to engage in the public consultation process during December where Council Officers will be on hand to listen to your views and provide feedback on the next steps in this exciting project.

Councillor Raymond Bennes, Council Leader and Caithness Councillor”

Tain Intergenerational Community Campus

Community PoD Provision

All new or refurbished school buildings and sites will have the capacity to include community facilities, Council services or other partners as required.

A local plan for community, sport and leisure facilities for the Thurso High Associated School Group will be developed with HighLife Highland.



New IHC Offices, Wick




Office PoD Provision

A review of existing assets and services that could be located at a Community PoD will be undertaken in 2023, and opportunities for co-location will be explored with potential partners.

Lungnavan Waste Transfer

Depot PoD Provision

A review of existing assets that have opportunities for co-location, to allow for centralisation of delivery, is to be explored with potential partners.

The Highland Investment Plan: A Place Based Approach to Delivery
Thurso: Points of Delivery



Key Aspects of Community PoDs

Engagement	Purpose	Location	Flexibility	Funding	Example
Community engagement is a key part of the process, ensuring that PoDs meet the needs of local residents.	To improve access to services and facilitate better collaboration between public bodies and community organisations.	PoDs are being planned for various locations across the Highlands, including those listed below.	PoDs can take various forms based on the specific needs and opportunities of each community.	The Highland Investment Plan involves significant capital investment, including £100 million for Thurso.	PoDs might include spaces for education, health, leisure, childcare, and other public support services.

Community PoD Opportunities

The following opportunities have all been identified through the Place Planning & Area Review Process, and could have **significant positive outcomes for local communities, partners, job opportunities, investment, and housing.**

- £100m - New Thurso High School and Primary Schools
- £80m - New Charleston Academy
- £50m - New Dingwall Primary and St Clements School
- £24m - Partial refurbishment of Fortrose Academy
- £24m - Partial refurbishment of Inverness High School
- £20m - New Beaully Primary School
- £20m - new Broadford Primary School
- £20m - New Tomagraim Primary School
- £18m - New Dunvegan Primary School



The Highland Council School Estate Management: Thurso Community PoD



The Highland Investment Plan: A Place Based Approach to Delivery
Thurso: Points of Delivery 

Delivering Improved Outcomes for Thurso



The Highland Investment Plan: A Place Based Approach to Delivery
Thurso: Points of Delivery 

Anticipated Dates



Thurso Transformation Delivery Group (TTDG)

The new **TTDG** is comprised of various bodies who are focused on delivering improvements to Thurso.

Current Membership includes:

- The Highland Council
- Local Councillors
- Dounreay
- Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE)
- University Highlands & Islands (UHI)
- Chamber of Commerce
- NHS Highland
- High Life Highland
- Focus North
- Hub North
- Thurso Community Council

The involved members have came together with a joint focus on delivering the following outcomes for Thurso:

- A Learning Campus linked to UHI and new primary schools
- Key worker housing utilising existing sites & buildings
- New Girliness Depot PoD
- A review of existing office accommodation
- A review of leisure facilities
- Opportunities for partners to share premises

The Highland Council's Future Operating Model (FOM)

THC is currently evaluating how it wants to operate going forward to support and deliver the model of PoDs to fully utilise its assets.

Some of these future priorities that are being explored are:

- Improving asset management by reducing the amount of buildings operated by THC
- More jobs across less buildings
- Securing the school estate while making it more flexible
- Creating shared and flexible Office and Depot PoDs
- Exploring opportunities to share spaces with partners



The Highland Investment Plan: A Place Based Approach to Delivery

Thurso: Points of Delivery



The Future of Thurso's Education Provision



The Highland Investment Plan: A Place Based Approach to Delivery

Thurso: Points of Delivery



Community PoD options

Although educational provision is just one element of the Community PoD approach, the future configuration of schools is a key factor in identifying suitable sites in terms of capacity, location, and suitability. The following initial list of options were identified for consideration:



Option 1: Status Quo	Option 2: Education Campus (One Primary School)	Option 3: Education Campus (Two Primary Schools)	Option 4: Separate High School (One Primary School)	Option 5: Separate High School (Two Primary Schools)
<p>Three primary schools (with ELC) on separate sites from the High School, each with ASN bases as required.</p> <p>Replacing all schools will be undertaken and 3 out of 4 underpinned with school to continue rolling.</p>	<p>Thurso High, a combined LARGE primary school, Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) provision and Additional Support Needs (ASN) bases all located on one campus.</p> <p>Location confirmed as the current High School site with playing fields.</p> <p>Education Campus: Secondary capacity: 750 Primary capacity: 641 ELC capacity: 144 Enhanced Provision Base</p>	<p>As Option One but with primary school provision split between the Education Campus and one other primary school located elsewhere and with revised catchment areas.</p> <p>Education Campus: Secondary capacity: 750 Primary capacity: 313-409 ELC capacity: 72-120 Enhanced Provision Base</p> <p>Separate Primary: Retain one of the current primary schools from the campus.</p>	<p>As Option Two but one combined LARGE primary school on a separate site from the high school.</p> <p>Education Campus: Secondary capacity: 750 Primary capacity: 331-409 ELC capacity: 72-120 Enhanced Provision Base</p> <p>Separate Primary: Retain one of the current primary schools from the campus.</p>	<p>As Option Four but with two separate primary schools with revised catchment areas.</p> <p>Education Campus: Secondary capacity: 750 Primary capacity: 311-409 ELC capacity: 72-120 Enhanced Provision Base</p> <p>Separate Primary: Retain one of the current primary schools from the campus.</p>

The Highland Investment Plan: A Place Based Approach to Delivery

Thurso: Points of Delivery



Thurso Community Pod: The Opportunity

At a meeting of The Highland Council on Thursday 26 June, elected members approved the work to date in progressing the Highland Investment Plan's work, including the masterplan for Thurso, and agreed to nominate the current Thurso High School site as the preferred location for the new Thurso Community Point of Delivery (PoD). These plans represent £100 million of investment in the town.

Orchard around the existing High School, and the UHI North, West and Hebrides campus there are opportunities for significant transformation and improvements to be made to education, community sport & leisure facilities, and strengthened connections to the UHI campus. The scale and extent of the opportunity can be seen in the map and aerial view below.

What services could be accommodated in your? Community PoD:

- Education** Replacement High School/O-25+Education Campus
- Sport & Leisure** Enhanced community facilities
- Healthy Living** Provide generational care

Who are the potential partners?

There are a number of partners who could take advantage of the opportunity this development presents, ranging from local government, emergency services, healthcare, leisure and education.



The Highland Investment Plan: A Place Based Approach to Delivery

Thurso: Points of Delivery



Aerial View of Potential Location



- Thurso Train Station and Premier Inn
- Identified Community PoD Site
- Thurso High School
- UHI North, West and Hebrides
- Dunbar Hospital

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What Happens Next?

Based on discussions and agreement with The Highland Council and building on recent successful engagement with Partners, the following next steps to develop the Thurso Points of Delivery (PoDs) are proposed.



1. Continuation of Partner, Public and Stakeholder engagement



2. Further Development of PoD Opportunities



3. Developing the Next Stages of the Business Case



Thurso Community PoD Consultation Survey available online here.

Questions

1. What services would you like to see accommodated in your Community PoD?

- Education
- Sport and leisure
- Enhanced community facilities
- Wellbeing and social activities

2. To help us understand how the PoD can best serve the community, what are your top priorities for sport and leisure facilities?

3. To help us understand how the PoD can best serve the community, what are your top priorities for wellbeing and social activities?

4. Education provision is one element of the community PoD approach. The future configuration of schools is a key factor in identifying suitable sites in terms of capacity, location, and suitability. Please select your preferred option (listed below).

Option 2: Education Campus (one primary school). Thurso 1 High, a combined large primary school, early learning and childcare (ELC) provision, and additional support needs (ASN) base, all located on one campus @location confirmed as current high school site with playing fields

Option 3: Education Campus (two primary schools). Thurso High, one primary school, early learning and childcare (ELC) provision, and additional support needs (ASN) base, on one campus, with a second primary school located elsewhere with revised catchment areas.

Option 4: Separate high school and one large combined primary school.

Option 5: Separate high school and two separate primary schools with revised catchment areas.

5. Please explain why you have chosen the above option over the others.

6. When thinking about education provision, what do you consider the key factors are when making a final decision?

- Travel Time
- Distance
- Campus Size
- Easier Transitions
- Other

7. There are also opportunities to strengthen connections between the local high school, primary schools, and the UHI North, West and Hebrides campus.

What benefits do you think there are to school provision and college/university provision being on the same education campus?

8. There are also opportunities to strengthen connections between the local high school, primary schools, and the UHI North, West and Hebrides campus.

What disadvantages do you think there are to school provision and college/university provision being on the same education campus?

9. Are there any uses for the Thurso PoD you think we've missed?

10. Are there specific groups and/or topics of interest you feel we should give additional attention to for the future phases of engagement on the Thurso PoD?

11. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

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Partners in the Transformation Journey



Appendix 2 – Open Question Responses

This appendix contains all open-ended survey responses for questions Q2, Q3, Q4, Q6, Q8, Q9, Q10, Q11, and Q12. Responses are presented verbatim. Minor typographical variations have been retained to preserve the authentic voice of respondents.

Q2 --- Additional services (open responses)

Base: 65 responses

Response
ASN learning. Enhanced provision and access to more for ensuring their education
Consider all pupils with ASN and with regards to mount pleasant is there consideration to looking at specific needs for children
Running track and athletics facilities
Health services
Thurso needs a good venue for Music and the arts. A large and medium venue would be ideal
A hall with stage for concerts, plays etc
A hockey pitch
Office-based business space
I would like a community skatepark for everyone to use
Thurso high school is the only fully equipped Theatre with a seating capacity of 310 in Thurso
Multi functional courts, netball, badminton etc
A decent sized hall suitable for community use eg concerts by the local community orchestra. Not just for concerts but for weekly rehearsals. It must be available for use during evenings but also during school holidays. Thurso has no large community hall for such events since the Town Hall was turned into a museum!
Healthcare services
Childrens services - Health visiting, school nursing and allied health professionals
Continued ability to house local theatre groups for plays and Xmas Panto

Response
Local drama and theatre productions
they should be stand alone and should have free access to facilities
School nurse base, speech therapy services, educational psychology base
As a teacher, having a distinct school library rather than a community library is hugely beneficial for the pupils. Having experienced shared libraries between schools and the wider community in other schools, it dramatically reduces the pupils' and teachers' engagement with the library as a resource. School libraries in our experience have also been helpful in supporting our most vulnerable pupils who are looking for a quiet, safe place during breaks and lunchtime. Having spoken to pupils they have said they would feel reluctant to use these spaces if they were also shared with the wider public
NHS support Services
It's a perfect opportunity to use the assembly room as a town hall and rentable events venue
The idea of a PoD does not appeal to me. The Wick PoD/secondary school, primary school, Public library and swimming pool is architecturally unattractive and has left an empty swimming pool and empty public library in the town. Thurso has enough empty premises already
Library, swimming pool, gym, hall for pantomimes-drama plays-concerts etc
Many community groups use the current high school including drama groups so it's vital to maintain the provision of the only well equipped, large audience capacity, dedicated theatre space in West Caithness
Thurso has no clean, warm good quality spaces for individuals or groups to use at an affordable rent
Space to hold regular group activities, events and meetings - not using Hi-life facilities
Meeting Space for Organisations to hire/use
Co-working spaces which are either communal or has rooms which can be booked
I feel there aren't good quality instruments at Thurso High School, so if that could be improved that would be nice
A place for those with addiction issues to be welcome and receive ongoing support
Lack of social activities for young children and teenagers
Travel connections for busses etc. Childcare
Listen to the people in the community that is affected and not giving any information
Music, Arts, Creative Industries (even though there was a space for it above ??)
Available for groups to hold highland dancing competitions in it
More local transport serving estates more directly

Response
It the first time I\`ve seen or have know of pod
B s l courses
school nurse space, new office space for health and social care staff, youth club
The other ones in town are well used with a healthy membership but are in need of renovation. The roof leaks and the energy efficiency is poor, although they are well heated despite that
Thurso is desperate to be upgraded like most progressive places in Scotland however we are being left behind with facilities and alternative options that are not for football ,tennis or rugby. Thurso currently is the meca of scotland for surfing in which we are developing Scottish champions constantly. With additional facilities I believe we can in time create British champions, and I think we could see someone from caithness represent the UK in future Olympics. A well thought out skate park can provide opportunities for all ages and walks of life
Creative Arts
Transport links
Special Needs Education specifically for Secondary students and older
Insufficient facilities for adults with disabilities in Caithness. Having facilities in the same site eases transition from school to adult services
Library service - better parking for library users in Thurso. Ground outside to use for activities based at the library
music room should have good quality instruments and equipment
Library
A space for adaptable and multi functional health services eg dentistry, physio, occupational health
More advanced head hair styling centre
A minor injuries unit to relieve pressure off of A&E and to relieve pressure off of NHS 24. There\`s a lot of people in thurso that need medical attention for minor ailments and illnesses but have to travel 30 mins when they could just go to the walk in centre for minor injuries and illnesses
Cultural
We need an affordable area for concerts/theatre facilities
Why fix if not broken
I would like a shopping centre so there is a Primark
Get more foods and drinks more people
Compulsory purchase the growing number of derelict/ poor state buildings in the town centre area.These examples would be the former drill hall on Sinclair street,

Response
swimming pool
With the hospital, cinema and the Warmlie communal heat network project the PoD development is a brilliant opportunity to decarbonise and decrease the cost of heat in the area. The electricity network infrastructure is also well placed to benefit from cheap curtailed local wind
Provision for the hosting of Arts/cultural activities is not represented at all in current plans, yet is an important aspect to consider for community involvement/engagement of the proposal
This council could run from the POD building and could better manage the local communities needs and wants, as highland council covers too big an area to manage effectively. Thurso is close to Sutherland so you could make Sutherland and Caithness 1 council area
more widely available sports stting such as a public outdoor netball court and all weather pitch
A space for young people to go
A pace for young people to go
Bowling alley

Q3 --- Top priorities for sport and leisure facilities

Base: 463 responses

Response
Athletics, storage for group equipment, sprung gymnastics floor, reasonable hire rates, tiered seating for events
All weather
Swimming, racket sports
Enhanced facility with library combined
Inclusive to all ages, view field for example for running facilities empty for 10 years
Games hall, running track and football pitch
I would like our current leisure facilities (eg swimming pool) to continue to be used with a view to possible extension. Also enlarged car parking area provided (plenty of space available). I do not support any proposal to move the pool and gym facilities to a new facility. These facilities are most accessible in their current location
Athletics Running track
Multi-purpose indoor sports hall with some provision for public use during school hours and a couple of all weather sports pitches with changing facilities

Response
Requirement for floodlit all weather pitches for the number of Children in the schools ay least 2 are required
Affordable indoor and outdoor multi sports facilities. If these can be incorporated within school gymnasiums and available to the public
Things we do not have already in Thurso. Currently there is lack of public facilities for indoor sports. Ie i cannot rent a badminton pitch for a game for an hour, and the existing clubs have to use primary schools or high schools etc. A climbing wall would be fantastic. The nearest ones are Kirkwall and Inverness. Itd be a fantastic thing for young teens etc to do indoors when there\'s nothing else other than the cinema in the winter
The swimming pool should remain. There needs to be more facilities open for the public to book. Games halls, multi-purpose courts for netball, basketball, badminton etc. A sprung floor for gymnastics in which revenue will be generated through bookings
Affordable, accessible multi use indoor facility
A running track would be amazing to allow north highland harriers to develop and provide track running training also hockey pitches for Thurso hockey club which is very popular
Climbing wall, yoga studio
Running track a gyms that can be used for gymnastics, football, badminton etc
Bookable indoor facilities, to provide equity with other regions of Scotland who pay for their versions of a high life Highland membership. In Thurso we pay similarly to other areas but essentially only have a swimming pool and a gym (both of whomes hours are not the best) look at what Orkney and Inverness get for their money. Our weather means we have to have indoor spaces - picture a centre where grannie can take grandchildren to soft play/climbing/bouldering whilst mum attends yoga or grabs coffee. Padel/squash/futsal court. Trying to book a let in the games hall in Thurso is expensive and poor quality. Some dialogue with the UHI NWH about reinstating evening classes again - wood work, art, music so adults have an opportunity to learn in the evenings
An indoor games hall and gyms available for local sporting clubs to use
Swimming. Gym. Sport teams and activities for under 18s
Climbing Wall
All weather pitch and modern sporting hall
A public MUGA or games hall additional to what we currently have to allow Indoor sports and public bookings
Athletic facilities
Somewhere accessible late for shift workers
A proper Astro turf pitch and an indoor hall big enough for indoor hockey
Surf culture is huge in thurso, more changibg areas and shower areas by beaches and surf spots. An indoor skate park for kids to have more to do
Multi purpose indoor games halls x2, a large multi purpose gym and a fitness suite. 2 all weather pitches, athletics area and all weather outdoor netball a basketball courts. Appropriate and accessible changing rooms to allow travelling teams appropriate facilities. Space at the side of courts to allow for spectators and full size netball/ basketball courts. Adequate storage should be available for all school equipment and stores for community groups that are separate from the school storage facilities

Response
Swimming pool, dance studio (that gymnastics & trampolining can be done in too) - dance & gymnastics are huge in the community but facilities are majorly lacking. This would provide the opportunity for pupils at primary & secondary level to do these activities in school & provide clubs the space & facilities to do so in the evening. A good financial gain doing lets. A 3/4G football pitch would be massively used but schools & clubs too
New sports village, swimming pool and sauna with better opening times, and running track
We are lucky in Thurso to have adequate sport and leisure opportunities, but most have just fragments of resources available. A full running track (covered for all weather) would be a great start. Indoor and outdoor tennis courts and badminton courts would be of great help to already established local clubs. Perhaps something like a climbing wall would be interesting and could engage youngsters who may not be into more conventional sports
Swimming, football, fitness
Gymnastics and parent/baby fitness classes
Indoor facilities like climbing wall, large soft play (eg things not already in the county)
A fully equipped games hall for a multitude of sports
A hockey pitch
Facilities supporting Watersports- showers, changing room, toilets at beaches
We should look at under-facilitated sports - there seems to be enough green spaces for football at the moment, but perhaps they need some investment. My priorities would be for a new hockey pitch, as they are currently playing on a pitch more suited to football. Their numbers have grown significantly in the last few years with just volunteer support. I'd also say that a full-sized athletics running track and other athletics facilities should be factored into this, as there was a push for this several years ago. Finally, a climbing wall / climbing gym would be an excellent addition - this is a growing sport with no facilities in Caithness presently. A new games hall is probably a good idea, too. The old one is... old!
To ensure that local sports clubs can benefit from new gyms and equipment and better outdoor sports soacd
New skate parks and pump track
To have a building (or space) that's fit for purpose. The space must have ample storage areas for sports clubs to be able to utilise the space. As one of the largest users of the Thurso High Schools gyms, as a club we would be keen to be part of any initial planning consultations
An 8 badminton court space (which can be split in two) would be ideal to keep the community active after school time so more than one club can hire at once. Indoor football/rugby space is much needed for winter training
Areas that can be used for multiple purposes by adapting equipment in a simple manner
A leisure centre where we can hire indoor courts for children to play sport
Bigger leisure centre with longer opening hours and more services offered
Would love to see something for the kids now messy messy is shut, a big soft play area would be ideal

Response
All weather pitch, running track, climbing wall
Sports activities included
Ideally, I'd leave the Swimming Pool & Gym where it is. It's been invested in recently and is in good company next to the rugby, tennis and bowling clubs. If the PoD could look at housing complimentary sport and leisure facilities, that would be of additional benefit to the town. This might include a running track and large gym facilities to act as a regular home for established local clubs like gymnastics and the athletics club. There has often been community desire to accommodate a climbing wall and skating facilities so these would also be well used. Other communities benefit from trampoline parks & soft play centres which would offer an income stream for the PoD
Swimming pool, gym, indoor space for team sports
Indoor/outdoor skatepark that can be used for biking, skating, scooters, skates ect
Things we don't already have. A running track and a climbing wall would be great
An inside gym there isnt enough winter facilities here
As one of the largest and possibly the only users of the current high school gym facilities, Caithness Gymnastics Club would like to see a space large enough to hold fully equipped gymnastics sessions. Alongside a large hall(s), storage requirements would need to be in keeping with the size of any halls and the different clubs using the space. There are currently no option for the club to relocate elsewhere owing to the size of space needed to run classes
Climbing centre
Theatre, games hall, gym as we have at present
Netball courts/squash courts/swimming pool/running track
Purpose built all year sport facilities
6 Rink Indoor bowling arena
Provision for community events, such as concerts etc. should be one of the priorities, as there are few facilities at a reasonable price, where audiences can appreciate music events etc
A proper sports centre - with 2 big games halls, 6 Lane running track - so it can be used by several clubs and a 6 lane 25m swimming pool only for lane swimming
We want a hockey pitch for our local club
A sports area developed around Millbank
Need to get education right before anything else, the existing high school site is finite in size, don't push out facilities for children. Not everyone can access facilities away from town. Will increase traffic, this will pact child and public safety
Games hall - netball/badminton courts
A place for teams or groups to utilise for junior amd seniors

Response
Netball swimming five aside
We need better facilities such as multiple games halls, changing rooms, toilet facilities to allow clubs like Thurso Netball Club the opportunity to train their teams and their juniors to become as good and competitive as they can be in the leagues they compete in. The wellbeing and social aspect of a sports club is huge and will have a massive impact on the youngsters in the community and having excellent facilities to help drive the club forward will only encourage more youngsters to attend. Additionally, we need facilities that operate outside of school term times. Having indoor sports clubs that cannot train for large parts of the year (summer, October holidays, Christmas, Easter holidays) is extremely detrimental to their progress and can cause instability in the positive routines we are trying to promote at these clubs
Better indoor court facilities for local sport
Expansion on the existing sport and leisure facilities located at Thurso Leisure centre. More space for classes and games halls would be useful alongside a dedicated S&C area
Bigger, modern swimming pool. Gym. Spa facilities
Community Concert Hall
For adult sports teams, and to be able to book rooms to be able to play with friends
Available for everyone to use
Facilities that can be used in all weathers and indoor facilities for sport
A small regional facility. Please look at Ravenscraig sports facility to see how indoor athletics facility, indoor pitches, gym halls and performance spaces can co-locate. Thurso Leisure centre, rugby pitches, naver all weather pitch currently provide great venues within walking distance of school campus proposal, these provisions should be added to not replaced. Also see Pickaquooy centre, Orkney - their facility has been able to hold international competitions for athletics, we cant even provide a safe space for kids to train for athletics. Our gymnasts go to competitions and displays where sprung floors are the normal, but at home they dont have that advantage
Pool
Maybe a bowling alley would be good to have for the town
Gym including Netball court with area for spectators
Accessible access for all. Affordable facilities for existing clubs & groups
Facilities for athletics, dance hall and martial arts. I think football, rugby, tennis and swimming are well provided for in current Thurso facilities
All weather sport facilities
Affordable classes and clubs for kids starting from nursery age
If the Campus is to have a Community Sports facilities, i.e. Athletics, Gymnastics, Dancing, Football, Rugby etc, then all the Sport Groups need to have access 7 days a week, Mon - Fri 5-9pm and Weekends 10am-8pm, with floodlit areas for all year round uses. Also access to changerooms, toilets and showers. There would be a need for storage facilities, whether shared or not would need to be considered
Sport and leisure facilities should be tied to, geared towards and supportive of the educational need of the pupils specifically for the needs of the pupils attending the school(s)

Response
Pool without high sides. Hydrotherapy pool. Health suite (quiet and calm) pool and health suite not overlooked by gym. Gym not overlooked. Individual access to a private exercise space, for those who don't have a warm or big enough space at home to exercise privately. Accessible gym, more adapted equipment. A circuit trail with outdoor activities- see Cardiff. Accessible climbing and bouldering walls
The pod has the opportunity to serve the community in a multitude of way. First and most important is the high school, to absolutely honest it is a scandal that the existing building has been let get to the stage it has and I really feel for the pupils and staff that have to go there every day. That said we are where we are and I am glad something is being done. Having a top class educational facility is paramount. Beyond that having nursery facilities would really help the community. With regards to sports facilities the current all weather pitch at naver is good but over subscribed so another pitch is essential if possible it should be covered. Though the surface may be all weather often the wind is prohibitive and coaching kids outside in 1 degree with a wind is not going to encourage participation. Beyond that I feel 4 small 5 aside mugas would be good, though they need an Astro turf surface, this would allow smaller groups to hire the pitches. I DO NOT agree with the construction of a swimming pool this risks the existing pool closing and unless it is a significant upgrade like a 50m pool why spend the money building what we already have
My top priorities would be for it to remain affordable and accessible, with extended opening hours to suit people who work different shift patterns. It would be good to incorporate a swimming pool, sauna and gym area, but also a wider mix of activities, along with classes to meet all ages and abilities. To encourage good attendance, it would be important for the facility to be safe, welcoming and inclusive, with accessibility for people with mobility needs. Flexible membership options would be ideal, to suit to all budgets. Perhaps it would be useful to have sessions focusing on mental health and well being. Of course any facility should be energy efficient and sustainable to help keep costs down
Running track, athletics facilities, football pitches, rugby pitches, climbing wall, courts for tennis and netball, swimming pool, gym
Something new that we dont already have access to
Indoor heated courts for tennis, badminton, basketball, 5 a side football etc. Sprung floor for dancing/gymnastics
Playable netball courts
I think After Schools Clubs would be hugely beneficial to working parents in Thurso. There is currently no provision for this at any school in Thurso. Anything sport or education related to make the most of potential facilities. A lot of the existing activities and clubs in Thurso have waiting lists unfortunately
I dont know. Accessible anyway
Theatre capability. Music also
live theatre facilities
A multi sport complex which is accessible with respect to restricted mobility users and prams
Swimming pool and gym
Not to remove the already expensive pool/Gym we already have
All weather park and athletics track both floodlit. All weather park and games hall up for more sports other than football. The athletics tray not only used for running but young children use it to learn to ride their bike
All weather football/rugby pitch. Indoor football/ badminton/ netball building
Indoor football pitches, gymnastics facilities that can remain in situ, large hall suitable for all types of dance classes available locally, all to be accessible to people with disabilities

Response
Netball Court / Wellness centre / 24hr Gym / panel courts
The current facilities available through high life highland in Thurso are less than any other area highlife highland card including Orkney so it would be good to include shared football training areas, a climbing wall, track for runners
Larger gym halls, up to date equipment, classrooms which have access to playing field for outdoor education. Netball court, football pitch
Community sports centre
Our school currently benefits from playing fields, basketball courts and gym halls. If any of these were not included they would undoubtedly be missed
These should be kept as they are at the moment with the leisure centre and swimming pool in a separate location. Public access to a school running track would be good though
Complimenting existing facilities, while not detracting budget from upkeep and future proofing of those facilities (e.g. swimming pool, Naver all weather pitches, tennis/squash club)
Football, basketball, rugby
Sports hall that is available during the day, theatre with a proper raised stage and wind space
Whatever the school would use
A focus on young people and the elderly
Dual use games hall with lock ups for associated club gear. Skate park, bike track pump track. Something for the groms that's not football. Thurso is a surfing mecca with no facilities for junior onshore board sports. Lean into the natural assets we do have and you will see champions flourish here
excellent facilities for the pupils/students
School sports
Leave the existing swimming pool, existing fitness centre and the existing public library, which are all conveniently situated in the town
Good quality facilities with space and multi use
Running track-rugby/football pitch, seating for outdoor sports events
Multibase games halls. Indoor hockey, batminton etc, space for less common sports too
Badminton courts available, flexible booking for individuals to have access, 50m swimming pool for competition training
Running track to replace the one that will be destroyed
Running track and other athletics facilities, golf training facilities

Response
All weather facilities that are affordable for small clubs. The current pricing for Naver for example is utterly ridiculous. Kids should have safe spaces for sport with toilet facilities all year round, this is virtually impossible for small clubs charging £4 per child per week
Big enough space for all the sports clubs. A few gym halls that can cater for various sports
An indoor hall capable of hosting a number of sports including netball, badminton, gymnastics, basketball and others. Including a climbing wall would also be a great asset for the Caithness. An additional smaller hall for other activities such as dance, yoga, pickleball, badminton and others. An athletics track and associated space for athletics field events. There are no athletics facilities in north Highland. A new 25m 6 lane swimming pool. The current Thurso pool is dated and tired. A new synthetic pitch suitable for a number of sports including football, rugby, shinty and hockey. Resurfacing the Tennis courts in town and maybe a Padel tennis court adjacent to them. It would also be great to see more support for watersports in the area. There is huge potential for connecting a new campus with water sports activities but investment in slipways, showers and changing areas and equipment storage would make a real difference
An affordable space for sports and leisure with the chance to the community being able to provide a wider range of sports for children and adults
Greater fitness centre capacity, longer opening hours etc
Decent sized space to host fitness classes with storage space for equipment
Indoor training capabilities for all ages
As above plus outdoor area with roof to use for large group activities / events as per large shelter similar to agricultural barn
Affordable access and usage for local clubs. Sports facilities which add to and enhance what the town already has. Outdoor and indoor facilities appropriate for a range of sports. Adequate facilities for all classes to access the required PE time per week in the curriculum. Consider usage, eg: Thurso swimming pool is already well used, it is difficult to access for families who want to go swimming, as all the time is allocated to lessons and TASC. We may require an additional pool. Good sporting facilities in the town should be kept, enhanced and maintained
Some thing for kids aged 9-16
reasonable entry prices, a private place to change
All weather pitch suitable for multiple uses
accessibility for older people, people with disabilities, unfit people, newcomers and also financially accessible
more indoor activities, such as a climbing/ bouldering gym, bowling etc
Up to date games hall, indoor and outdoor artificial surface with suitable changing rooms. The lack of these facilities in Thurso are embarrassing and hinder the development and enjoyment of sport participants both young and old. More sporting facilities will help foster new opportunities and new clubs for the local population
Multiuse indoor facilities, all weather multiuse sports pitches
A rowing club or cricket club
We need indoor facilities with extended opening hours for kids and adults to remain active in the evenings, during holidays, etc. Currently there is one turf pitch. No other fields in the area can be reliably used because they're soaked. The turf field is locked unless used by an established team, which leaves no flexibility for anyone else who wants to get out and play. In addition, an indoor skatepark would align well

Response

with many people in the community as there is a large surf scene. Pickle ball, tennis, etc. are also popular amongst adults. A facility that allowed more flexibility for both kids and adults to use would benefit everyone

Football and athletics for kids

The sporting facilities in Caithness are extremely poor. Having a child who plays football has taken us to various different facilities across the highlands and further afield. Children's ability to train more than once a week, have more matches and to attract other teams north is hugely impacted by the lack of facilities. Various age groups of all the different clubs, as well as adult clubs, all vie for the same slots on one full size all weather pitch in each of the two towns. Clubs would ideally train twice a week plus have a weekend match but this isn't possible due to lack of facilities, both indoor and outdoor. Looking to Orkney and the fabulous facilities at Pickaquoy, including multiple outdoor pitches, Alness with the facilities at the High School, the amazing sports complex in Aberdeen. Caithness children deserve better. We, as both a community and a country, and particularly within the education system should be striving to 'Get It Right For Every Child'. This, along with childhood obesity and to generally give children and young people, as well as adults a facility for for purpose with multiple training areas, adequate storage, sufficient change rooms and decent bathrooms, shouldn't be too much to ask. We need to encourage children's active interests and encourage them to grow up with embedded fitness habits to ensure healthy, active, well-balanced, confident adults who make positive contributions to society. It's time to invest in our young people and community and give us and them a facility to be proud of

Football, basketball, tennis, badminton

Football

More all weather facilities

Swimming pool, indoor courts for basketball tennis etc

we dont need a pod full of every thing a gym or a sports hall no we just need a new school if you want to put the primarys in thatll work but 50 diffrent facilities no way

Gym as well as nice halls/rooms for classes such as pilates

8 court badminton hall Gym (weights, cardio, hyrox), recovery rooms- sauna ect for contrast therapy

Somewhere like the Pickaquoy centre in Orkney where there is multiple sport facility and also an indoor football pitch

badminton courts and swimming pool, gym

A gym and an astro pitch

netball

Larger gym with recovery offerings - sauna, steam room etc

pool

Netball court

for teams in youth league and to travel further

All weather pitch

Response
more types of sports
Better changing rooms
have different sport activities
Swimming pool football pitch
have a football pitch and a swimming pool and basketball/netball courts
Better equipment
to have a healthy body
People can play games like football or netball and have fun
to have more sport clubs for students
gyms for fitness
good changing rooms
A Gym
Football pitch
gym,
swimmig pool, gym
gym
Good changing rooms for all pupils
a gym
football,rugby and a swimming pool
Indoor football pitch, swimming pool, gym, astroturf football pitch accesssbile without needing to pay
better equipment
Football pitches
football

Response
18 hole golf course
gyms and better places to play sports
football stuff
maybe meet new people i don't know
To have the right size of courts for netball etc
2 astro-turf pitches which can be used all year round
sport clubs and pitches to play sports on
New netball court
like sure just like sport clubs more often
sumo wrestling facility's
basketball
football
more equipment and just more sports things
adequate changing and a wide variety of equipment
gym
keeping fit
Access to fitness and leisure and activities much like a sports centre vibe in orkney
Swimming pool, gym, sauna, steam room, badminton courts, squash courts, tennis courts
Something for kids of all ages to do!
intergenerational activities
Indoor facilities i.e. replacement games hall
Kids facilities
Price

Response
Football
Indoor Astro multi sports pitch football/rugby/hockey. Indoor sports facility for badminton/gymnastics/dance/5 a side/basketball
Varying sports facilities. 24 hour access for people that work shifts and 100% public availability instead of working round schools, clubs etc. Classes including activities such as yoga, mindfulness etc
Accessible facilities, with capacity to support a growing community. Useable space that a can be utilised all year round - and suitable for Scottish weather
Not a running track in the Veiwfirth field. Upgrade to allweather pitch at Naver would be better
A sports centre and a place all sports can play in winter
Sufficient indoor space, particularly for football during the winter. Exploration of the possibility of sprung floor for gymnastics (our gymnastics are at a national disadvantage here). Full size running track
Better pool facilities, gym, indoor football/tennis facility and outdoor areas
Just peace for residents who live there
Up to date facilities which are accessible to all, physically and financially
Affordable facilities for clubs to hire
Indoor and outdoor football pitches
football nets
Football pitch, swimming pool,gym,Rugby pitch,basketball court,running track
Football goals
could have one for table tennis and pool and that type of stuff
Netball
I don't know
volleyball
idk
more P.E
Tennis , Gymnastics
Football

Response
Badminton
netball
treadmils weights to keep us fit yet theres a gym nearby so no but more training equipment
Sports equipment
I think that a fundraiser for sports groups would be amazing so sports groups can get there own facilities and not have to use halls
a gymnastiks club because it is stoping
having enough space and good quality changing facilities
Venues big enough to support public events
All weather pitches, Various courts, Gymnastics Facilities, Indoor Bowling facilities
An affordable rental indoor and outdoor facility purposeful for a variety of sports within the community such as football, rugby, dance, martial arts, gymnastics
Better gym
Gym
rugby, football
A large Games Hall type venue with seating facilities for spectators. A large outdoor area (pitches, running track, changing facilities/showers, spectator area. Swimming pool (with flumes/slides, etc), sauna, steam room. Gym. Dance studio
Netball court to have the right size of court for national competitions
AWP for rugby to be played on
Indoor sports facilities are required as the games hall has limited availability. Need somewhere like the Astro turf pitch at Naver but have it covered so sports can be played all year
Improve hours of leisure facilities
good quality facilities that has a full timetable of classes and wides selection to cater for everyone
Swim/sauna, gym, sport court
Better, larger 24 hour gym for all, better parking, easy to access
Seperate facilities as currently in place
Swimming but we have this in thurso already

Response
Multi hall access for clubs or highlife activities
Modern gym
A pool
Swimming pool, climbing and music/drama
Swimming pool and gym
That we have new badminton rackets that arn\'t bent in half
spaces for more than one sport
A gym area with machines and weights ect
better equipment
more equipment
Pool, gym, sauna, steam room
Fitness and wellbeing for youths
Additional sport facilities that are currently not provided in the town such as an enhanced running track, climbing wall etc
More access for young people
Covered football pitch like Helmsdale has
skatepark, pump track and climbing wall
Swimming pool, tennis/squash/badminton, dance/yoga and spaces that can be accessed, spaces that can be utilised by public to hire and use
A rugby pitch would be great
Running track and athletics facilities
Quality indoor facilities. Also a 400m running track open to public. Good new football pitch
This that can be used by schools and community all year round
Cheaper rental to encourage clubs to use the facility throughout the day not just evening or weekends
MUGA provision, leisure facilities which are open weekend afternoons and evenings

Response
easy access to sports equipment and courts
Table tennis, tennis, crazy golf, trampoline, hockey, indoor spaces for lots of sports because of the weather up here, skate park, climbing areas, skiing
Football pitches as well as a better rugby field as the current one isn't flat and is often on a slight incline
A full 400 meter running track with athletics facilities provided such as discus net, shot put area and long jump
A variety of facilities, not just football
Good quality material for sport
Access for after school weekends and holidays etc
Affordable facilities
Affordable court hire (badminton, tennis, squash, etc), 50m competitive swimming pool, cafe
Open more hours
As said squash, badminton, possibly a pool upgrade as the other one in Thurso is pretty old. A state of the art gym would be excellent as the one at the pool is good but limited machines in it
Pool, gym and games hall / courts / dance studio
Great coaching, variety of sports and open to all ages. All weather pitches available to current sports clubs at reasonable cost. Dog walking STRICTLY prohibited on all sports fields, backed up by CCTV and penalties
Indoor games facilities for football, basketball etc
A big indoor astro turf hall for the community to use at a decent price
Larger indoor sports facilities with spectating areas. Sporting activities in Caithness so limited due to the poor facilities
I would say along the lines of classes. Swimming. Free swims for families. And more child friendly activities
Indoor facilities for kids out of school activities that doesn't cost a fortune!!
Something slightly different than just football facilities for kids
Athletics including running track
Covered football pitch
10 pin Bowling. Kids soft play, Zumba classes
Gyms and football and rugby grounds

Response
Fitness studios for young and old, creative classes,
Inclusive, realistic, after schools access
Bookable real grass pitches as well as astro turf pitches. Bookable gym halls
Skate park/ pump track
TBH I think we do alright there
A multipurpose leisure centre like the aqua dome or picaquoy centre
Indoor sport complex
A multi purpose fully functional indoor arena for all sports
All weather facilities that clubs can use ie the rugby club
Like bowling and Gyms
Badminton, dodge ball
they should build an extention to the thurso football
Places to play sports
more footballs and sport tools
A gymnastics gym for caithness gymnastics team and a proper netball court
A netball court, gymnastics gym, water fountains, football,swimming,bamenton and rugby sorry this is a lot just a thew ideas
football
indoor golf
basketball
school swim team
To keep active and on the move with activities/ things such as: a gym, a school pool, yoga area, dance hall, football/ rugby field
gym being well equipped. having a gym, a school pool, yoga area, dance hall, pitch/field, shinty equipment.
Anything that benefits the youth

Response
Additional Needs Sports (Wheelchair Rugby)
variety of activities and affordability
Swimming pools, bathrooms, private changing
Games hall and all weather + grass pitches to promote more/better community sport
Swimming pool; gym; outdoor activities (Countryside Rangers; Active Schools)
don't focus too much on sport, already well served with leisure centre
a games hall
Netball, badminton, racketball
Outside events, running track etc plus more halls space for indoor and winter events
Indoor facilities for gymnastics, badminton etc
Decent swimming pool
Have equipment that is in good condition
not sure
Quality options
keep everything not damaged and balls occasionally pumped
like indoor places for sports
Better gym
Accessibility and Moderation of bad behaviour
We have a swimming pool and that caters for fitness and aerobics classes too but we need something for other sports like badminton, tennis, pickle ball, indoor football etc
A swimming pool and a gymnastics set up
Grass pitch , sports areas for netball etc / all weather facility
Range of sport and fitness
have good quality rackets for badminton and over all have decent equipment

Response
Nice places for school pupils to use as well as good places for different clubs that are outwith the school
Childcare. Dignity friendly access to food and welfare. Accessible and affordable. Modern and multi functional. It's not all football and basketball. Think outside the box
Definitely still want a library and a badminton facility would be good. A large hall for multiple use as a community facility that doesn't charge a fortune for hire
After school clubs
Fitness for older people
Skate park
Four court games hall
Micro flight training modern transport training
A really big gym, a pool, night fitness classes
A complex/ venue that has multiple uses
Hydrotherapy pool for those with disabilities including fnd and fibromyalgia. There is no service like this up here and a consultant of mine said it would help my disability but I can't get that service up here
multi purpose hall
We already have a pool, squash facilities and several gyms in Thurso. Moving these facilities would be wasteful when this money could perhaps go towards fixing the state of all the roads in Thurso
Some addition to sports facilities but should not be a priority
Gyms that clubs could use and a sports pitch
Better gym facilities, perhaps sports area outdoors for year round activities
Football, badminton and tennis
keep the existing leisure centre, including pool, properly maintained. improve walking trails around Thurso
A hall for all
Concentrate on minority sports
Multi purpose sports facility including a running track. The facility can be used by everyone including school pupils
Cheap reliable services for local clubs to use and afford. Not like the current pricing for facilities at THS
Maintained and modern

Response
Given the existing provisions already covers football, swimming pool and gyms the main priority should be high quality indoor and all weather facilities. In particular a large sized indoor games hall that can accomodate 2 activities at the same time. Also the county has no athletics facilities, i would like to see a full sized running/cycling tack including all other athletic sports. Facilities should be designed for shared used between education and the wider community/clubs
A swimming pool that the public can actually use that's not booked out for the swimming club
Exercise classes for all ages and abilities and a gym with wellness facilities
Range of pitches astro turf and indoor, along with tennis courts, padel courts and any other new sports
Good sized modern gyms to suit multiple sports and gymnastics
Indoor spaces for all racquet sports, basketball/netball, climbin wall etc that are running as groups but can also be accessed by the public to hire. Pool that can be accessed by schools/college
Indoor facilities - ideally an indoor 4G surface for athletics, rugby, football etc
Affordable and modern facilities that are easily accessible for all
Indoor football pitch
Gym, racket sports, athletics
Having a skate park and promote Thurso's surf to bring in more tourists
Swimming pool
There is a dearth of facilities both affordable and otherwise in Caithness and Thurso. This extreme shortage of facilities hampers both the young and old when it comes to participating in lifelong activities such as Football, Rugby, Badminton, athletics, basically any sport you can think of. In comparison toe the likes of Orkney, Shetland we are falling behind in every aspect and frustratingly the facilities that are available are booked out all year round making it extremely difficult to for any new groups to access
a proper running track, and inclusiveness for older people and disabled people
Proper changing facilities plus associated sports facilities
more activities available
Indoor sports facilities capable of hosting several types of sport, eg, basketball, netball, volleyball, running, football etc. Thurso leisure centre (swimming pool and gym) should stay in it's existing building
A gym, swimming pool, hall for (badminton, tennis, volleyball etc)
Enhanced spaces for badminton/racquet sports. Courts for rental etc
swimming
swimming pool

Response
I would like a horse riding stables or club
Big and better swimming pool
I feel there should be for Thurso FC to push on a become a highland league football team. The benefits for the local economy and social aspect would be fantastic for Thurso
swimming
Music helps the brain develop so more music facility
just like fitness things to keep people healthy
A wheelchair accessible gym would be welcome
football basketball and swimming
As well as the standard running track etc a skate park (community groups are already looking at funding which could help with this) and climbing wall would be excellent. Basketball court would also be good
to let the community come together and spend time productively for fitness, health and wellbeing rather than having too much spare time with nothing to do
indoor football and gym for every one
astro turf pitch, a court for netball
All weather/indoor facilities
Bowling Alley, A pool with waterslides or diving boards (we pay the same as Inverness for pools with less), table tennis, or just have a gym hall you can hire out and just use whatever equipment you want to play any sport, even ones you've made up by combining equipment from different games
Entertainment venue that can accommodate at least 500
a good gym with varied equipment that is all up to date and covered most body parts nad excersises also more options not including free weight
Sport Facilities for female sports such as netball
Not sure
Swimming and gym exercises
I think that a running track is good for different clubs
Athletics trac/football pitch/school playing fields as currently used
Games hall/ climbing wall
Iíd like to see a centralised sports and leisure area, perhaps by making the field all weather

Response
Having decent opening hours
A gym with decent opening hours
Good running tracks, gym open from early am
Create opportunities for people to have fun and come together, helping allow people to get active
Accessible sports facilities
Good sport equipment and good changing rooms
Fitness and health put as a priority
Available and free to all
A gym for younger people where we can go on our own would be nice
Better swimming pool, bowling alley
Footballing facilities
Good access to the facilities, good quality changing rooms and facilities
Pool, gym. Library
Boost job opportunities
General body health and encouragement of stretching
Games hall
Something fun and enjoyable for the younger kids/teens
Classes for all
More sport areas such as an all weather pitch
Skatepark
More accessible and available venues for clubs, sports and events
Just different spaces that can accommodate a wider range of sport
Outdoor activities, There is no provision for a cycling and walking centre, in line with the Development of the North Highland Way

Response
football nets
Better access for local community groups to provide services and classes
Running track, multi-use outdoor areas which could be used for athletics and other clubs who wish to train outdoors. Indoor facilities suitable for multi-use training by various clubs. Storage facilities for clubs with equipment. A gym with sprung floor for gymnastics practice. Wide range of times outwith school hours where facilities can be rented to clubs. Current highlife Leisure centre and Thurso library are brilliant venues and should not be closed to be co-located. Creation of a small regional sports facility would benefit so many and external funding to help with this could be sought from Sports Scotland and the Scottish Government
Netball court
Make it fun and accessible
An area where people can exercise or relax feeling safe and comfortable
football,basketball,baminton
Clubs
netball court , swimming pool
Netball
That it\'s very good for people who want to be active while inside
places for bikes
I would really like badminton courts and I know its not just me
More funding for Highlife highland facilites in Thurso (such as a sports centre)
Ice skating, volleyball, tennis pin bowling
Basketball court, ten pin bowling
Keep the sport and leisure facilities seperate as I so not want to see Thurso in the same state as wick with the old High School. old Swimming pool and Old Library failing into disrepair and being eyesores in the town
Anything to help kids learn and train in their preferred activity in a safe, enclosed, well light and sheltered from the elements
Basketball court, football pitch,
Football and Rugby pitch not only available for children in but to compete with naver for holding menís highland league matches with areas for people to potentially watch, could bring in ticket money
Swimming Pool. Classes for exercise

Response
gym pool
All weather pitches, larger gym
New High School
Accessible and affordable
a swimming pool
Sport and leisure should be located in a central, neutral location. Locating on a school campus is off-putting for many users
Gym and courts
Up to date/ modern
Swimming pool, sports fields and indoor facilities that are affordable for everyone to use

Q4 --- Top priorities for wellbeing and social activities

Base: 370 responses

Response
Well sound-proofed rooms for quiet activities, yoga, Pilates, therapy spaces, meeting rooms
Space for community activities
Group meetings, alternative therapies
Warm spaces for kids to enjoy
Places for children eg youth clubs activities and gaming
Health centre, safe places
Social activities are well catered for in the town now. Bringing them to the POD will create access difficulties for some age groups eg older persons who will face longer travel times and expense in getting there
Athletics Running track
A community hall with breakout rooms and facilities for staging music and drama
Needs to be a sensible mix of education sporting and social fabric of the town

Response
Separate from education apart from mental health councillors at school
In Thurso caf�es close really early and have odd times so there is no '3rd space' for people to socialise, meet, be in/congregate if you have no interest in alcohol etc. There needs to be a space that is not primarily for drinking or mandatory to buy food or drink to go to. Examples of that are food Hall type facilities like at the victorian market or others across the UK. Food could be provided but the main focus would be a social area and it could have different activities throughout the week like one i visited in Croydon had bingo one evening, music another and the football on a projector another. Again an indoor space for people during the winter would be of massive benefit for the community
A soft play set up similar to the Picky Centre in Orkney would benefit the young children of the community and parents when children are using facilities for sports clubs etc
Mental health awareness, arts classes, painting and pottery. Classes on breathwork, somatic healing etc and awareness of self soothing techniques
A hub , a cafe where people can meet, hold meetings, have yoga classes, mother and toddler group , OAP club , friendly area
UHI NWH link to provide night classes again. Film nights, viable community space to run events so the self serving clubs which have now formed can pull together in the same direction to share a space they all care about and utilise
A hall which is available to host pantomimes, art exhibitions and other public events
Volunteer groups. Interest groups. Befriending opportunities
Music venue and wellness rooms
Sport activities for kids
Just more public events with more awareness spread about said events
I would like a comfortable, modern area that people can meet, preferably on a Sunday when everything is closed
More health and social care services to help tackle ongoing mental health crisis in caithness. Stop centralising everything to inverness. Respite care is needed for parents as well
Appropriate space and opening times for wellbeing and social activities. Appropriate measures in place to have separate from school entrance and activities
A dance studio could be used for yoga too. Endless options from school daytime use & evening
Outdoor wellbeing options, perhaps more dedicated walking routes or a new park (maybe the Moors?) with green space, clean walking routes etc
Inclusion of all ages
Disabled access facilities
Safe, clean, well designed accessible spaces
A hockey pitch
A skatepark- many members of the community have looked into trying to make this happen but not had the funding behind it

Response
I think more help for mental health in the area should be a top priority. Caithness is under-served in this matter. Unsure if they should be sited near a school though - is there a safeguarding issue. May want to separate these buildings
I'm not sure if it will
A space for support groups to hold meetings and groups
A space that is welcoming and accessible to everyone. A space that can be used by different groups and users for regularly occurring events or available to hire for one of events
An after school area where teenagers can go that is warm, fun and safe (young people can be involved in its development from early). A place where older isolated people can come together and enjoy activities and each others company
Somewhere for people to find others who have similar interests regardless of age - from birth all through to those who are retired
There is no space where families can go play sport together, for example kids playing basketball in PE at school. Enjoy it and want to go play with family or friends are unable to do this. Sport is so important to the health and wellbeing of everyone and to not be able to hire facilities in a town the size of Thurso in 2025 is terrible
Local community seasonal events
400m running track would be ideal. New soft play area for children
Large hall for multipurpose use
Education and use of facilities for events
Social activities for young people are lacking in Thurso. A social/warm space for young people would be brilliant while somewhere adults can socialise without an alcohol focus would also be of benefit. An auditorium would be brilliant and somewhere that acts as a community space where people can rent it to host workshops and general activities. I'd love to see more provision supporting artists and creatives incorporated too
Hub for local interest groups, community kitchen and cafe showing practical basic cooking and dietary education
Services like mental health support, sexual health, women's health - services that are lacking here currently
Activities for children. Clubs and equipment
A sports centre that would enable lots of different groups to utilise the space
Climbing centre/club, more community events
Continuation of theatre facility as we have at present
A large room to hold groups for classes and workshops
Indoor bowling center. Good for the old age to keep up mobility

Response
Sport Centre - Look at the Pickaquoy Centre in Kirkwall - Thurso should have the same
Mental health
Community Hall, library , lecture theatre,
Don't alienate people who could use services by making them out of town, increase in traffic an issue. Not everyone has transport, could be too far for some people
Cost for small groups is a huge issue. Often having to fundraise or charge to maintain groups which benefit wellbeing as weekly fees from members dont cover huge fees for halls
Keeping fit weight management programmes
As above, clubs like the netball club are more than sports. They are a hub for adults and juniors alike to meet up, to exercise, to train both physically and mentally and to have a place of belonging in the community. With new facilities this will only make this more accessible for clubs like this as currently the available facilities are extremely sub par and will at times put people off from using them
Better indoor facilities for court sports and a safe and modern place to get young people together
Activities inclusive of the whole community
Disabled club for children (and a separate one for adults)
Community Concert Hall
A place where people can go and get help where they need it, judgement free
Spaces for community led activities
Spaces where schools can utilise spaces during the school day but that clubs can utilise in the evenings and weekends, more accessible spaces would increase opportunities and interactions which would benefit wellbeing
Community hall
Mental health services within the school
Green spaces within estates. Well maintained swing parks. Allotments
Community Hub options for events either here or as legacy from Workers Village
The main issues are access to toilets and with juniors toiler access doors being in easy view of supervisors. The feedback I get is that the existing toilet/changerooms are sometimes out of bounds/locked, might be due to being cleaned before evening sports and don't want them dirtied again. This might be an issue for any Wellbeing or Social Activities, which Mon-Fri would be ie Evening Classes. Some events are known to last to 10pm, which is late for a Campus area. Or could some of the Wellbeing/Social activities ie evening classes be incorporated into the UHI, who has a long history of facilitating evening classes, with some exisiting spaces/groups (9-5pm) being relocated onto Campus?
Wellbeing and social activities must be tied to, geared towards and supportive of the educational needs of the pupils attending the school(s)

Response
An indoor market hall, multipurpose sports space. See Lerwick. Employing a team to do all the arranging and coordination of events, including other venues as Lyth Arts centre have demonstrated works well
Nursery
Priorities would be to have a space that can help you relax and switch off and forget your work and caring responsibilities of the day. Sessions such as yoga, stretching and mindful classes would be good for relaxation and may capture an older demographic. Group classes and sessions would encourage social interactions, which would build community connections. Walking groups, as promoted by health care professionals for good mental health would be useful. Being flexible with sessions and groups would be handy, to capture people taking unplanned leave, visitors and tourists
Staff training spaces, spaces for family contact time, spaces for play sessions/physio/slt/ot sessions,
Places where groups can meet
Spaces that can be used by sports groups & community groups on evenings/weekends
As above. After School Clubs to help working parents
Something fair with qualified leadsj
social spaces for local community groups
An event space which is accessible, economical and serviced well
Mental health support hub
Sports facilities
Craft rooms that can accommodate sewing, knitting, arts and crafts
Place for therapy / Halls for club rentals
Cafe, yoga space - group activities
School nurse on campus, building where teenagers can go
Pupils need quiet spaces to socialise. A school library is necessary for providing pupils the ability to engage with the library without feeling that they don't belong there
Rooms available for hire for local clubs, in the way the Assembly Rooms in Wick are used
Providing greater, modern spaces for existing local services that would require disproportionate investment to maintain. e.g. Scout hall
Gym and exercise classes
probably not great to put that with a school
Areas where young people can go who are perhaps not sporty as these are often forgotten about

Response
Events space/hall. Thurso has no town hall, little wonder the community has no heart
Nhs dentist
the cinema and concerts
Community based spaces that have multi use for all ages
Community spaces for clubs and groups, not just sports
Smaller and larger facilities to accommodate smaller craft groups/ parties etc
Suitable spaces for community groups to meet
Somewhere safe children can go, with structured activities or the freedom to do nothing but in a safe and warm space with adults around to make sure everyone is ok and safe
I think there is some provision already in the town for example in the community cafe. I believe the focus should be on provision for sports and leisure
Lovely green space with walking and cycling trails
An affordable space
Welcoming, well laid out and decorated space to facilitate social interaction
Access to current technology items that provide a benefit to people and community
Physical activities of all types for all age groups. Cultural activities for all age groups to be available in comfortable clean pleasant surroundings
Thurso needs a community hall where it can stage events. Currently the only hall that can meet this need is The Legion, which isn't large enough and doesn't have a stage. We also need smaller spaces for community groups
Something for teens to do & go
things for young adults to do, that are accessible by public transport
Space to hold coffee mornings, concerts etc
activities for isolated people, accessibility, support for people with challenges such as drugs, health, poverty
more markets and fairs?
Groups that would help combat isolation more so during the bleak dark winter months. Meeting facilities for local volunteer clubs. Also the ability to house after school clubs to aid child care for those working
Fully serviced meeting , gathering and performing arts facilities
Don't make pubs the only thing the youth can do

Response
For mental and physical health, there needs to be more facilities available for people to use more flexibly. People who work cannot use the leisure center during the week and it's offerings are very limited. Kids don't have anything to do outside of organized sports, which are also limited. There needs to be something for kids to do who want to stay engaged, but this can also extend to adults. There's also no afterschool childcare available in the area- this could also open up opportunity for housing after school and holiday camps
Other sports in general, science engagement
As above. Perhaps include a decent cafe that's open all day and evening, with healthy choices and available as a meeting point
After school clubs
A range of activities for all ages
Have rentable areas for social activities out with school times
Extracurricular clubs, support groups, and spaces for teenagers to socialise (meaning they don't have to wander about the streets and can sit and do other activities together)
just make a school ffs
Spaces for group meetings and events halls
Ensure there are areas for people to meet to do clubs from sports to even a crafts club ect. Have areas where people can relax
Things like art clubs with people like youth developmetn
not sure
netball club
yoga
idk
Darts, Pool table
Clubs
being nice friendly and having an enviornment that people can feel safe in
Better areas for you to go
idk
have something like a counselor to help people sort out any fights
to have clubs where you can meet new people and make friends

Response
social groups to bring community together
They make you feel good about yourself
for people to meet other people
clubs
Wellbeing checkups ensuring all are happy and well
clubs
Have classes so that people have a space to talk about their mental health
Swimming pool
football
not sure
making sure everyone is well
Somewhere nice to socialize
bars, entertainment such as music and joke telling
im not too sure
idk
have good health
i didn't like going to sports clubs
Clubs and opportunities to discuss topics
making new friends
Activities bringing the community together both socially. Also a road connecting the bt turn with ormlie bringing the community into the 21st century with activities a d infrastructure
To make our community better and make people actually want to live here!
I do not think that these should be based in the PODS but at local hubs for ease of accessibility
Activities which can address adult loneliness, and activities aimed at improving mental health

Response
A hub where all services are under the same roof and people are welcomed and treated with respect and dignity
Learning about fibre
Soft play for younger children and area for teenagers pool tables/arcade computer games/darts library quiet study area with research facilities. Areas for practical life skills planning for mortgage and savings, how to fix general DIY tuitions, basic vehicle and bike maintenance workshops
Spaces where people can learn new skills crafts. Things like learning to grow fruit/veg in containers at home. Things can can support families to become more eco friendly and sustainable. Information sessions around reducing financial costs
A specific location for elderly/disabled groups to meet
We need a synthetic surface with a roof and sides so folk can play sports all year round and without having high winds, snow, ice etc
Shared space for open access to community, for events, meetings etc
Mindfulness classes, art classes, yoga classes
Listening to public
Offer a range of activities to suit a broader range of people
Affordable spaces for groups to hire
social areas in the school
Places to hang out with others idk
idk
vending machines
Gymnastics
Football
Social areas
make more after shool clubs like basketbll etc
Hangout room
More clubs and different sporting clubs would be great
having fun

Response
areas that Teenagers can use outwith school times, activity areas for teenagers outwith school times - like climbing walls, games rooms like darts, pool etc
Extra carricular and probab free strength, conditioning, relaxed sport sessions straight after school time. Kids in rural areas miss out and as a parent I don\'t want my kid hanging around for a couple of hours first
Mental health support, drop in services
Mental Health classes, social isolation type groups, befriending groups, support for mothers and babies and the elderly
Groups for teens
Swimming pool
I do not have any top priorities for this
Athletic facilities
Available at a reasonable price for local groups to use
I think there is enough provision of premises for well being & socail activities in Thurso
Social activities for the elderly would be good for the community. Too many people are living alone and nobody to speak to. A day care type centre would be great
NHS already strained. And Dunbar hub improvements stopped. This should be reinstated
a full timetable of activites that meet the needs of the community, all ages and all abilities
Kids groups
Friendly open atmosphere, community based activities
Improved use of current facilities
Learning to cope in this world . Learning what is needed when out in the world
Links with mental health facilities/support in the area
idk
Music/Drama accomadation
Clubs
that there is a social area for every year group
Extracurricular clubs/groups, activities for young people

Response
more education for it
Stop children getting into trouble and living fuller lives
It should be an education site for the schools everything else should be separate so that the public aren't going onto a school site during school hours
Provision for community groups to access function space to provide social activities
Family friendly social events
Somewhere the kids can hang out after school pool tables, cafe, games
art studios and performance space / hall for live music and other creative arts to be held
Spaces for hire, activities for all ages from teens to pensioners,
Sports and musical groups
A space where groups can use, yoga etc
I think these are well covered by options offered by High-Life at Millbank and by private businesses offering Yoga, pilates, saunas and sports massage etc
Support for neurodivergent people from education or community of all ages
Facilities accessible for all ages and abilities
Services that cater for children and young adults with severe and complex needs
provision for teenage groups at times of need - ie weekends and evenings - a MUGA, sports hall availability for indoor football, badminton - for children, young people not attending clubs for these but can book a space to play with their friends
accessible services for locals with mental health issues from a wide range of ages like groups for teenagers as there is a lack of mental health services. There should also be group activities and ways for people to meet up as some may be isolated
Groups for teenagers, the elderly, young families support
I think there is a lack of places for teen to go and hangout around town so i feel like a place where teens can go enjoy themselves in the warm would be a great idea
Support for everything that needs it, no judgement and the type of help that they need
Swimming and sports
Affordable rooms for meetings
a safe supervised area where our teenagers can meet friends and socialise with basic catering facilities, e.g. tuck shop, etc

Response
A hall for beavers, cubs, toddler groups and other similar organisations
Classes - babies to LD, to older adults. Cafe
Quiet indoor spaces, spaces for families to enjoy on poor weather days without costing a lot of money
Large performance space suitable for pantomimes etc
A nice comfortable space for the whole community to use
Social activities more focused on kids. There isn't much to do during th days for toddlers
A place where community events can't be held, like an attraction to the area, a place people want to use/visit
Cooking classes, language classes, more facilities and inclusion for people on the spectrum, soft play
Accessible activities that genuinely incorporate inclusivity. Regular variety of activities with classes tailored to different wellbeing needs
Welcoming facility where people can learn life skills like cooking, joinery work
Cafe. Kids soft play. Parking
Creative classes, group sessions etc
A space for young people to hang out. A music room of some sorts to support young musical artists. Maybe other arts activities
It would be beneficial to have a social area that community groups could use for evening classes, community events, concerts, exhibitions etc
Skate park / pump track
Engage the community to help organise events
Kids facilities soft play
Same as above the indoor space will help with pressures on the games hall
not sure
i don't know
Signs against stuff that harms your health like smoking
more gym periods
A mental health hospital in Caithness

Response
Lots of new everyday activities for familys like painting or active fun classes like dance workouts and puppy walking and yoga class!
a room with board games also for talking
Yoga group, nature area, quiet area, a wide range in school clubs in and out of the school day (varying from creative arts to sports)
yoga, a nature area, a quiet area. wide range in school clubs in and out of the school day, (varying from creative arts to clubs)
Group meetings for illness group
inclusive and welcoming programmes
An enviroment with the correct equipment and enough space
Day centres to promote social interaction for learning/physical disabled and elderly. Respite care centre
Community education
warm safe area for quieter activities for all ages. Well designed outdoor spaces with wildlife also a high priority
places for groups to go, specifically young adults/school kids
Yoga, womenís health services, mental health services for all of the community including children and you people
Keep as much as possible in the town centre
Not sure
ask some students how theyre doing
places to talk to friends
Ease of Access and Moderation of poor behaviour
I don't know what it needs but something/somewhere where children especially teens can go. I know a youth club runs but for some reason it seems to be lame to go to that so something else that can inspire or interest them
Any activities would be good , the county lacks it
clubs for all ages, evenings and weekends at low costs that the cimmunity would like
make sure the quality of the lessons are good
Social groups run by professionals, for example things like confidential mental health group. Maybe let stepping out use a room or that for there group activity things
Social space for informal groups. Free period productsÖwhy not more free products. Multi functional, again making it as useable as possible

Response
I think it would have been more helpful to give a list of suggestions
After school clubs close to school
Evening classes eg Arts and Crafts
Rooms people can host clubs such as scouts, play board games and host man and women shed like meetings
Teletubbies appreciation rooms
Disability provision for kids AND adults. Childcare / creche facilities
We people/ groups can meet in a comfortable modern environment
Free activities for children of primary school age for the weekends as there is not much up here. It allows them to get out the house and communicate and socialise with others which helps with development in a lot of ways
community hub
School facilities should include more sports facilities, although the rugby club is well catered for
Better sports facilities combined with a health hub promoting the sports facilities
Healthcare, social care for elderly
activities for after school. respite groups for carers
Open to all
Space for local groups
As above, a purpose built facility
Creative classes which benefit a variety of ages: art, cooking, music etc. Activities and places of interest for teenagers and kids. Bowling alley, arcade, softplay, laser tag, trampolines etc
Flexible community spaces that support the mental health, social connection and youth activities
More arts and crafts classes like messy Nessie. If messy Nessie closes there will be no soft play again in town
Wellbeing classes and workshops, theme days, educational events
Good and new educational buildings with suitable resources
I don't think it should be used for this

Response
Spaces for pensioners/ other groups who don't find spaces inclusive. Having a cafe that people can meet and use not just for when using the POD. New parents. Maybe a space where we can have cooking lessons etc from to help people learn skills to enhance their life
a variety of facilities to allow a variety of activities to be able to run
Modern facilities that are easily accessible for adults that struggle to find groups for meeting like minded people to mix with
Being able to consistently play outdoor sports throughout the year at a reasonable cost
Mental health and wellbeing, social groups, activity groups
Similar to above really as the directly link. If you look at the likes of planet youth in Iceland etc there was a huge investment put into facilities and a direct increase in participation, lowered issues in terms of substance abuse
a gym for retired people, cycle lanes all round the town and local countryside
more activities available
A community hub hosting a variety of classes in one place, book clubs, crafts, activities for seniors and juniors
Increase opening hours of Thurso Leisure Centre back to pre-covid
groups for people with disabilities
more clubs for people with special needs
Horse Riding Club
Going for more fosert walks and cooking club
I would to see more support for young people
clubs for special needs
Mental Health
As stated above. If Thurso was to have a highland league team it would be great for the community.As is common practice with highland league football teams
cooking
have more engaging social activities that actually make people work with people they dont know
We desperately need ithird spaces in the town - warm, comfortable places for people to socialise. Such as a larger community cafe

Response
Things like the climbing wall help with an option for teenagers - I think this should be more of a priority as particularly in winter there are not many great spaces. The lack of bowling alley in Caithness since the cinema one closed again is a lack of standard activities for younger residents
to allow the community to have activities available to their disposal
How these can be managed effectively and safely on what is primarily being presented as an education campus
Social spaces for all ages, or you could get a room that you can borrow board games, and jigsaws from to use within the POD space
Cookery
Not sure, education
places to exercise
How does the POD fit in with the now shelved HUB?
Group activities for elderly/lonely adults
A space for young people
A space for young people to go
Allowing people to come together in a welcoming place and find new things they enjoy
Respite services
Providing good services for the public
Cooking and life skills
Open to all
To have a lot more social places to meet up outside of school as there are not many in Thurso for younger people
Cafe
Social opportunities ie bowling
Well advertised to be well attended, good opportunities for social activities
Possible meeting area for folk. Cafe and entertainment area. Somewhere for young folk to go
More none sporting activities such as arts and crafts
Advertisement of when/where these activities take place

Response
Sports and clubs
Teaching skills that could be used perhaps like music, sport
Equality and facilities for everyone no matter what
More community halls and services
Available venues there is a lack of space for current and new groups. Good examples of what we had before were the available rooms at the town hall which were affordable to hire
That they're there in the first place
A centre in one of the cafes
more teacher
Same as above
it would help to make new friends and meet new people
Keeping existing Leisure centre and library open but having space available within the PoD for clubs/groups to rent would enable more activities to take place for the wellbeing and social activities improvements
To make them a normal part of the school
Places people can go if they want help with mental health problems or neurodivergency
Social spaces
places for bikes
I recently have been interested in fire cadets but it's in Wick so getting one here would be really nice
Somewhere teenagers can use
Somewhere indoors for winter for teenagers
Just build a new Highschool and keep separate primary schools. Ormlie road is congested enough already
Safe spaces, groups with activities to suit all capabilities
Activities like bowling, arcade, etc
Having areas to host clubs such as netball football and basketball, academic clubs such as debating or designated study rooms such as a library, or also facilities similar to the swimming pool like a gym or fitness services. Have social areas inside similar to the milk bar in the current high school

Response
Safe places to attend, activities to help with mental health
Childrens facility large softplay
Skate park or bike park for teenagers
Affordable and available at times which suit the community / not the managers
See 3
Yoga, sewing/crafty groups
More medical professionals
They should also be located at the POD

Q6 - Please explain why you chose the option in Q5

Base: 437 responses

Response
Having a choice of school and location is so important. The option to put them where they will thrive. Having a primary with secondary and asn at a location will be good for sharing facilities, staff, teaching, ease for parents too. Will be good for asn transitions too
I'm not comfortable about all primaries going into one and also little kids being alongside dee
Primary schools should not be mixed with the high school
Integration
Keep mount pleasant for elf and asn primary needs
Thurso is to large for all to be in one site
It would seem sensible to have childcare provision on the same site
All under one roof should help maintain decent teacher provision and consistent standards not linked to individual catchment year rolls across three different catchment areas
Town not big enough to support a the existing network of facilities pppulation in decline as well
Thurso needs a primary school within easy walking distance for people in Springpark

Response
Too much pressure on infrastructure having all in 1 place and meaning further travel for some areas of Thurso. Also benefit of diversity and competition etc of having 2 primary schools
One large primary school is not feasible with the numbers across the 3 primaries. The area proposed for the new high school will need to be increased, by a compulsory land purchase perhaps, if there is to be a 3-18 campus
I think a large unit is best with focus on ASN being separate so they can have adequate support, smaller classes across the board, and all in one campus would mean facilities are held to the same standard all over
This seems to work in Wick, also allows schools to still be close enough for younger children to walk to school
Primary needs to be separate
I don't believe there should be any changes to current school set up, 3 primaries and one high
Knowing the area the roads alone can't cope with all the traffic and not sure about all ages from 2 to 18 being in the same campus. No buses in town, young children can't walk the distance and parents would constantly be doing pick ups from school, too many cars etc if all in together, the main site isn't central
Keep MP and PL, makes sense to decide catchment with the river and for traffic reasons. One primary can specialise in ASN. Rebuild high school. Primary schools need their own identity
I am concerned that anything less than two separate primary schools will mean that the schools will be outwith walking distance for primary school children. I believe children should be encouraged to walk to school where possible. I would suggest Miller Academy and Mount Pleasant should be retained on their current sites
Education campus is progressive for the town. Separate primary school in catchment area will be important for parents and reduce traffic flow (greener)
Primary school should not be too big. Also ASN support should be separate primary/secondary. A physical change of setting helps children recognise their progress into adolescence
I don't think it benefits small children to be with older children
Traffic issues, size of building
Seems like a more consistent standard if all in one place, also would make transition to high school easier
I don't have a reason I don't have children and no opinion on this
The practicalities of having primary and high school pupils sharing the same building and parts of the building when following different timings. For example the issues that have appeared in Wick with the primary school using the dining hall in the middle of the school while secondary pupils are in class producing a lot of noise and having secondary pupils moving classes while primary pupils having lunch
Sharing facilities with primary school pupils (eg - gym halls, games hall, pitches) may take away availability for high school pupils use during the day
Primary school kids and high school kids should not be in the same campus
I think 2 primaries is important to encourage families to walk to school - I worry that it would be difficult to maintain a level of community feeling in a 'super' primary. Adequately staffing a large primary also has its challenges: eg we would require an SLT team with experience in larger school settings - would Highland Council outsource these roles or would they be willing to upskill and support an adequate transition?

Response
Primary needs to be separate as they could be intimidated by older students within the campus
Combining one primary school will allow the appropriate facilities without mixing with a high school
too much to have all education on the same site for 11 years for the students . Congestion of facilities and traffic to school
Primary schools need to be shorter travel distances and putting 1 in a campus would give it a different status to the other. Primary and secondary should not be lumped together
Seems easier for pick up and drop off with children of different ages
Easier to have everything in one
Good to have a smaller primary school available that suits people in another location
Happy with the idea of a large education campus. If it is to be sited near the existing school, then maybe to alleviate pressure on traffic, Mount Pleasant should remain where it is - it has a fairly delineated catchment area. Traffic from there wouldn't need to flow over the bridge and add to what will be an already-busy town centre. It also strikes me that the Sprinpark area had been earmarked for further housing developments, so it means that MP primary school will have a healthy school roll in the future? It absolutely needs to be given financial support though - it can't lag behind the money which will be pumped into the Education campus. It needs to be attractive to teachers, parents, pupils
I believe having a separate high school and separate primary schools would be better for Thurso. With also separate swimming pool, library etc as this will result in less vacant unused buildings. I think it will be easier and faster to build one new high school than including primary schools too
I am concerned about the traffic management for more than one primary school and a high school. Also what would happen to the empty buildings that the amalgamation of schools will leave?
All children going to one area of the town sound like a logistical nightmare. One school (Mount Pleasant) remaining would mean some children are being catered for elsewhere
Option 2 or 4 - The fewer number of primary schools allow all children equal opportunities for equipment and experiences. Fewer buildings should offer a better allocation of finances. I do have a concern with the location - if this is to be built where the current high school, how would current students be able to receive a full education? What about practical classes - science, technological studies, hospitality etc?
I think the traffic at one big school would be too busy
There could be benefits to putting the ground at Miller Academy on the market, and focusing on the two other existing primaries
Seems the most cost effective option
Would be good to keep primary and high school children in my opinion
This option would allow primary schools to be located much closer to the children's home meaning much less travel issues and making it safer for children to walk or cycle as many do now
Chosen mainly as distances for many children who now attend Mount Pleasant Primary school (ages ranging from 3-12) would have to walk a considerable distance in all weathers as not everyone owns a car and many will not qualify for transport although they will all have to cross a very very busy A9 road and a river to get there!! The comment 'SAFER ROUTES' in your comments needs to be addressed!
I'm torn between option 2 & option 4. I worry about the younger pupils being overwhelmed by such a large complex. I'm interested to understand what the class size proposals would be and the teaching staff numbers by comparison to what we have now

Response
Mount Pleasant and Pennyland are within housing developments so more accessible to their community. Travel with pre and school children without a car needs considered. Roads currently gridlocked by high school would be so much worse with single campus that is far removed from current primary schools
I dont think there is a big enough area to accommodate so much traffic for pick up/drop off
Children are relatively sheltered here and having 2 campuses would give the sense of moving between schools and will require change. Will also ease traffic etc compared to if there was only 1 campus. If there was only 1 then would the rest of Thurso become just residential?
The high schools abd primary schools need to be separate. The high school currently isnt a safe space so I wouldnt feel comfortable with my younger kids mixing with the older kids. I also feel having separate schools lends its self better to more opportunities
I believe this would deliver best value for money with your limited budget of 100 million
Better to have the primary and secondary separate
It will do good for older children to see first hand what its like to share facilities with Children with ESN. This could also provide them with first hand experience of what\'s required if they wish to pursue a career in education, especially for those with learning difficulties
I think a secondary school, a large primary school, an early learning and childcare provision, as well as an ASN base all located on the same site would be unacceptable to most families in the area
Keep the schools seperate - don\'t want a primary school next to the High School. It is fine at the moment, but we do need a new high school
Better funding
Savings in terms of shared facilities and staff
There would be a significant increase in volume of traffic at the site, especially with a primary school so far out of town. Would impact primary pupils ability to walk as itís much farther away. Not the safest for younger ones,, especially as more parents will use cars for transport of children. Potential for more pupils to be eligible for school transport due to revised catchment areas. This in itself would create more traffic. Concern over security for primary if public have access to site for other facilities/services
As a member of local sports clubs we solely rely on one games hall for training and hosting games. It is not fit for purpose due to worn out lines, no changing facilities or toilets
Parking/pick up problems already when collecting from any of the schools now. Putting every pupil in one place would cause town congestion
Safe for commute, relationship with staff, familiar surroundings
Its a very American approach, but it works there and theres no reason it shouldnt work here. Thurso isnt big enough to warrant trying to locate two sites, and additionally, the money spent on 2 sites will not go as far as what can be done with one overall site. I believe the one site will be more efficient, act as a central hub for the community and allow families with children of multiple ages, to be located in the same area for education, after school clubs etc
One centralised education facility
Seems the best option given the bottlenecks presented by crossing the river and longer walking distance for children near mountain pleasant
It is a very bad idea to mix children across such a wide range of 3-18. It is also inadvisable to mix Enhanced Provision (disabled) children on the same site, as they need their own spaces

Response
As a recently retired primary school teacher who has worked in very large primary schools and also smaller ones, I strongly believe children get a much better personal early education where they are known and understood if they attend a medium sized primary school. In a large school children are not known well by all staff. In very small schools they don't have enough social interaction with other children but a medium sized school they get the best of both worlds - they know everyone and everyone knows them! That is why I would favour two separate primary schools. I believe children need a fresh start and to move on to High School. That is why I would favour a separate High School/college/UHI building
The high school is in desperate need of renovation, and two primary schools allows parents to have a choice
Smaller primary schools are important for accessibility and smaller class sizes for learning support
I feel that option 1 is not reasonable as the numbers are too large and the bottleneck in the town would be horrendous. I can only see the option for ASN base and ELC within the 3-18 campus idea but I also don't believe that this is suitable. The larger the setting the less personal it becomes. Very busy environments are also not conducive to all needs. I think 2 primaries separate to the high school would be the ideal or one with the high school and one elsewhere with ELC and an ASN provision
I think that keeping the high school aged children and primary school aged children with some separation would be beneficial for the school experience of both. Moving up to high school is such a milestone, but the high school behaviours are not necessarily the best influence of younger kids. Also for high school aged kids, being closer to college/UHI would benefit their learning experience
You could build the new high school and primary school where the 500 worker's village is going to be
Miller and Pennyland are no longer fit for purpose
Children attending nursery & primary should be close to their home. Walking to school should be the norm. Encourages close friendships within local area. Less congestion with traffic. Not everyone drives. I was a parent with 3 children, do not drive, would have major issues getting children to school if on other side of town to home especially in winter (plus younger primaries have different times to older). Another pressure for young parents
I would prefer more information on cost v benefits between all 4 options before making final choice. I would also be guided by education based authorities, specialists and parent groups prior to any final commitment
I believe it better for the town to have a school either side of the river to cut down on traffic around just one large campus
Transitions between schools would be easier for the kids when integrated in one campus, opportunity to partake in more sports if combined with leisure facilities
The problem with Option 2 & 3 is people are used to Primary/Early Learning and Secondary being separated (i.e. a Cultural history) which parents are used to/more comfortable with. Option 3 is the best one with having a budget and might be more acceptable if the Catchment Area for 2x Primary Schools being optional (first come first serve status) with Early Learning off Campus. Ideal then Option 4 would be the preferred choice in keeping with historical Education system parents are used to. But it might be possible for a the Campus at the preferred location and a Primary/EL on the Old Mart site, with Sports Field separating both Schools. Option 5 is ideal but might be pushing a the budget and could value for money be achieved?
Education should be the primary and only consideration of this development. Separation of age groups is fundamental to a safe learning environment
I chose 1 location for all as shared resources are more efficient, but would need buses for primary kids, for safety and weather. I would also like to see the overwhelm and exposure to large crowds on arrival and exit and on breaks managed extremely carefully, I am autistic and went to a very small primary school and the idea of a massive primary school next to high school kids is very bad
Because young children shouldn't have to walk to the other side of town to get to a school the way the schools are now are better the weather is unpredictable and not everyone can afford taxis to get young children to school

Response

There are currently just over 600 kids enrolled in primary school but this is forecast to drop over the coming 10-20 years. I would build a new high school and a primary school with the capacity for circa 400 kids. I would then shut miller academy and penny land primary which are the two closed primaries to the new campus and the schools whose catchment areas offer the safety walking routes to the new campus. Then I would leave mount pleasant open as the kids from that area would need to walk a huge distance to get to school. I would add that is the kids from mount verson (also on the east side of the river) were reallocated to mount pleasan (currently the go to miller) this would increase the toll at mount pleasant to around 200 and 400 in the new school. Then in decades to come as the school roll across the board drops close the 400 total move the mount pleasant kids into the new school providing buses to get there. This way allows you to build a smaller new school, if you build a single new school for for 650 kids it will be 2/3 full inside 20 years

I think option 2 meets the needs of the community best. Bringing childcare, early learning and ASN into the one place makes for a more efficient, easier accessible provision. It also supports the huge need for a childcare provision in the area, which has hampered many parents returning to work or even increasing to full time employment. It also reduces the juggling of multiple drop offs. While having primary and secondary schools in the one place can be viewed as hampering, I feel it makes for a less daunting transition and allows for easier collaboration between primary and secondary school, reducing the need for transportation permissions

Utilising the budget on one site will mean more money to invest in families here rather than splitting the budget

Too much traffic

One site would mean a focus there and maximise the facilities available

I think if we start choosing more and more buildings then we will afford less for the money that is available to spend. The combined school rolls are large however and probably do need split into a second primary school

Why waste an existing site? ASL is in dire need of improving up here

The Town is large. Split across 3 schools. If we have to change losing only 1 is the preferred

Important to keep high school pupils separate to let them have their space. Two primary schools taking into account class sizes and geography of the town also traffic management issues if everyone in town is going to the same place

I think providing an integrated schools approach will improve transition for kids and also be easier to approach the campus for collaboration with the college, community initiatives, etc

Best option. Pennyland and Mount Pleasant should be refurbished with new nurseriesat both sites and a proper Special Educational Unit at Mount Pleasant. The town then split into 2 catchment areas

The high school area is not best suited to primary children on the other side of town. Ormlie road is already manic when high school go in and out let alone other services and a combined primary

Having one primary school next to improved facilities then other primary schools would be at a disadvantage

All children will have access to purpose built new facilities, the transition between primary/secondary will be minimal and there will be inclusion for all regardless of disability. It will also help ensure all primary children have similar experiences and access to all the sport/wellbeing facilities

There is a lot of primary schools in Thurso - it is good for children to mix before high school

I understand the need to ensure a high school and college would be closer for senior phase but not primary its different

Response
I feel that there having a high school/ combined primary school would be too congested for staff and children. Two combined primary schools ie Pennyland and Miller would be big enough, three would be too many and too far for the children over in the spring park area to walk. Viewfirth field would be a perfect location for this combined Primary school as it has enough space for parking and playing fields. This would be right on the catchment boundary for both schools
I have no preference
Concerns over shared ASN resources. Often in combined schools these are placed within the primary side of the campus. This is harmful to the esteem of secondary school pupils who require these facilities
Combining primary and secondary schools will lead to increased busyness in the immediate roads and grounds, too intimidating for young primary pupils
Fairness for children in different catchments, pooled resources, perception of older Primary school conditions and capabilities
Schools being suitably integrated
putting primary schools together with the high school seems like a terrible plan that you'd only come up with because you cant be arsed doing it properly with several different instead of trying to cram it all in to one thing. you mention smooth transition between primary and secondary, but that not a problem atm and seems more like inventing a problem so you offer this as a solution
Having all of these resources on one campus often makes transitions easier, however, I feel we have to have an additional primary as the geographical area is too large
Cost savings resulting in better, state of the art facilities
so all can relate to the school/ The age gap is too wide 3-18, intimidating for the youngest/ too big to create a sense of community/identity/ separate primary school enables pupils to feel a sense of responsibility
I felt it important the High School and Primary Schools retain separate identities
Big site already fit for it
One school in Pennyland area/near high school and the other on springpark area
Less locations hopefully means more can be spent on additional facilities but feel like primary and high should be seperate
I think the High School aged children should be separate from the little ones and it will be very congested if parents of every school aged child is dropping off/collecting at the same time
Two primaries will reduce amount of vehicles on sale part of road. Also means of problem with say heating less pupils impacted
A lot of people walk their children to primary school and this may be more difficult and lead to increased traffic and an increased level of risk for children moving around near the school if it was all combined
I think it is the safest option
I am torn between 3 and 4. Creating two separate primary schools will mean not everyone will get their first choice. If there us only one school then every child has the same opportunity and access to the same facilities
Traffic issues with one site could be an issue
The town is large, many primary pupils would not be able to walk to school (big plus for health)

Response
I don't think the current site is large enough to host all facilities certainly not without losing most of the playing fields. Also think travel distances for primary school pupils needs to be considered so a second primary school to accommodate different catchment areas would be beneficial
Seems most logical use of land
Not appropriate for High school & primary school at one location. Plus access for high numbers of people which will also include members of public accessing the community facilities. the facilities
One school is too large, Highland council already have difficulty recruiting for management positions in the largest schools in the region. In concerns that some of our primary children will never have the opportunity to make their way to school independently. Safe routes and transport options must be given careful consideration. The road bridge across the Thurso river already presents a bottleneck in the town. One large primary school will be too big and I'd already be concerned that even bringing 2 schools together is too large. Entrances between the primary and secondary would need carefully considered, I find the current set up in Wick intimidating for you children
I feel that younger kids should be in a place of their own & to stop bullying from older kids if the schools are all together then more bullying will continue for longer
having one large campus/one large primary school would cause congestion in town. and ASN need addressed with proper care and diligence
if all Thurso based primary children were in the same campus as the secondary school, on transition to secondary high school for the rural schools, pupils may be at a disadvantage
It needs to be accessible, I would rather separate campuses but this is the most accessible option. others don't include as much
Gives people equal chance
I feel the area still has a population that would support two primary schools. If this is not the case then option 4. Segregation between secondary and primary school is important to allow the primary school kids a space they can progress without being 'forced' to mature too early
I believe at primary level, one school serving Thurso would prove to be wrong choice
Teenagers and children should not mix
Combining into one larger primary school would give the opportunity for consolidate resources in order to use them more efficiently. Keeping highschool separate to allow kids to own their identities, reduce traffic and to optimize the sites for age-appropriate facilities
My youngest child is completing primary school this year and is at Mount Pleasant, one of the worst ranking schools in the Highland area. Primary school is arguably the most important time in education and separate primary schools makes it harder to have oversight of incompetent primary school head teachers
I don't think that one large primary school is good for anyone - children or staff. We need to look at smaller schools and class sizes, not larger. Having 3 schools is surely preferable for smaller numbers. It's a good thing to have smaller classes, not a negative! Option 5 doesn't mention ASN or ELC
We would like to see schools co-located in the area
I feel miller academy should be kept and expanded as there is a lot more potential for the use of the grounds
I think having primary school pupils mixed with the high school pupils would be a mistake as it would increase the chances of younger children being hurt in hallways, playgrounds or any other mixed areas. I also think the primary school and secondary school students should remain separate, as a secondary school student I think the primary school students would likely experience some bullying from the older years

Response
it makes the most sense, and keep the school exits seprate and play grounds
By combining the schools although there would be more access for older years to experience High School life it could expose younger children to ideas and issues which are prevalent in high schools but not primary schools. Furthermore, by maintaining separate schools there is less of a big shift for teachers and students, while also keeping corridors quieter therefore reducing. Having a learning support base would be helpful but the lack of funding spent on additional support is a problem
As having two separate primary schools is better as when you go to highschool you then get to meet new people
Because i think it is a good thing when you leave p7 to enter a new enviroment, i think it ruins the excitement you feel going into s1 when you arent going anywhere else. It also may negativley effect kids as they may be influenced by older kids from a younger age
otherwise the other primary schools will be empty and it\ll be crowded
Creating a elargeí primary school will be incredibly disadvantageous to the rural schools of Halkirk, Castletown, Reay, Crossroads and Bower. Considering the range between 2-3 pupils per class in Crossroads compared to what would be assumed to be \~50 within the large primary school. For the rural pupils transitioning to S1 would become even more difficult as children from the large primary school would not feel as inclined at make new connections and friendships. The large primary school would simply create a gulf between rural & town children
I think due too violence a high school mixed with a primary school would be too dangerous
Most convenient
because not everyone wants to socialise withe the younger ones
Because the primary school and high school are seperated
i think it will be a good set up for a school
that would be the best
I chose that option because it will be less compact
idk
it seems better and more sustainable
beacuse then before going into high school you can see who you are going with and make sure you have friends before going to high school
because if the highschool was cnetd to the priaary there would be lots of little choldren with alot bigger people
so there wont be crowding among pupils if schools kept separate
im not sure it sounds easy but its probably not
It would be good for people to already know each other when they go into highschool because its scary enough as it is when you first transition

Response
I feel as if the people in the highschool may be a bit rude to the little ones or something
makes everyone is toghether
makes tranisition easier
Easier for parents to get their children to school also limits accidents
because its the best option
Because it would be better without a combined primary school
because i think its better than the rest
Better
not sure
it seems the best
beacause it will be better for the younger people to make new friends
cause it would be less crowded
i don\'t really know that is just what picked
I dont think it will be good if High school pupils are congrigating with primary pupils
there is a lot of people in thurso so i thought haveing 2 primary schools and joint high school with a primary school
distributes children across schools in case of any reasons for wanting to move primary schools, also keeps teens and children separate in case of bad influence
it sounds like a good idea
because I\'m not sure
For people in primary school to have fun stuff to do
because it just makes more sense
sounds easiest to access
I think its best collectively for the community to have a education campus
Some primary schools have better teachers then others this would give all kids a fair chance at a good education. Secondary needs to be seperate as is completely different setting to primary

Response
Primary schools need to be smaller
A combined large primary school would likely be a more efficient way to maximise the facilities for the money available. I also feel that as children progress from childcare, to early learning, then to primary, and then to high school, it would be an easier transition if everything was within the same campus. I don't believe the quality of education would be reduced, as one would presume class sizes would continue to be capped and additional teachers would be available or recruited
As for the best outcome for such different ages I think that would be best
Because learning is important
I feel segregation with primary and high school pupils. This to provide separate learning and development. This will reduce peer pressure allow young children to be young and develop at their level. Smaller classes in separate primary schools to help education development
Use the site that's already there
It is almost impossible to adequately resource and manage such large campus, the needs of nursery children and staff are very different to the needs of teenagers and secondary staff
Uses current school location so less cost involved in renovation/building and is on main thoroughfare
Towns too small traffic wise for one single campus
Education campus is an appropriate outcome for rationalised services. However the bridge is a pinch point for traffic (particularly in muster and out muster for Dounreay) and one primary school should remain on the non-Education Campus site, i.e., East of the river
Class sizes need to be a consideration when talking about combining schools. Employment for teachers - does it reduce posts. Management of schools and how that will be split. Having a primary school and high school together concerns me with the age difference and different stages of life. Drop off areas and congestion need to be considered too
O think the high school would be better on its own
Just my preferred option
it sounds better
Just to have all the pupils in one school
the others confused me
because i like the idea of a seperate highschool
Well, I'd honestly like to be away from primary students
because i think its easier
idk

Response
because it seems better for primary to be separated with highschool
I want to be away from primary school kids since their annoying
I think it is better to keep primary and secondary separated
im not sure
I think it would be too crowded and overwhelming
I think that there would be too many people in one place and would impact trying to get places on time
i dont know i just like the idea
I dont want to see the PSAs from Pennyland
I think that the high school should have a different campus separate to the primary school
idk
I think if you have all schools together the foot and car traffic during drop and collection will make the road there too busy for other users which will have a knock on effect to the state of the road and pavements which arent great at the moment anyway. it will also be too congested for pupils in the school. but i like the idea of things being in the same place
I think it is more likely to get extra facilities if in one big campus
I think that everything in one campus will be too large and that will cause issues around traffic/ services etc
Inclusion in one campus. Better services shared by all within our community on the one site
Everything within walking distance kept together
It makes the most sense to me, seems the most realistic
It will allow a more separate divide between younger children and older ones, while also providing an opportunity to experience moving up in education, similar to moving from high school to university or college
the age gap is too extreme and it would be too busy
In order for the Scottish Government's (developed after 2002 under a Labour-led coalition) flagship CfE to fully work, there should be a better transfer of skills, resources and information between all agencies involved for the benefit of the area's 3 - 18 year olds. This would seem to be the most efficient way of doing this (no idea why this wasn't implemented in Wick at the time. They could have closed a number of small - resource/money draining primary schools within the catchment area too)
All ages separated
A combined large primary school would have too many people on campus

Response
Having primary schools on both sides of the river might encourage more walking to school. If only one primary school on the High School campus then there will be no walking to school from houses east of the river
I think the high school and primary school should be separate. Too busy for drop off/pick up and the age difference difference is too high big to be grouped together. Would be nice to keep them separate
One primary would cause logistics problems
the Wick model is workimng well and it is improtant to have one separate primary school to give choice to children and an alternative
Iíd like more primary schools rather than one big one so each pupil can have the support they need without a massive class and less attention
Neighbourhood sustainability across town, primarys in catchment areas provide community engagement and a sense of belonging
Split so not all traffic going in same direction
One large combined Primary would allow for continuity across the ASG and better transition for High School, both primary and secondary sites could be designed for for purpose and have specific ASN support including provision bases which are currently in high demand with not enough space for those that need it, traffic would be split across two sites at peak times
becuase I feel like it will be easier to move around
I have chosen this option because it would make it easier for people going from primary to secendery school
I have chosen this option because even though the students wouldnt be in the same school I feel it would be beneficial to make both primary and highschoools seperate
I don\'t know
it will be more practical
High School children would be way older and bigger than primary school children so they could get hurt
I think the High school and primary school would be better apart as the age ranges would not mix very well
it makes the most sense
i think it is imoirtant
I believe this best option for everyone involved
Having a separate primary school will prevent primary ages children having to walk too far and potentially across very busy roads
The current primary school provision (3 schools) is unnecessary for such a small population especially given the fact the Caithness faces considerable depopulation over the coming decade. Therefor the primary school estate needs to be reduced as a cost saving measure, but it\'s essential to maintain one primary school on the east side of River Thurso to cover that catchment area
It seems to work well in Wick, and it takes away any fear of high school if it is always present

Response
I think it is important to have the primary separated from the high school. It is daunting enough starting 01 etc but having to be near S6 etc can be scary for youngsters
I feel that if all schools were combined (option 2) then it would be chaos for dropping off and picking up pupils. I also feel it is important for primary and high school pupils to be separated in order to have their own space and identity. Either way there will need to be a new additional road put in as currently there is only one road to access the school, if there is currently an accident or maintenance/roadworks this already causes a huge problem for accessing the school and that's just one campus for pupils who are responsible enough to look after themselves for their commute. If there were multiple schools combined in one place the pupils numbers are much higher and it will simply not work having all those pupils try to get to and from school with only one road. Without a ring road / second access it also would be a huge toll on the emergency services if they are required to attend the school for any reason. Option 4 and 5 are the best in my opinion. The drawback with option 5 (which is my preferred option due to the fact we would still have 2 different catchment areas for primary pupils) is that the budget is then needing stretched out over 3 new builds in 3 different locations, this is why I would sway more towards option 4. A separate location and campus for one Primary school and then have the High school & (POD) in its own space away from Primary. There does however need to be ASN provision in BOTH locations for Primary and Secondary campuses
Hopefully costing and maintenance of one large site is easier and cheaper in long run to maintain/manage. Children to be able to interact and be with other pupils irrelevant of any needs they have to reduce barriers and stigma
It makes learning, teaching, and extra curricular activities easier as it is all based in the same place
1 primary school would be far too large and the bullying in would be my much worse, schools can handle it currently
I feel that the proposed location suits one half of the town quite well with primary provision. However a remaining school in the Mount Pleasant area would be sensible to capture the catchment from that area of town
It caters for the broadest range
I just feel it would work better for Thurso moving forward. As much as they suggest reduced children numbers in coming years, none of us have a crystal ball
One large primary or primary attached to high school can be very intimidating for some young pupils particularly those with ASN or anxiety etc
I think Primary school age children living in Mt Pleasant catchment cannot be expected to safely walk to THS site. Pennyland and Miller children are not able to walk safely up to H School site
There could be bullying or fear of older pupils and parents don't feel like their child is safe if they are near the high school
Make it easy for the families to travel to the two different primary schools instead of having to go from one end of the town to the other one. Traffic congestion issues if all in one place. Less chaos in big schools
This means that the younger kids are able to stay away from potential bullying from high school pupils
I feel like children of the primary school age should have a choice at which of the schools to go to for bullying reasons specifically
to control the amount of traffic at the campus
I think that the location of the single campus is too far to expect small children from spring park/mount pleasant areas to be expected to walk to and from daily
I don't think that combining a high school with a primary school is a good idea and I think that one primary school would be too much chaos and then once you are in high school you can't meet new people you are just stuck with people you already know
Children will not like it if some get a new school and some don't

Response
Needs to be manageable. Staff need to KNOW the children in their care, not just a name on their school role
I feel it would be far too daunting for small children to attend the same education establishment as teenagers
My son really enjoyed moving from primary to secondary. For him, it was a big milestone and I feel that the importance of this would have been diminished with a combined school
This model works in Wick. Two primaries on same campus might lose the sense of community created in a smaller school. Pupils with ASD can find larger campuses overwhelming also
I think it is important for the two schools and students to have their own identity and not have older teenagers towering over and influencing young children
Better keeping the younger kids separated to start with
Combining the schools in Wick has proven to be the wrong decision, was far better with four primary schools and a separate high school
Personal opinion, primary schools are harder for kids to integrate and socialise so a smaller school may be better and shape them better for the new high school
1 location, 1 campus with all the requirements in 1 location. 1 canteen, 1 purpose built playing fields, why have 4 premises when 1 will do?!
I don't really personally agree with the young children needing to be integrated amongst teenagers. It is daunting and intimidating for them and they deserve to stay young for as long as possible. I also don't believe there would be as much inclusion for the children with ASN
I don't have young children but I've based this on aggregating demand to pull resources together to aid efficiency but splitting it to a level that seems appropriate to different user needs
Separate primaries so children can walk/cycle to school. Have something to look forward to going to leaving P7
The town is big and needs two primary schools
Best fits all
Seems the best of both worlds. Realism must be sought over parents travelling to school with their kids in the morning. A primary school that is based the furthest distance away from the high school
I feel this model works well in Wick - as a visiting teacher. It is definitely good to have the separation between the High school and primary though
Although it is more economical to have single large facilities unfortunately if children are not fitting in then having another option is good as well. Also if the school performs poorly then it affects every child in that school
With one primary school at Thurso High School, pupils from Mount Pleasant and Springpark would need to negotiate several busy junctions to get to school
Everything the child will ever need is in the one place. A holistic approach can be taken to a child's education and economies of scale and savings can be made on various aspects (hard facilities/stationary/admin etc) with the savings reinvested into other areas such as IT, field trips etc
Primary and high should be separated

Response
There is a need for more than 1 or 2 primary schools due to the number of kids attending currently ., Miller Academy is lipping and not fit for purpose both in the school and nursery settings both MP and PL schools have been well documented recently for there issues but due to the number of attendees there is a requirement for a larger setting. Looking further a field there is no real reason for crossroads school to still be running when Castletown school is so close by . By closing crossroads it will save a small fortune
They needs to be a bigger primary
it\'s easyier for perants
I didn\'t understand it so i chose randomly
because if we all go to the same primary school we know the people were going up with
So that primary school children can get a view of what high school is like
As I think the early learning provison and additional support needs are very imporatnt and I think it is benifital to only have one primary school and a highscool as the teachers may be cut short if there are too many children
it will be better so the primary is not next to the high school
am not to sure
has stuff for everyone and fields to play
i would not like to be in the same area as primary kids
Having a schools combined or all in one area makes travel to school difficult to some parents in town, often kids walk to their school as currently families enrol in schools nearest to them - one school restricts parents to only one location
having one big area, would have too much pressure on staff and perants who may live outside of catchment to travel
I think options still need to be available
A 6-year-old and a 16-year-old are at totally different stagesóphysically, emotionally, and socially. Separate buildings help schools meet age-appropriate needs. Safety Younger kids are smaller and more vulnerable. Separate spaces reduce risks like rough play, bullying, or accidents in crowded hallways. Learning environment Primary students learn best in calmer, more structured spaces, while high schoolers need labs, workshops, and more independence. Different buildings support different teaching styles. Social comfort Younger kids may feel intimidated around much older students. Separation helps them feel secure and confident at school
Primaries should be seperate fro high schools
Having ASN provision on one site to maximise specialist spaces - sensory, soft play, therapy spaces, hydro therapy pool etc. Perhaps in a link block between primary and secondary buildings to make transition primary secondary easy and allow shared use of specialist facilities. Important to have at least one primary school each side of the river to lessen traffic congestion at peak times
Combining all into one campus is too much for management staff - pupils become lost in a number. Also, abandoned school buildings seem to be left to become an eyesore - just look at Wick South School and Old High School buildings. The beautiful library building in Wick was also central and architecturally and historically significant - very sad to see the library lose its identity in the East Caithness Community Campus, whilst new and fresh, is uninviting and away from the centre of town

Response
keep a separate primary school option for children/families not comfortable with large scale campus set-up
Too many primary schools to fit into one
It would give everyone an appropriate learning space with separate identities. Each school would have access to sports facilities and not having to share facilities would ensure access for all. By both being separate from the high school, transition would be equal for all. ASN could have a base in each school to support children in their closest catchment school. One giant primary would be too impersonal for all
One big primary school would be too many pupils
I feel the campus would be very big with all schools on there. Smaller primary schools are more beneficial in my opinion
its better
not sure
Having the primary and high school on one campus sounds too risky because of bad influence on the young
because i would prefer it
it just seems better
Becuse people will start to bully the younger kids
It ensures primary school children are separate
Not sure if teens and young children should be mixed together
Because there will be too much people in the same building and it can be quite over whelming for others
I worry about space availability with that option but feel we need a new dedicated asn space and the current primary schools are getting as old as the high
ust felt like this one would be good
we have 3 primary schools in a small area, 1 high school and one large primary school is sufficent enough and will not affect current traffic issues at high school site
It allows for ease
I have chosen a separate High school from the primary school mainly because there is a chance of primary school kids seeing things from the high school somehow that they don\'t need to be exposed to yet. This could happen even if there is separate areas in the building. It is possible for younger kids to have there sense of self destroyed, or there sense of right and wrong twisted before it is even able to properly form
Sounds the most sensible practical option to me
Options 3 or 5. For transport, identity of community. Miller has a pretty new nursery and lovely grounds- it would be a shame to lose it. A high school with one attached Primary (and another elsewhere) might be useful for co-ordinated special needs facilities and to ensure we keep a library. Though it is a shame to have to lose one Primary

Response
I think 1 large primary school would be just too large as potentially that would be a roll of 600 children
Due to the weather issues we have in Caithness, having all schools together could mean all are closed
Two primary schools makes it easier for familys further from the planned location to get their kids to school. Will be less traffic and not too many people all in one place
Would geography serve the town better
You cannot stick all kids aged 3-18 on one site. Preposterous and unrealistic!
Think Thurso need more than one Primary school as there is a fairly large population in the town
I believe it will benefit everyone as the community can focus on the school being the best it can be without having other ones to focus on
I think primary and secondary education should be separate
I don't feel a campus with primary and teenage children is beneficial to the younger children. The separation allows children to be children rather than try and behave like teenagers
I do NOT think all primary schools should be based at the campus. Apart from distance and traffic issues all children should not be bundled together. This may be considered cost cutting as far as staffing is concerned but not most beneficial for all concerned. I hope the thoughts and opinions of the Wick campus situation were taken into account when decisions are being made
There are already preexisting primary schools in the area that may be easier for parents to send their children to rather than sending them to one school that may be more difficult to reach
Younger pupils could be focused in better not being on same campus as older pupils and keep transport delays to a minimum, one heck of a vehicles visiting one site everyday in Thurso where it would not cope with this traffic moving
Have separate buildings within the same area for primary and secondary pupils so they can have there own space to develop with the same age peers
Doesn't affect me, seems most sensible
Best for town
I'm not interested in schools
I believe there should be a campus including one primary school, high school, early leaning and ASN facility. However, only if primary school classes are not too big
I don't see a need for a campus with all schools together, I think it's potentially dangerous and makes it harder for some families to choose the healthier option of walking or cycling to school
Having it in one area means it can all be managed better
Quite simply the best and right choice. Makes the most sense and will be the most practical and safe
Seperate primary and secondary schools better support age appropriate learning, safeguarding, and sepcialist facilities. A single primary school would also improve effeciency and consistency compared to multiple sites

Response
Most cost effective
Having larger schools is purely beneficial from a money perspective and not in the interests of the children. It is important for the children when going through primary school to have a strong school identity and this would be lost. It is better for children to grow in a smaller establishment before moving onto high school. Of course the council do not want this as it would likely cost more to effectively maintain other buildings but this is the best option. There are also concerns regarding the number of difficult children in schools these days and having all these children attend the same premises would be a disaster. This option of two primary schools rather than the 3 we currently have is definitely a downgrade for the reasons I have explained. Don't try to pretend that investing 100m is a lot. This is a money saving exercise with the community losing out again. If you had maintained the schools and buildings effectively over the years this would not be needed
It would be easier if all education facilities in one area
If one facility/site it is easier to maintain and less expensive in long run than managing/maintaining separate sites so hopefully more funds concentrated on one site to ensure maximum facilities for everyone in the community
It seems most practicable
I don't think a mixed site of primary and high school children is a good idea
I think there is a need for two primary schools for the amount of children in the catchment area, having it all in one area would create a bigger problem with traffic and pedestrians all trying to get to the same place at the same time would be far too busy i think
I think it would be more cost effective
All in one place
More cost elective to have everything in one location
Primary Schools need family connections. High School loses this it becomes an education factory
In terms of facilities this would likely be the most pragmatic option
would prefer primary school children to be kept apart from older children, could lead to bullying issues, and they could be set bad examples by teenagers
I think that everything in one location is the best option
Prefer separate school from younger siblings
One large building to house high school and primary school but keep the primary school in the Springpark area of Thurso as the distance from this area to the high school is further for children to walk/travel. Use the money saved building one combined school to refurbish Mount Pleasant primary school
I think it is a good opportunity for children to meet new people to get used to a new environment when coming to high school
There needs to be a separate High School. High Schools should not mix with Primary
sounds the most useful

Response
cause it seems fair
So then it would be easier for your kids so they are all in the same area
Because it be more subcet
so that all children can have the same education as other children
little ones away from the big ones because the children pick on little children
Better keeping younger kids separate from teenagers
The Pennyland mount pleasant and High school are near the end of their lifespan. If they were on an education campus the land at Pennyland could be sold for housing and the land at mount pleasant would be prime retail/ office as being on the NC500. Milker Academy should be jeot for its central location.The new high school should be built on Ormlie road with the new primary school on the grounds of the current high school
just better
High schools can be rough and dangerous so is better not to have primary schools combined with it
it would be safer for highschoolers and primary schoolers to be seprate
I donit believe there is enough space and bus capacity to have all primary school students also at the campus
Because I think its better having seperate high schools and primary schools
Allows everyone to go through schooling process together ultimately creating more opportunity for friendship groups and less bullying or exlusions. Efforts can be directed to one area rather than different schools known for being better than others
i feel that the promary schools should be seperated from the high school children. I think one large primary school would be over whelming for small children
I am reticent about one large campus for all primary schools in Thurso. My sister lives in Dunbar which has the largest primary school in Scotland and the size does cause substantial issues
the combination of primary schools can be managed for the early development of children whereas afull combination of the whole lot can caue problems between maturity, agegroup and ability to control such a clamoured environment
I think that the primary schools should be seperate from high school because younger kids might feel scared or intimidated being around older ones and may hold back from things they actually want to do
There is not the infrastructure (safe roads and pavements) to transport pupils across from Springpark/Mount Pleasant to one campus
Seperate primary schools means that it is less to walk for the primary schoolers which promotes walking. If it is all placed on one campus, then people will have to rely on cars to get primary schools causing an increase in traffic from the further areas of town. The traffic is increased because they are all going along the same roads to the same location. But if we have 2 school locations, traffic will be heading to 2 seperate locations, decreasing congestion on the roads. Traffic will also decrease because it is easier to walk when there is 2 locations because you are more likely to have a school close to you, the more schools there are

Response
If all schools are in one place the school is shut for any reason then all schoolchildren would have to go home and miss put on their schoolwork. If they are split then only one out of three schools would be affected
options 1 or 5 as i feel they would be most beneficial as option 1 includes more but still need a seprate primay school as travel costst for those living other side of the river
I feel that would be the least cut to jobs in an already difficult sector to get a job in
For courses
It seems just right
I think that it would be confusing if all school people were in the same place and i think it would be better if it remained seperate
having a seperate highschool and 2 primary schools would be beneficial becuase i feel if it was all one big school it would be difficult for people that live further away to get to. I also think that having everyone in one school would be extremely overwhelming for special needs pupils and may cause issues. Overall i feel 2 primary schools and one highschool would be more acesssable, and better for the community
WHS is already too small why is THS fixed at 750? Town population of the online consultation says that \"lessons need to be learned \"has the current WHS and one Primary school model been reviewed? link between Primary Schools and local catchment area is important/ danger that too many schools on one campus is too large. The PoD site itself does not seem large enough for current proposals
All in one place
I believe the ECCF has been working well in wick and Thurso could benefit from similar
To have everything together
To have everything together
Quite big geography for just one primary
Helps out with children struggling and not having to move about from school to school
Having additional needs support for kids is important
Children donít need grouped by ages learning from older and younger pupils is part of learning and being more integrated as a community
Best option
Because to some young children, seeing teenagers everyday could be quite taunting, which could lead to them not wanting to come into school harming their education. And teenagers may not feel like they can act free and themselves if thereís kids nearby all the time, theyill always have to be speaking nicely etc
Cuz I think it would be better
Preservation of historic establishments like miller academy

Response
Keeps everybody in the same area, helps for if staff are off sick and need to move elsewhere where needed, transition for kids between primary school to high school would be easier especially for kids with additional needs where change can be very difficult
Allows best use of facilities and staff. All on one site means it is easier to move staff to cover needs
Less influence by others
Easier to manage than one large primary school and allows teachers and staff to better understand and help individual students
Good to be close but need the elements of being separate
Just makes sense for everything in the same place
Better system and closer relationships
Because I think it would make the distance to school quite far, especially for Younger children to walk. I also think the change to a new school is important
High school Seperate to primary
Ibdo notnfeel the new POD would cope with the traffic for those attending if it was all combined
I don't think that primary schools and high schools are necessarily compatible for a campus
integrated
because they will be more space
for the younger ones to have there own space
because the highschool is older pupils and can be more intimidating if its mixed with older and younger people
I think that keeping primary school aged children on a separate campus to high school aged children would be a much better idea. There are many behaviours seen in the high school aged demographic which should not be anywhere near primary school kids. And the transition between primary to secondary is felt to be a significant part of the growing up/ school journey. This would have less of a significance for the kids if its all within same campus. Also when primary kids move from nursery to p1, its already a big step without being literally overwhelmed by larger, loud kids just being typical high school kids. Also bullying is an issue, keeping the older kids and younger kids separated would help to act on any bullying happening in an age appropriate manner
Easier for people who live on different sides of town
It works the best in my opinion
I have chosen this option above others because if Highschool aged students and Primary school aged students were all pushed together it can get very hectic, and being in separate primary schools gives people an opportunity to make new friends in highschool/
it would be better for the primary children

Response
So that children can interact with their own age groups
As I think this would be the best option
Because I feel like if the primary and high-school were together then it will be chaotic
i dont really mind
I think we should keep the primarys as they are but the option for that only had 2 but there\'s 3 it also had no ASN base
I believe that the primary schools location is as good as it needs, allowing all children with in the town to be within walking distance of a primary school
High school children could be daunting for young children
Everything in one place
Ormlie road is congested enough already
Kids dont want to be in one place for too many years. Less travelling to school
Preserve historic schools like Miller Academy
I think having the one large primary school is a better option aswell as probably being the most cost effective. Having the primary school on the same campus as the high school means the transition from primary to high school will be much easier as the child is familiar with the area, it will also be useful to the primary school to have the high schools facilities available, a possible downside to having everything on one campus is the traffic at pick up and drop off times, so maybe a large car park, or both front and back enterances to cars?
I think having High School children and ELC children in one building will be mind blowing. Also parking access for everyone trying to access one site at once would be a logistical nightmare. And for staff members to encompass that whole age range would be so hard. In terms of segregated workloads to focus on ELC or Primary or High School, it is unlikely that non-teaching staff would be able to remain "in their lane" and would likely get dragged into other areas. Which would diminish specialities or ability to do a good job
Additional support needs
Sensible choice
To suit the needs of the community
Thurso is at least four distinct areas, current grouping serve communities. Larger schools do not provide any benefit to the learners. Also, primary schools should be just that, promise schools. Locating next to a high school can be intimidating
Traffic and keeping the age groups of children slightly separate
It may be to big a primary

Q8 --- Benefits of connections with UHI NWH

Base: 364 responses

Response
Shared resources. Especially administrative. Having older students come into the schools. Allowing younger ones an easy transition to continue their education. Separate control should still be had
Not aure
Donít agree
Easy transition
Encourage to visit other areas with support, smooth transition
Smooth transaction
More efficient use of space, reducion in costs
I am aware of the success of sending high school pupils to UHI for limited periods and would be keen for this model to continue
Shared facilities and oppertunity for shared learning for older pupilds
Sharing of estate costs. It provides early awareness and familiarisation to younger pupils, but I really donít see this as a significant benefit.i
Open days where kids amd parents can go to their next facility and ask questions get familiar etc also the creation of a collective group that can meet with reps from each area and help improve the links etc between them all and any issues that they all face
There is already quite good links between the high school and UHI/college, it would be good to continue and improve this. The primary school could maybe use the Newton Room more often on the same area
It would make the transition easier and also provide more further learning opportunities if people have access to see what's available to them
They are already extremely close there is no need to change this
Children dont need to go away to Uni
A lot more collaboration between highland council and Uhi would need to be undertaken for this to even get off the ground. Huge potential benefits of upskilling a young work force to keep them in the county - renewables, decommissioning, agriculture courses, marine\...but nothing being done currently,
Some college / university provision on the same site may encourage secondary school pupils to go on to further and higher education
Opportunities to provide a wider range of courses
More fluid education opportunities
A push for kids to continue education through leaving at 4th and going onto NC/HNC or getting day release to college for various courses i.e sparky, Joinery etc

Response
I think they are better being kept at separate locations and buildings
Easier to transition and get involved so hopefully all for the better
Thurso high school has a particular good links already
More college courses available for pupils, eg - sports courses are not currently on offer at UHI. Also, more education PGDE courses being offered at the college may increase the desire to stay in Thurso, offering more teachers
None, completely different age of students
Huge benefits - especially for secondary pupils looking for alternative pathways. An SQA pathway is very narrow for many young people and having access to engineering based workshops/ tutorials for example would be excellent. An added layer of subject help could also work here, with broader subject opportunities too, we know how small the SQA choice already is at THS
One site would make sense given the footfall decrease in UHI
More opportunities for different studies at high school age
none other apart of ease of transition
For secondary it will be beneficial in accessing courses not provided by the school
More opportunities for day trips to college for aspiring students
Not too sure
Cultivates a pride in your campus, promotes life-long learning, good relationships with staff. More staff means better cohesion and opportunities for networking, potentially
None I think they should remain on different campuses
If the pathway is visible and obvious that will incentivise the young people into continuing by their education. If it's all in the same area, it's an easier step
More familiarity with options available, staff and other students
Explore a wider opportunities available
Shared learning and smoother transitions
Easily accessible
Unsure
High School and College provision are important

Response
I think this would be incredible to highlight to high school aged pupils the opportunities on their doorstep. Many still move away to university thinking it's their only option. It also allows younger pupils the comfort of the school environment when they transition from High School to college/university
Currently high school and uhi and have crossover opportunities. Having primary schools in the mix I see as inappropriate for young children and a less safe environment for their wellbeing
I dont believe that it should all be on the same campus
I don't believe it is necessary to combine the two facilities as long as they are within easy walking distance
More collaboration between the two to the benefit of young people
Mixing and seeing people of different ages and cultures, can only help strengthen a community
I do not think that there are any benefits by connecting the primary school to UHI North Campus
None, keep the adults and children separate
Enhanced education, encourages STEM activities
It would show pupils there are other options for learning, not everyone suited to school system. The high school have links already for senior pupils, my daughter did courses in S4 and S5 through college and has benefited her. Can help them decided they have chosen the right career for them. Also can help prepare them for university
Importance of Education at all levels and future life opportunities
As with the answer above, one campus is efficient, it would provide more facilities and have a more blended feel. Especially for a town like thurso where it is so community based as it is. Therefore having all ages of education housed in the same campus will reflect that community feel and allow the children to get the chance at the best facilities possible
Gives a smoother transition for higher education keeping higher education local to the community
None. This is a very bad idea indeed. Each age range of pupil (from 3-18) is in a very different stage of life. You cannot mix them all in together without problems
High school and UHI should share building which will allow for more practical learning experiences and a broader range of subjects for older pupils. I DON'T believe there is any good reason to include the primary schools in this campus
Smooth transition through education
Shared resources
I don't think it is necessary to have the primary on the same location. All other primaries in the ASG would also not have this anyway. Transition works without this. Closer ties between UHI and High Sch would be welcomed
Major benefits, traditional school doesn't suit all learners, so having other options easily accessible would encourage some young people to stay in education longer
UHI is floundering. Nor much benefit

Response
Children can see their future opportunities in one place
High School & College have historically had close connections which should continue. Transition of P7s to High School could tap into these resources. Good for older children to see what opportunities UHI & work placed education could be for their futures
Additional needs support services could be less stretched
This would be a great encouragement to potentially start college courses during highschool and then following onto a trade or job
I would prefer UHI dealing with any Community Venues, ie Evening Classes/Meeting/Groups who might need a Meeting Area/Room, ie for AGM\'s, Monthly Meeting (for example Family History Groups, Flower Arranging eg) any bodies who need a room with Projector/Computer Display Boards etc. UHI has a long history of operating in Evenings, whereas Campus/High School has been more 9-5 and Sports Hall facilities
None that are outweighed by the disadvantages
I benefitted from evening STEM sessions at the college during high school. These taster sessions gave me a huge amount of confidence. Similar crossover programmes and access to advanced equipment/technology would mean kids with an interest can progress with confidence
Links are already excellent and are almost on the same campus. I don't see this changing the current arrangements much
The advantages could be - a smoother transition between each stage of education. Allowing for next stage exploration and easier visits. Shared resources and equipment - having greater access to workshops, equipment, sports facilities reduces any social deprivation. Less financial demand on budgets for the supply of equipment etc. Easier access for pupils to attend courses or vocational training. Better opportunity for collaboration and learning, with the process being much simpler and unified. Staff can share experiences and learning, supporting the opportunity to provide a wider range of learning pathways. In the long run, having a one stop campus should make it easier to maintain and upgrade
I think anything that increases the opportunity to access further education in the area is a positive move
Better technical education and routes to practical careers
It makes sense grouping all together and working together closely with each other. Smoother transitions, more opportunity for closer working relationships. Strength as one together and investing in Thurso\'s children and young people. Could be beneficial for teachers with career options also
Further education without further travel
If this adds to better education for all and fast remove any curricular activities I am for it. If any losses then against. I'm
Opportunity for extended study without the cost of leaving home
Opportunities to transition into Higher Education, shared facilities, better teaching and learning relationships
This will benefit high school pupils but not primary and it needs to be managed carefully as further education is education for adults who would not necessarily be wanted or safe in a school setting
Joined up thinking
Again it allows a smooth transition for the young people, also allows for earlier opportunities of engagement and takes the fear factor away for children of moving on from their current school

Response
Helping children who don't want to go traditional route - to university
Better links for senior phase and find a way to stop keeping kids in school when college courses are more helpful in getting kids into employment
Having the high school next to the college is beneficial for college link courses
We already have close links to our local college. Maintaining this would be beneficial
Easier for older pupils to access college courses
Shared learning hubs promotion of local Advanced education and vocational progressing
Integrated training leading to apprenticeships and Graduate jobs/careers
I don't think there is. the high school will be immediately next to the college anyway pupils already take courses there while still at school. I think its only good from an accounting point and not for staff or pupils
Transitions are smoother, particularly for pupils with additional support needs
There's an opportunity for a single heating source dramatically savings in heating costs. Forming the groundwork for a district heating system
really useful for inter school/college involvement and interaction by older pupils
More quality shared resources
Less travelling to new schools/ college
Hopefully more and varied courses can be made available
It is fine having the college next door
Solid transition to post school destination
Additional options for senior phase high school students to study
I worry about the vast difference in ages all in the same place
Making kids more familiar with their further education options may capture their attention and encourage them to continue in education
Shared resources
Better options for children, opportunities for more kids to remain at home while attending further education. Access to more courses?
Additional courses at secondary level
Strengthening the links between statutory and further and higher education to provide opportunities relevant to local young people and encouraging pupils to consider continuing in education

Response
The link is already there and benefiting kids that go to UHI for intro days etc - expanding this can only be a good thing
Not for primary age. It would be progress if the college was to give it's community access to leisure based classes as it used to. Plus the building & facilities should be available evenings.be available
Easy access, easier communication between staff
I think it's great that kids can access this opportunity in there own area as not all kids want to leave home for college/ uni
more opportunities for young people to understand options after school, and what is directly available to them
wider range of subject choices potentially
more options for young people, also can use the UHI resources for standard classes e.g. visits, science classes, attend shows, career days
easy access in terms of open days, exposure days. Pupils can visit and talk to teachers more easily
For secondary to UHI some kids mature quicker than others or out grow the school system and UHI can be seen as adult learning
This would enhance the promotion of the opportunities available for craft careers and graduate careers available locally , as opposed to the ides that you must travel away to universities elsewhere to further your career
There will be a better transition as most 5th years are at a higher level than the NC and HNC students at the college, so they set themselves back at least two years. The college needs to be taken more seriously as it calls itself a university but does not behave like one and offer the correct standard of education
Offering of advanced classes and/or early university credits can be a great headstart for kids
Efficient communication, combined administrative functions, clearer path forward for pupils,
Thurso is small enough they don't need to be on the same campus. I don't see any benefits to this, quite the opposite. Keep uni/college separate - these are young adults and should be allowed to act as such without concern over primary children
Think it would be areal benefit to ur young people
None, I don't feel college should be on the same campus
That secondary school students could ask those studying at university/colleges about their experience, which may encourage them to go for a college or uni course, especially as it might be simpler or more familiar if they're in the same place
its dumb there are none, keppig schools sprate is a better idea for travel and safty for children, because think are you putting busses in town or are you expecting a 6 year old to walk to school alone, and parents work so busses are better, but even if there was a parent walking them to school hav you ever walked witha child a 5 min walk could take like 2 hours
Increased opportunities for students especially in STEM subjects like science
Maybe more experienced can happen

Response
not sure
Kids in high school are able to know and understand their options for UHI after school, or school link if they wish
you won't need to travel further when switching
A stronger relationship between the high school & UHI would be helpful to children who may not be destined for the traditional university route. It's important to ensure employers are included with the mix for school leavers so a concentrated effort should be made to ensure young people pursue that route too as demand for skilled workers in construction and engineering increase in our community
its easier to get from school to collage
People can make friends
Yes
You would already know where to go if you moved up from primary school to high school
you can have a better education
people will get used to bigger amounts of people to be around for college/university
you could get more people goto the college for a better education
less money needing spent on different buildings
less fuss and chaos
more options for education
There is a togetherness
yes
itll be easy to access
i don;t know
Get a feel for what its like at collage and to be an adult
more learning
nahhhhhhhhhhhh
Get the same education
they all help us learn

Response
doesnt sound as good as it could be then the primary school kids might act like the highschool kids and get in trouble
easier for high school students to get collage education on fridays
I think a more collective approach leads to a less stressful education environment
It could give our kids more options in further education as at the moment they have to go far away mainly
Provides clear visibility as to the pathway into higher education without having to move away
It\'s a bit similar to Thurso High and the UHI sites at present, but giving children the opportunity to visit the UHI campus when transitioning from primary to high school may encourage more to consider education and training at a local level. From a high school pupil perspective, closer links to the UHI a pre-exams level would maybe allow pupils to make more informed choices about the subjects and opportunities available to them in future
Because education is equal
Senior pupils access to practical college courses Finance cooking mechanics to
Any opportunity to create links to strength relationships and provide a better service all round can only be positive
I dont see a huge benefit to these being on the same campus. There should be pathways and positive links to the potential next steps in further ed, but being on the same campus is not essential and possibly not beneficial to be on the same campus - some students want to actively step away from a negative experience of formal education - merging campus may prohibit this
Easy of transition to higher learning, no great leap into unknown
Provides insights to further education and how to behave in that environment
This is advantageous and should strengthen life long learning. Ideally the campus should include childcare facilities. Transitions are already blurred between the High School and College, and College and University. This would enhance the tertiary model delivered by UHI
Transitions are easier and familiarity with the building
I hope so as it did not happen for my 2
Students can gain skills and knowledge not avialible in high school
Clearly transition between the two
u can get food from college
everyone will feel more combined
its easier to get around
idk

Response
I don't know what that means
It is easier to see the opportunities
I think this will benefit transitions between the different stages of school
I think it would just be the same
i think it would just be the same
i dont know but it would make classes bigger by lot
IDK
idk
hopefully this will lead to more students staying local for further education and jobs in the future
More opening for young children. Clearer vision on their future after high school
I think that is fine as it is
Opportunities for promotion of further learning. Giving insight to children what is available and how this can be achieved
Teachers and professors can communicate with one another easier
Same as above - the transfer and access to skills, resources and data. A 3 - 25 years old education system. Schools cannot possibly offer all the opportunities that our colleagues in 'better staffing formula' regions do
Easier to have close links
Role models
None, keep them separate
seamless transition, economies of scale, gets children aware of further education and reduces any possibility of it appearing daunting or not for them (Improves inclusivity)
Haven't got a clue
High school and college would benefit, I don't think it would benefit primary school kids
Children from Thurso would feel familiar with the environment
Ypu see whats next

Response
I do not think there is a need to be on the same campus but at the moment they are next door which allows access for pupils who are interested in other courses not provided at Thurso High, links to further education and opportunities for practical skills based learning for future careers, also opportunities for young people who do not wish to move away from the area to study
That it will be easier to get around
It wouldn't be an overwhelming mess moving away from something you've known all your life
I think the benefits of it being on the same campus are that they are closer together for when highschoolers may decide to get lunch at the college or when primary and highschollers may need to go up to the college for school
that you can get to the collage quickly
getting a smoother transition to high school
waht
Less anxiety fo children going onto next stage of their education
The transition from one site to the next will be much easier on the students
The chance for primary and secondary school students to access higher learning facilities should surely benefit their prospects and increase their interest of continuing their education. This may also potentially influence students decisions to remain within Caithness to continue further education locally. Having provision on the same campus should surely have a positive impact on education budgets too
Knowledge of access to other areas of education
Unsure
To be honest there is not going to be much difference here as the current high school (for school link college attendees) is right next to the college
Better integration and makes further education more accessible
More diverse learning opportunities
Allows greater opportunity for students to learn about life in education out-with school
I would encourage strong connections but a separate space
Secondary to college yes, but not required for primary children. As has happened in the past children can walk to campus if required
Depends on what is being offered
ease for access to differnt learning environments/opportunities
there are few benefits aside from older pupils being closer to the UHI as they can adjust much more easily

Response
There are already links between the college and primary/ secondary schools so I don't see any new positives
You are able to access collage/University equipment better as well as being able to use both from high education quality
I think the benefits are that its not such a big jump for primary onto high school, because as well as all the new people, staff, way of doing things that it might be nice to be familiar with the place
Smooth transition in all stages of education
I have no idea
It will be a familiar building
No lost time in travelling
No benefits
More opportunities for students being close together
I think that the link is crucial as it gives kids a taster of different vocations, skill sets and FE opportunities on a local basis
Enhances pupil engagement across sectors through familiarisation, stronger links and better transition leading to better understanding of pupils needs
Keep the structure the same from early year until leaving
It is a good idea as it would could give the kids a better idea of what path they would like travel in their own environment
Kids are familiar with the location it reduces stress & make life easier
I believe in links possibly for older children in high school and UHI but not for primary school students at all
Increase awareness and visibility of options available for further education
Children might find it an easier transition
Everything is close by to hand. Part of wider community
Everyone gets the same education so it is fair
Learning opportunities
Better engineering opportunities
Not sure that this is a good idea
Social Contact

Response
Economies of scale with savings reinvested into various aspects of the school. Higher quality education. Shared learning outcomes for teaching staff etc
It will be more a negative than a positive as young adults should not be mixing with teenagers. When u look at the current drug and alcohol issues within the town its asking for problems to have a mix
So it is easier to access
not sure
yes
What does this mean?
no benefits
Having a heads up to what high school is really like
I think it is important because older children in high school would be be able to study and learn there someday for their future careers
more students collobarating and meeting
having opportunity to learn form uhi courses whilst in school
Transition and movement to relevant work possibilities
Schools and UHI can share specialist spaces like science labs, sports facilities, libraries, and performance areas, improving quality while reducing costs
Limited but good to be close - Friday college sessions for school pupils
High School and College would be better than high school and primary. High schoolers become much more mature when they start studying school link programmes
Clear networks could be established between early education and suitable further education options
easy transition and more students will know future pathways they can take
Might be good for senior pupils accessing Friday courses or older primary accessing newton room. Might not be so good for younger pupils to always be surrounded by adults who don't have pvg ie the students
People can learn off eachother
I don't know
not sure
Easy access for all ages/parents
knowing where your going

Response
fun
Not sure
not sure
I think there are definite benefits for this , gives options for kids not necessarily engaging with high school
don't know
Easy transition for the pupils
ease for transport
There might be a benefit of high school students have more people to idolise and be like from places outwith social media
Better understanding of what's available and pupils can get access to additional opportunities and support if needed
Certainly being nearby would help- great for kids to have the chance to do vocational classes on Fridays. There could be even more connections such as childcare college pupils working with young kids
Yes ease of working together, referrals, work experience. Stronger together
Closer ties should make it easier for pupils to adjust to the different learning ways
All in one place
I feel a feel a fully integrated education and higher education would work well
None. You'll get a big melée every single day without fail, and the traffic around Ormlie hill will be an unmitigated disaster
Easier transition between campuses
A lot. They can have information days for school leavers etc
combined resources
Again I feel this inappropriate. Adults around young children. This needs to be separate. I'd be concerned a 5 year old going to primary school that has 18+ on a campus
In a town this size I don't think that it would be much more beneficial to have college/university provision on the same campus
More chance of having correctly trained staff if all on one site rather than spreading staff thinly around the town
Incorporating UHI courses with secondary education
don't know enough

Response
Not needed
A better opportunity for school pupils to attend classes in UHI such as hospitality, construction etc
No benefit in my opinion as I was city raised and it works perfectly fine without
I believe all education campus\ should be sperate although co-locating can strengthen links between education, skills and future employment
Easier access to education for students
Smooth transitions, familiar faces
Potentially if this is linked with high school it could assist students with deciding on future studies/career paths however I don't think it needs to be anymore linked than it is currently
Having the children in the campus have days where they can also train/learn in the college and this would be feasible as it would be in walking distance with the campus
Shared knowledge and inclusion can be beneficial. Accessing facilities such as the newton room for science on a regular basis. Maybe if we have better sports facilities then more courses can be opened up at the university etc sports science, PE etc
its a good idea for older high school children to have connections with college/university to allow them to plan future education
I think it would make the transition easier
Economies, efficiencies, effectiveness and convenience
More cost effective and better use of facility's for everyone
None loses identity
Closer links and ties, however very few additional
an early insight to how they might want to develop their future
Continuity of education to further education
Easily accessed
More students may stay in Thurso to study Higher education. Familiarity with the college, use their facilities, eg, canteen and library. Easier and more frequent access to the Newton room
What is the need to centralise? I don't see any benefits
yes i believe this would be beneficial
close to friends
I don't think there is any benefits

Response
Because they have easy transition different school,s
Access to more services
I would have the new campus close to the UHI to strengthen the ties
i dont really know
I think that all different stages of learning should be separated
i dont think there would be many benefits
Widens the range of opportunities afforded to high school students, might encourage people to go to higher education
Familiarity, ability to work between high school and uhi where it is needed
Logistically it makes sense and helps with broader sustainability strategy. It does also help create a clear progression through the system. The main thing is to ensure clarity of different parts of the campus. With primary school in particular I feel it is important for the school not to be overwhelming large. I would also help the PoD would lead to economies in the running of the site
siblings don\'t have to seperate to go to different parts of town
benefits a ot
It could give high schoolers more of a chance or insight for what there is to offer in higher education
Sharing of resources, ease of movement of students from one campus to next over time
It will be easier to transport people to visit the college and high school for visit days
The High school and college are almost on the same campus as it is, can\'t see any benefit of changing this
creates a sother transition creates a place for all ages ot benefit from
Closer liaison, share facilities e.g. technology
Not sure
Good as some different educational courses like construction skills and fabrication can take place for interested people
could lead to less confusion when selecting courses and subjects
i think an advantage of them being on the same camus would be that it would be easier for people do do collage classes wile being at school
In theory there are benefits but college provision no longer part of council education service so UHI college may have different priorities from schoos
Less travel, easier for things like visits or trips

Response
Allows for easier learning and hopefully less travel and more security of young people
Smooth transitions and shared services
Allows for smoother learning transitions and helps find futures
It would encourage people to get involved in university as they're already familiar with the building, staff etc
Ease of transition
Easier transport
You could have more connections with the other schools were you can gain more friendships
Different age groups
Easy accessibility to flexible careers
Helps with a smoother transition
Less of a jump to move to further education. Easier transition. More appealing
More resources
More opportunities, especially for those who live in more rural communities
Nice to have cross over of facilities
It could be a good thing for communication
Yes they have closer link
It would make it easier for children to access college experiences or opportunities
Links for older students
It would support a better transition for school leavers and provide opportunities for those moving onto further education
Would probably make it more accessible towards high school students
The same as at Wick
there is food at the college so u can get it for lunch
more opportunities to attend classes

Response
Easier access to alternative subject areas in senior years of high school. Students being able to study in a way which suits them best, school doesnt work for every child
There are many such as a smoother transition between years
It could possibly give students an easier transition for each different stage
The can share info,
we could learn our way round collage
I\'m not sure
so primary school kids can be more comfortable going into high school
I think it could improve the technical side of the school
Not sure
cant see any major benefit for nursery or primary children. there will be a benefit for high-school pupils
Easier diversity of courses
Some benefits are that students may be more interested in pursuing and getting a higher level of education seeing that the college is right beside the high school, and seeing the good quality of courses the college provides, if the new high school has good facilities then it will be useful for the college students to have good access to these
A combined more aligned approach
Easier transition for pupils
Collaborative learning , Shari g resourcesNine
Close at hand to allow pupils to go between facilities

Q9 --- Disadvantages of connections with UHI NWH

Base: 304 responses

Response
Too much to control. Things getting lost in management
Not sure
Young children need to be protected traffic problem will not help
Lack of variety and opportunity
Smooth transaction
Accelerated wear and tare considerations that should be accomodated during design phase
Some pupils /students may not gain from education in a single very large campus as opposed to a smaller more intimate school
You need to keep the primary, secondary and even UHI separate. There may be a few facilities that are shared for economic benefits, but I can see no advantage in mixing such a large and diverse age group
The devision amd protection of each group from each other and the public. Parents mau be more worried about sending their children to school alone
The behaviour of older pupils. Children feeling intimidated. The lack of parking
On the same campus isnít an issue, as long as there is seperate social areas for everyone, eg a mature student on a coffee break doesnít want to be next to the jungle gym
There is no separation, children need to be surrounded with peers of similar ages
There is the risk that primary school pupils may be intimidated by too many older children and students being on the same campus. Also traffic concerns with too many organisations on the same campus
Smoking. Vaping. Unruly behaviour and language
They won\'t be integrated, just in the same space
ím not sure that such a wide range of ages is appropriate
Number of students in one area, traffic issues, safety, emergency and security arrangements
Kids can feel alienated or out of options if staff are not handling issues correctly
Safeguarding would be the main concern down high school pupils start as young as 11 to share a campus with college age students and adults would not be appropriate, particularly with the PVG restrictions for volunteers in schools, would this count for all adult college students
If any, no real change in environment. A smooth transition into further education is always the goal, but there needs to be a difference between school, then further education. Itís not the same & expectations & delivery are different elsewhere. Eg - Glasgow

Response
Students vastly different ages
There would naturally be some safeguarding considerations and these would need to be clearly mapped out in terms of shared outdoor space planning - and shared with parents in an accessible manner to avoid confusion
UHI are not organised enough to assist with a collaborative project
Too big a campus
too big a student mass for a small area
Primary age education being forced to advance too quickly as mixing with older age groups
Very crowded
Not too sure
Safeguarding issues
Having a wide range of age groups all being in one setting would be very daunting for younger children
The age related issues that may arise with mature students mixing near small children,
The number of children in the area, the noise and the traffic and start and end of the day
There will be a lot of people of varying ages/backgrounds which could be overwhelming for some
Too big
Lack of mixing amongst the wider community
Security issues with adults having access to areas where children are
I don't really see many advantages having primary provision on the same campus
The significant age range of pupils/students in one campus would be a concern. It might also affect some young peoples desire to attend UHI North, West and Hebrides if it's seen in the similar lens to school
Safety and well-being of primary school children
Perhaps student could use the uhi cookery building for education
Children's safety seems like it could be more at risk if there is more traffic and adults coming and going
The spread of illness. Not having opportunities to be in new schools/spaces. Bullying will be easier in such a huge campus
It would need some form of segregation for child protection purposes and the size of car park would be excessive

Response
More concentration of a wider range of young people. No moving on/up to the college if it's all the same building
Bullying, increased anxiety in some children who struggle to adapt to the next step towards their education and personal development
Numbers of students of all ages accumulating in the same area of town at roughly the same time of day
Unsure
Safeguarding
I would have safeguarding concerns around primary pupils, especially as S6 pupils can be 18 an adult and other adults accessing the site
Age band development challenges
I don't really feel there are any disadvantages
Overwhelming for the ASN pupils. Dangerous for younger pupils. A very high chance of older kids messing around in the younger kids' areas, and bullying/teasing taking place. Older kids will be a bad example to younger ones with their vaping, swearing, disrespect and teenage relationships
Children need to learn about transition and need to move on to different sections of their education. This allows for them to make a new start, particularly good for those who have had difficulties in the past. They need new experiences - being in the same campus for their whole education means they don't experience new settings and lose the excitement of moving on
None. Children need to experience visiting different campuses and being in unfamiliar environments. Having one campus limits this and does not set children up for experiencing life outside of education
Disruption
Having seen the shared facilities between Newton Park and WHS I don't believe it is suitable and has many disadvantages. Very overwhelming to have so many children of all ages on the same site
I'm concerned that exposure of young primary aged children to the behaviours and actions of a large proportion of high school aged children would negatively impact their school experience and quite frankly young children are already growing up to fast as it is. Also some young children would struggle in such a large campus and then that may alienate a whole group of kids who need more stability and safe spaces
As above
Space restrictions - this needs careful design
There are great benefits of smaller primaries where a spirit of community is established. Head teachers & all staff know the children individually. Distance from home if sited on other side of town a major disadvantage for non drivers. Road congestion with increased traffic in one area
Not all young children would benefit from being in such a large campus
I think it can work as long as access to everyone is allowed. The mistrust comes from Caithness Horizon's/Town Hall which was supposed to have allowed Public back on site after opening and continued Public use, which did not happen and now is accessible only in Summer Time. Also it is easy to price out Public Groups and encouraging them to find somewhere else to go, whilst saving staffing/cleaning etc. So far HC have not met their promises in Thurso over the last 20 years, mainly down to the "lack of funding" excuse. Q: what would be in place that this would not happen again? The Campus/UHI concept is great, but the people who are here today will not be the same as people in charge 5-10-15 years time.

Response
None that outweigh the disadvantages
Having attended the uhi etec as an adult the class was incredibly rowdy and disruptive. These students were being paid to be there and had no interest in a career. This could have a very negative effect on kids wanting to learn
Young kids seeing older kids smoking, vaping, bad behaviour
I am not sure I am keen on having 18-25 year old adults mixing freely with 12-17 year old children
Personally, I feel that having varying ages of pupils in the one area could cause safety and well being concerns. Younger children may feel overwhelmed by the older children. There are obviously differing social behaviours between these groups and it could appear, at times, of not being age appropriate. Having an increased footfall could cause traffic problems and in turn cause road safety problems for younger children. Providing safe social areas and movement around the campus would need to be considered to ensure safe separation of the differing age groups. This would require careful design and continuing management. My view is that early years and primary pupils need nurturing and protection, while secondary pupils need structure and independence. College and university students need an adult orientated space with some freedom. Combining all these groups, without some consideration for their needs, could cause tension and angst. It would also be important to have all areas clearly sign posted or colour coded to ease navigation around what could potentially be an vast space
As above
Safeguarding
Parking
If this adds to better education for all and fast remove any curricular activities I am for it. If any losses then against
Merging typically leads to understaffing or over exploration of services. Maintain enough staff and services to provide for all users is important
Traffic issues, too many people around at the same time, scary for younger children. Dangerous walking due to traffic
Safeguarding
Adults attending UHI not being PVG checked, using same facilities as children
Young children hanging around older people could speed up development
I feel that the Primary school being on the same campus would make it too big and limit the space needed for classrooms, PE, lunches, staff parking
It can feel like there is no progression or move towards independence
Too large a campus - road infrastructure not suitable
Mixed behaviours. Possible negative role models for youngest children. Child/adult student interactions
mixing different age kids seems like a terrible plan, there'll be attempts to try and make shared facilities that end up being rubbish for everyone. should there be an increase in population it would be much easier to accomodate them on several sites. Like if they actually if they actually go ahead with that workers village thing, then there'll be a bunch of empty house to move people and their kids up, then you've

Response
just closed two primary schools sold the land and tried to smoosh as much as you can into the high school site you'll have nowhere to go with expanding the capacity of the schools, so you'll be busy building it while knowing it's not going to be suitable
A large campus could be very daunting to younger pupils
Adults mixing with teens
if 3-18 issues above would be exacerbated
Age gaps can be intimidating for young people
Delays to the high school replacement getting done. The current one is falling down. I think it needs replaced ASAP with any additions considered at a later date
Having young adults in close proximity to young children from a safeguarding perspective
See above
Perhaps could be overwhelming and trying to do too much in one space
Some children don't enjoy school and they prefer to move to college as early as possible but if they are in the same place there may not be enough differentiation for them and the benefits of moving to college could be reduced or lost for those children
Business, control of safety, environmental impact
The sheer size of the campus may be daunting and the mixing of such a wide age range could be problematic
Harder to police any problems and potential for younger children to be exposed to more adult situations
The high school must be a community high school .The college to date is not proving to be available or interested in our community. Therefore I do not feel it appropriate to give the college any power over the structure or activities of the Thurso Community School
Too busy for our young learners, cross over between our older and younger learners is intimidation for younger children when they are in large groups, campus too big and loses its sense of community,
None some kids hate school but excel at college/uni as it's a more chosen subject rather than a dictated curriculum
It could give young adults a false view of what university is like if they decided to go into cities for their tertiary education. exposure is important - but exposure to what is reality takes precedence, in my opinion
behaviours and habits of uni students passing on to pupils
children might not feel like they are progressing as no geographical distance
perhaps young people might want to move away from the local area
Younger kids need space to grow without the pressure to develop too quickly
One institution will not be able to cater for all, so challenges affecting only a specific school will not be addressed correctly if everything is under one umbrella

Response
Physical separation is key; if kids are over-exposed to things outside of what's age appropriate, they may lose a sense of their identity or even put them at a safety or mental health risk
None, other than the larger footprint will need professional planning i.e. no local government intervention
Possibly better career advice and advice on how to achieve this goal at earlier stages, including training facilities for trades
Safe-guarding. Having adults studying at the same place as teenagers and children could exacerbate safe-guarding issues. It could also make it easier to get lost in the buildings/on campus
collage and highschool in the same pod or whatever its called makes sense because they are close and we have collage courses, but still keep them in different facilities
It will be increasingly busy, as well as exposing children to ideas too mature for their age
Maybe to close and can get easy mix ups
not sure
it'll be crowded
Pupils who find school overwhelming now may struggle to transition to a larger campus. However, it reflects the reality of the working world being so well connected to a thriving school campus with appropriate additional support needs should be prioritised
More people, less space
it can be crowded and people could get nervous
idk
too many people and sometimes there is not enough money
overcrowding of pupils
might be a bit cramped
confusion
too many people
There might be confusion because of so many classrooms
no space
there will be a lot of college ppl using busses
not sure
i don't know

Response
I\'m not sure
help to be able to learn
i think the high school should be by itesf as it always has been
none?
Less disadvantages than them being apart
I think tgeres a huge difference between primary and secondry up and they need to be kept seperate so both get the best experience aslong as transition is good and smooth
its just too big
I can only see benefits
Not sure
Peer pressure from older students who may have a negative impact on school kids. Influenced into misuse of drugs or other levels of crime
Unsure although I do think mixing some younger children in with adults can cause disruption
See above response
UHI could been seen as main learning base and main funding etc given to them taken
Wider scope of subjects, vocations
Clear safeguards would need to be put in place, allowing for safe places for respective age groups
Too big an age range, drop off congestion
Keep things local
Different expectations in engagement
there is none
I think it would be a bit cramped
I can\'t think of any
more things to get around
idk

Response
I don't know what that means
It could cause confusion
There will be a massive campus so people might be confused as to where to go
people would get confused
i still dont really know what that would bring to schoo work or anything else
IDK
overcrowding, main road in and out becomes even busier for other people who live around about
too wide an age group, discipline issues etc, adults who are not pvg'd on campus with younger pupils
It may be too many people, not enough places for lunch, strain on lunchtime businesses to keep up etc
None that I can see. Don't we already access these already (but only on a Friday from 9:40 onwards. Because Wick High School pupils have to travel to Thurso?)
More accessibility to subjects in one area
Too many people on the one campus
Using teachers to fill college/uni teaching rota's & vice versa
Campus size too big. Young kids could be intimidated by the older high school and college children. All in one place kids could be going to the same place from age 3-22ish. It's too long, be better to keep campuses separate. Be good to get good sports facilities at all 3 campuses
could appear to dumb down the UHI product and services
You choose what you think is needed
It's too much for little kids, I prefer a small learning environment for them
If you dont like or fit in there's no alternative
I cannot see any as long as the design is matched to the needs of both
That there will be different age groups in the school
There will be alot of kids around and older students will not like the kids on the campus and same with the kids not wanting older students with them
I don't know
to many people

Response
Kids growing up too fast
Issues with negative influences from mature students being on the same site as children, such as the risk of increasing access to drugs, vapes, alcohol etc
Unsure
Terrible idea to have the provision in same location, as you can have college students of any age or background mixing or potentially influencing young children some of which are very vulnerable. Under 18s need safeguarding and their own safe space
None can only be beneficial
An overwhelming environment for children
This will cause awful traffic in the morning and afternoon which will have an effect for others who don't have a child in school/college
As above
Older pupils may have negative influences on the younger children as well as creating a more intimidating environment. The combined schools will also cause teachers to potentially lose their jobs and might take away from local services already in place such as the pool or library
Too crowded. There might be misleading from older pupils towards the younger ones
None that come to mind
A disadvantage would be that if a primary schooler got bullied by a year above them and they thought that they would get space once they moved up to high school maybe they wouldnt get as much space from the person as they would like. Also it might be very intimidating for younger kids to be around high school children
it gets a lot more complicated in managing the different stages
College and university should be separate not on a education campus for children
Safeguarding
too big an age range to combine. This would have a detrimental effect on all age groups
I'm not sure there are any, the location of the current college and high school are close and it has been very handy for school link
Loss of personal connection, larger campus being too overwhelming for some
The college is open to people with a wide variety of backgrounds and this could provide challenging in terms of safeguarding
Security & safety of kids. Children's safety comes before adults education
As above

Response
Very different social and emotional needs of each group
Size can be overwhelming for some children. Younger children being intimidated by older peers
I think you might need a primary school out with the main school for people travelling
I think the existing links to the college are good. All high schools are separate from the college meaning that it is a new experience for the student that begin at the college. It would not be a new and exciting a transition for potential students if they were just staying with the same building for their whole education
Distance
Traffic congestion at start and finish times
Same as above
Then people will hvae to walk more
no benifit
I can not think of any
It would be very busy and packed. We may also struggle with supply and being able to take care of everyone\'s needs
maybe younger kids might be intimidated
i dont think there are any
Mixing very young pupils with adults requires clear boundaries, supervision, and secure access to protect children and young people
Congestion
Potential safety/security risk?
Young people nit experiencing life in other areas of the country. May be too insular?
perhaps too big, with number of staff having to be amended
There might be way too much people
I don\'t know
not vsure
Car parks having a lack of space
Expansion of Bullying

Response
not sure
I think there should be more connection with primary schools and high than there is currently
don't know
older students not liking the interactions with young students
some may get the wrong influences from students older than them, when if it were separate it would've been less likely to happen
One Primary School may have far stronger connections with the High School. Shared facilities could be harder to access if many are sharing
Over crowded and adults mixing with children
Could prove difficult during the Winter months, instead of one shutting all would be closed
Too much in one area. High traffic
Great idea
Plenty of disadvantages: sheer numbers of students, too great a mix of ages, safety concerns for younger kids, car parking and access issues, local roads and infrastructure not being fit for the proposals.,
Not much
too many age groups on one campus
See above comment. There are no advantages only disadvantages
Too many pupils on one site may mean a loss of targeted help for pupils when required, smaller group would mean better chance of one to one contact
don't know enough
To large a facility
Only disadvantage I foresee would be young school pupils and adults on the same campus. Safeguarding would be required such as segregated buildings
I don't think primary pupils should be exposed to the behaviours of some high school and college students. Some attending the college may not be trustworthy to be around primary pupils
Safeguarding concerns, differing educational needs and cultures and the risk of one facility becoming overstretched. Young primary and secondary pupils require a clear defined secured environment that will be hard to maintain on a mixed age campus
May create an over reliance on the same services, making transition to the working world harder
unsure
I have explained in full above but larger schools are terrible for students. They lose their identity, they don't feel as safe or valued and it will negatively impact their education

Response
None. If on an adjacent site then there should be less need for transport to these facilities
mixture of older children/adults with younger children could have some negative implications
The only thing I can think of is it would be very busy with traffic and pedestrians and drop off and pick up times being all at the same campus
As previous answer
As above
Similar
it might be a bit fragmented
As above plus a share of knowledge
Children being able to mix with adolescents
Safeguarding issues
What is the need to centralise? I don't see any benefits
there are a lot of people
I don't think there is any benefits
Too many people in the same area
I think it would be better to have everyone in the same place
two many age groups
Unvetted adults and teens being in same areas
i dont really know
i dont think there would be many disadvantages either
Lack of space/parking
You are closer to people with more experiance of what you potentially want to do
Increased cost for safety measures given more traffic flow
Imposing nature of the site for pupils, lack of agency and adaptability. If something goes wrong/is not going well at one part of the campus it will have a knock on the rest at elast in how it is viewed

Response
distance to travel, population control, space for recreational activities within school
yes
Traffic congestion, bottlenecks due to the campus only being accessible via Ormile Road
It may feel overcrowded having too many people on the same campus. It would also increase traffic to the area
older studens may be frightening to younger pupils creates a less chnaging amtorsphere from school to further education
Too big a campus for primary
Not sure
I tink that the collage and highschoo lshould remain seperate as it would be confusing for newer pupils when they are finding classes as there would be a lot more buildings
as above
Older kinds being with younger children may cause issues in relation to behaviour
As above
Could get overwhelming for staff and students
More varied age range, not always a good thing, less staff to each pupil
Could become too familiar with people wanting to venture out
Busy
The college students wouldnít get much peace from high schoolers all gathered around them
Losing tradition with pre-existing schools
Larger quantities of people in same area
Influence of older students on younger ones
Travel distance
To mixed
It can easily become overwhelming
Property may be damaged or too many kids may be going there for lunch

Response
Teenage High school kids intimidating for primary kids
Having children under the age of 16/18 on the same campus as adults would need to be monitored to ensure all vulnerable children and adults are not at risk of harm from others
That they're such drastically different education levels
they might run out of food for the studnets
safety
Will all students at UHI be vetted to be able to study/work alongside under 18yr olds? It would remove an important step in a young person\'s education progression as moving on to college/uni after finishing school is a big milestone, but all under 1 campus would lessen that milestone
It might get crowded or overwhelming
I believe that College/university provision should continue being on a separate campus as it needs more space for the opportunities and practical workshops in the college
More food to make
That it will be come more chaotic so if someone for uni didn\'t like someone from high-school ten after or at school times they can fight causing chaos
funding
Not sure
replicated question
Less chance of venturing further
I think the college is in a good state right now, so I don't see any need to have major work done on it. I think the college should stay as it is
Mixture of ages and saftey of young children
Won't be enough staff as excuses would be used to cut staff as there are so called benefits of having all these connections
Safeguarding issues
Why on earth does a primary school child need to be near a college? There is plenty of time for that later. UHI should concentrate efforts on improving their services to CURRENT students and bringing learners into the classroom rather than faceless online classes
Age demographs

Q10 --- Specific groups and topics for future engagement

Base: 278 responses

Response
Sharing info. Just continually put it out there. Engaging with the schools, having a third sector event regarding community use. Consulting with businesses or the chamber to ensure everyone feels heard. Also, a lot of people don't know what pod is
Teachers and child minders
Education
Older adults for socialisation and evening classes
Sporting facilities
Any ways the community can help make it a success, supplier requirements etc
The future wellbeing/stability depends on attracting new orgs to invest here.some input from such orgs as to what might both attract and anchor both their staff and their investment would be of use
Children with special needs should be provided with additional support and if required separated from the rest of the class to ensure that disruption to children's studies are minimised
The connection with other projects happening and how the community input contributes to the decision making and telling us the findings of each consultation ie key points and what you've changed going forward
Go into schools to speak to the teachers about the needs of their classroom
The roads , there is a back road which could be upgraded to take some of the traffic away from Ormlie Road. Traffic lights , round about its a very busy road , car parking
Equity of service for leisure and sport for young people of Thurso. No where near the same as other places. Put of necessity clubs up here are solely self serving - and Thurso POD when done right could unify them to pull in the right direction
Traffic management
Parking. Traffic / roads. Safety. Staffing. Recruitment
Parents of children with Autism
Sports and leisure
Mental health and wellbeing charities
Thurso sports council, Thurso High School,Thurso High School PTA and all feeder primary schools and feeder primary schools PTA

Response
Facilities that would benefit high school use, primary & outside clubs/community. Major money could be made from letís, more pupils engaged in activities outside of school (great health benefit) & better facilities attract more games/clubs. At present, so many clubs need to travel to Inverness & beyond for matches. The option to host more would do wonders! Football, dance, gymnastics, netball, badminton etc!
The Arts - perhaps a dedicated performance space to draw in more theatre groups, music opportunities (formal and informal- eg seated concerts and space for a less formal ògigí if you will)
Road layouts and pedestrian routes round the choke point junction of Princes St/Ormlie Rd/Lovers Lane/Castlegreen Rd. Sensory aspects of new build to make it truly accessible and provision of Changing Places toilet facilities
As stated earlier more inclusion of adults and children with special needs
Thurso Hockey Club
Hockey club, Athletics club, and climbers in the area, for recreational facilities
Traffic management and road conditions. The issue with having one large primary school and the travel arrangements for children not in the school area
Engagement with current users of facilities at Thurso High School
Parents and teachers of children with addictions needs and disabilities. Our developments need to be inclusive from the start not solving issues later
Sport
Community morale
ASN provision needs to be greatly increased
SAFER routes need to be of particular importance!
I think there is a gap between the current communication and the community. Only certain pockets are being reached by current efforts. I think better utilising Thurso Community Development Trust, Thurso Community Council and community led groups like Caithness FM could support a greater reach of engagement
Apprenticeship training facilities and renewable energy sector
Highschool sports facilities, would be great if the highschool had their own sports teams
Thurso community development trust, SEPA & other SG depts
I would like to see actual education take the forefront of learning rather than anything else.. and for those who misbehave to be removed from classrooms rather than those who are being targeted
Caithness Gymnastics Club. The club has been running from Thurso High School for over 50 years
Climbing, outdoor activities, water/sea safety, environmental issues, social issues
Community groups that use the school such as youth organisations, Thurso Players, Thurso Gymnastics, Scottish Community Drama Association

Response
Just keep sharing progress
Dyslexia
Safe routes to school must be considered as a priority)....eg children from the other side of the river would be crossing the A9, considering the daily traffic there!
Hockey club
Full engagement with the local sports sector to ensure facilities in area need the needs
Education is my top priority as I have a child in S1 who will be affected by this if all goes to timescale. Parent Councils need to be kept involved as a stakeholder
Rising interest in sporta groups from juniors and Thuraos inability to host events causing huge costs and frequent long travel
Local clubs, 3rd sector orgs
I think sports is a massive driver of wellbeing. I think we should continue to grow our sports outlook and promote the fitness and wellbeing thay comes with exercise and being part of a team. This benefits both the mind and the body and currently in thurso the options are very limited. Education os of course massively important and, as shown at other schools, there is a way to combine all of this to make it work and be a pillar of the community for decades to come
Accommodating indoor facilities for sports over winters
ASN/disabled/autistic children & young people
Hall/room spaces for use by community groups/clubs. Sound proof spaces. There is a shortage of such spaces in Thurso
Mikeyís line, and sports facilities
Staffing in primary and ELC
Traffic and bottlenecks in the town is a significant issue to give a lot of thought. Communication with sports group to help to maximise their needs too
Local sports groups, planet youth, parent councils, longer consultations in various venues - NRS Dounreay being a good example, many people who would have a vested interest as their kids/grandkids are involved
Young disabled adults after they leave school - day centre
Final designs and future progress
Safe walking routes, maintain green spaces. Within estates (housing) space for allotments & community gardens. What will happen to existing buildings? Town centre needs life injected into it. Lots of empty premises that could be utilised
Thurso Community Development Trust to support community engagement

Response
I think stick to the Campus/Schools and then later look at the other Buildings of opportunity at a later stage. We don't know who is on board, ie NHS for example. If the Community has full access to the UHI/Campus, rooms/sports that meet the needs for all the Sports and Groups (non sport) and include a Community (Town Hall) on site great. If not I would suggest looking at a Community Building, like Assembly Rooms in Wick. It is ridiculous that a town the size of Thurso has organisations/groups having to hunt for places to hold venues, classes (sports or otherwise). Even more ridiculous is the Thurso Community Council meetings are held in a Hotel hall. You held your meeting in the Old Town Hall, but yet others cant, that sums it up
The idea of an Educational POD is a nonsense. Schools are educational establishments not rationalisation or synergy opportunities. So no
Sustainability, economically and ecologically
I am not sure they are a group and whilst I support progressive development we have to be careful around displacement. For example I am worried about the lack of plans for redundant buildings, look at the old high school or old swimming pool in wick they are eye sores and possibly unsafe the same thing cannot happen in Thurso. What will happen to the primary schools, the library, the swimming pool and council offices when they are vacated. We also have to confer this like an out of town retail park will this pull people out of the town centre thereby hurting it further?
You could consider reaching young people not already in education/employment or training. Consider the needs of all abilities, such as children and young adults who are neurodivergent, who may need sensory or accessibility provisions. Speaking to carers, childminders and support workers for their views may be a helpful guide, along with nurses and health visitors. Topics; safety - Reviewing supporting public services to ensure a smooth and safe flow of traffic. Checking the provision for walking, cycling and bus routes
ASN provision is hugely insufficient at present at ELC and primary level. This should be a key priority
Parents of children with ASN
Are you in touch with Thurso Youth Club, Beavers, Cubs etc?
Youth groups, neuro diverse groups and drama
School staff should have the opportunity to give their opinion. Too many people making the decisions do not know what its like working in Thursos schools and a lot don't even know Thurso. Miller Academy site should be developed into something like Dumfries house
ASN, Enhanced Provision, mental health
Speak to the children and young people, what do they want, can people from other places talk to them about their experiences eg Wick campus?
Not sure
Teachers should be consulted about the school design, ie classrooms, classroom sizes, cloakrooms, staff room, toilets
Ensuring that safe spaces such as libraries are maintained and accessible to pupils. ASN resources should be considered carefully when deciding on how they are placed. They are equally important in secondary as in primary and it can be harmful to the secondary pupils' esteem to place ASN departments exclusively within the primary side of a campus
Ensure that acoustics are taken into consideration- schools can be noisy places and large spaces tend to echo and amplify sounds. This can be distressing for many neurodivergent/ASN pupils (and staff)
Any community groups that have to hire substandard/outdated facilities
Ensure all local schools are consulted

Response
Groups that currently hire the high school hall should be formally consulted on what provisions they would like to have in the new facility such as the Thurso Players and the Scottish Community Drama Association Caithness District that use the Highschool hall to stage plays, pantomimes and musicals
School pupils and staff
Young people with Neurodiversity. Young people with Social and Emotional challenges who struggle to come into school
NPF4 environmental offsets, instead of planting trees in an awkward corner to meet NPF4 obligations there's an opportunity here to offset needs by developing biodiversity and habitat elsewhere in town, perhaps connecting path networks and enhancing the environment at the moors
effects on town centre
A future phase of engagement would be a public meeting, giving people a chance to voice their concerns
The leftover buildings will need a lot of work or demolished my hope is that there can be communities funds to aid with this
Lessons learnt from other school developments/ redesigns. I have heard it mention that medical facilities may be onsite, I don't think it is a good idea to have people with mental health or drug issues becoming too familiar with the school environment or children as this could present increased danger to the children. I also don't think it's appropriate for school children to witness people queuing for drug replacement services. In contrast I wouldn't want elderly people to feel intimidated by high school
Planet Youth look like they are really invested in youth development I'm sure they would be a wonderful addition
Sports
Safe routes to school including dedicated cycle lanes, safe bike storage and easy access to showers and changing for staff and pupils
Thurso youth club, any clubs in the community
I think theatre has not been considered at all and really needs to be addressed if we are not to lose this valuable aspect of life in our local community
Local apprenticeship and employers - ultimately we're educating people to work so ensuring they have career opportunities at the earliest stages makes sense
We must use this opportunity to create an active schools travel route for access to the new Community School. The development of the path currently called juniper lane could be extended & enhanced to become a walking & cycle route to the Community High School, college & into the countryside beyond
ASN provision is inadequate in the town and does not meet the needs of our learners. Teachers need to be given time and the opportunity to provide meaningful input. Community views must be listened to. Lessons need to be learned from previous projects where budgets have not been adhered to or mistakes have been made. Are we picking the best contractor for the job? Have you considered ways to engage our young people?
I think children with additional needs should have more resources & mental health in schools needs more resources
accessible leisure activities for disabled people, and clubs for young people
low income, people with disabilities, children in care

Response
Community pod at Bonar Bridge is an excellent example of what can be done to increase community involvement/spirit and incorporate facilities for young children and carers
Consolidate the students that excel, and provide them with opportunities here, so that talent does not leave and go other areas of more opportunity
There needs to be a big effort to keep young families in the area. This will not happen without providing things for kids to do, childcare options, and opportunities for growth
Sports, science and arts
Engagement with NHS for co-located support services
What is the contract for removing the old schools as we can not afford to be left in the same position as wick
lgbtq stuff we have 1 club thats it and alot of homophobic people
Learning support, mental health support, and community engagement
The Sports and lesuire area as thurso is lacking in sports faciities massively
Sport facilities, special needs facilities
Specific consultations for young people - focus groups with primary school, high school, college pupils and young professionals
idk
nope
not sure
i do\'t know
Sports facilities
more shoping places
not sure
nahhhhh
football
vetinary studdies
a pool group
Always for the community at the behest of the community no highland council involvement in decisions. Listen to the people

Response
Security
Extra corricular activities for all ages that would give things for them to do outwuth school that theyd all sign up to so varied things
I have not seen how the PODs will intergrate and support the adult social care hubs that are planned for March 2028 in the Adult Social Care Workplan or how they link into the the proposed Local Care Models or wider GP practices being moved to the High street. I also have not seen anything about how this proposal links into the Scottish Approach to Change Framework as drafted by Healthcare Scotland and adopted by the Scottish Parliement
A focus on the facilities, staffing and support services available rather than issues which will be addressed as part of the planning process (which for a development of this size will need to be very comprehensive, thorough and considerate
Ensuring children are attending, support for those with emotional needs, more education on living skills, drug and alcohol and other addiction awareness
Not really
Activities available to children soft play for young and a social area for teenagers bowling darts arcade pool tables, music venue, library quiet area for studies. Real life discussions for educating youths about misuse of drugs and road safety. Practical workshops for DIY, car mechanics and maintenance providing life skills. Investing money and planning for future. Home chores cleaning and ironing etc provides discipline
A space and ability to bring external experts in - industry, health,
All
Avoiding congestion and improving active travel connections. The cultural heritage of the architecture and building. We don\'t want an aluminium Wick Community Campus mk II. It should draw inspiration from the Atomic heritage of the area, e.g., replication of the Tollemache house artwork, Dounreay Dome etc. It should reimagine Basil Spence\'s ideals on a visible symbol of the town\'s bright new future, whilst respecting its heritage
Education make up
Be more open with residents
football
sports teams like netball and football should get more
Nope
idk
I don\'t know
i\'m not sure
pe computing music etc

Response
Wilderness survival class
after school hours support, activities for teenagers - there is nothing for them to do in the town at night
Encouraging community events
disability groups, extra curricular groups
Health promotion
Why not \... have a session in Thurso High School where you speak to the pupils in the school? Or to staff after school - IN THE SCHOOL - rather than at a location outwith the school during school hours. Unless, of course, you don\'t want Staff input and only the outside community?
All parties should be included. Different groups have different views and needs it is a case of accommodating them all
Letting groups use the site outwith school hours at a reasonable price
Keep health separate
We need football pitches, rugby pitches, netball courts, badminton/basketball courts. Rooms etc for other groups, dancing, boxing etc can hire at a reasonable price
Haven\'t got a clue
If looking at sport and community facilities being incorporated then have them present what that would look like, how it would work
Only whats above and mental health
Careful consideration to ASN support provision and ELC as there will be high numbers of 2/3/4yr olds if on one base
some maths and some PE
Drama and Music education
I don\'t know
Support services for children
Important to ensure that the following groups are consulted - homeless tenants (specifically homeless families); Women\'s Aid; Council and Housing Association tenants; organisations such as army/sea cadets, scouts etc; parents of disabled children requiring additional support needs
Please ensure there is a big hall that has a large stage and seating for at least 400 people so that pantomimes and music concerts can still take place, the current high school hall is used all the time and is a great asset to the community. The hall in the recently built Wick high school is completely unfit for purpose as it is small, laid out all wrong, doesn\'t have blinds / curtains so any performances during summer months can\'t utilise the darkness which effects lighting and atmosphere, it is awful, please make sure this mistake isn\'t made with the new Thurso campus
How to ensure all heads of schools will work together to have common goals and provide safe educational sites for all pupils

Response
Sports teams and extracurricular clubs
Definitely inclusive and supportive of ASN needs
Ensure there are suitable facilities for those with severe and complex needs
consdieration to house support staff on site - health services/SW
More PE activities as many pupils feel more engage when in PE
Caithness Amateur Athletics Club. I was a part of this group but we had to put a hold on the club as problems with the games hall. When i still did it i enjoyed it so much and it was a great way to keep fit and have fun while doing so. We also go off to compete in competitions but we dont have the full track to do practice on so we are at a disadvantage from somewhere like inverness which is the closest place we can go to get proper training in
minority groups
Special needs
GIRFEC
As a town, we need to improve on our sporting facilities to try and encourage more children into physical activity
Nursery. I feel that early years has been getting poorer and poorer, possibly due to the higher rates of neuro divergent children, but nursery is not coping well and this is feeding into P1 in some schools and creating difficult classroom situations
Malign campus accessible and inclusive for all - pupils, ASN pupils and all groups within the community
Sports, music and drama
Real life skills, how to sweep up, measure stuff, how to make a familyís weekly meals to a budget, how to balance wages against real life bills, how to change a tyre, basic öold fashionedí stuff!
The arts - how is this being developed and encouraged through the PoD
Under 5s . Over 8s. Over 11yrs
Teach kids everyday life hacks how it is easier to adapt
Canít think sorry
Travel policy
It is really important to consult with the teachers who will be using the facilities and determine what their needs as users of the facilities
Students with special needs

Response
Public transport links
Indoor sports facilities
not sure
Mental health
not really
yes
Adults with learning and/or physical disabilities
Climate and nature
Climate change, the natural environment
Ensuring there are more than adequate sports facilities for the community
Traffic congestion if everything is put in one place
More things for older children/teens. A good leisure pool
not sure
special need safe spaces
Not sure
not sure
gymnastics and music
Not sure
nope
Traffic measures, currnt traffic is dangerous and obstructive
Give an all weather pitch that can be used by the school and caithness rugby for girls, as right now they have to go all the way to wick in the winter to use wick high schools pitch as the one in Thurso is used by another club
Tackling inequalitiesÖaccess to services, transport (include a central bus stop here), poverty reduction, health and wellbeing, childcare, aging population, people with disabilities
Yes. Considering that the population could expand and building provision for this rather than lots of portacabins at a later date

Response
After school clubs for working parents there is currently no provision in a large town like Thurso
Unknown
Disabled groups - especially parents of disabled kids
Helpful information classes for those with fnd and fibromyalgia along with other illnesses and disabilities for the patient and families
special educational needs
Distance from home to school for primary children should be given serious attention! Children from age 2/3 should not be expected to travel long distances within the town
Not sure exactly it is clear what topics or groups are involved as not enough information has been shared
carers for sufferers of dementia
Space for local charities to utilise
Sports and fitness for children
Activities and places of interest for teenagers and kids
Local community groups and charity organisations
Young people, mental health, inclusion and well being
The lack of classes up here for all ages
If they are building a combined school how on earth if the traffic going to be managed. They can't maintain the roads as they are
There is no provision at all for children to go, i.e out out school provision, not all children want to create havoc on the street. Why not provide somewhere where these kids could go
Elderly, individuals with neuro divergent diagnosis that have real struggles accessing inclusive activities. More accessible evening/weekend activities running so that children/teens have safe spaces to go and be involved and feel welcomed
local sports clubs, speak to them and ask what would be best used
Any teacher and parent groups if there are any
Safe spaces for neurodiverse, disabled, LGBTQ+ people
Listen people's priorities and accountability to politicians are adrift being part of HC not healthy
Teachers, pupils parents
greater respect needs to be given to the older generation

Response
Not sure
unsure
Yes 100% tourism and branding of Caithness to attract tourists and boost local economy. I think investing in infrastructure and identity is important. For example, statues, history, information, attractions etc. People love to capture cool interesting monuments and local artistic/creative signs etc
please consider people with disabilities when making decisions
peoples feelings
Horse riding groups and music groups
Gaming hub and art and crafts
I think everyone who has different additional needs should be able to have the option of going to school or college
special needs
I fell the town centre will need funding to attract funding
i dont really know
I love music & drama which I don't think we have enough focus on
The buildings should be fully wheelchair accessible. Something that is truly lacking in Thurso
Warmlie heat network, Community Council and Development Trust. Would be keen to see local wind farm energy leveraged
make buses and travel arrangements for those who live in the countryside, rather than having to leave early in the morning with their parents and be close to an hour early for school with nothing to do
Arts and cultural provision as this could lead to increased use of PoD, increase sense of community engagement, wellbeing and ownership
Look at providing meeting space for Health related charities. Providing storage for charities equipment or provide equipment that charities could use
Gaelic medium education in nursery and primary
Thurso Netball Club, the current games hall can not accommodate us when we have games against people from down south, the lines on the court are effectively gone in areas and the floor is hard concrete which other teams hate playing on. having a facility in which we could play games in thurso instead of going to wick would be incredibly beneficial to us as a club
Not really
running and sports
Learning disabilities and support

Response
Online teams meeting for those who can't attend in person
Sports groups
People who need extra help with education and day to day life
Disabled, respite
Welding and farming
I don't know
More facilities for those with additional needs such as sensory rooms
Those familiar with the Wick facility. Those who work there or are learning there. Also anyone who uses the facilities. There may be more people with negative experiences that come forward so going and asking people may result in a more balanced view
More none sporting facilities
Mental health services
Teachers
Not that I can think of
People who don't know about opportunities without going to university
Skatepark
Those with disability ensure the environment is accessible and the environment is considering access to all with inclusive opportunities for everyone
Not that I know of
Draw up a walking group, as there is at Wick
I think the sports facilities need to be built at the same time as the school/s, even if that means the council having to use a compulsory purchase order on the land between current school and Premier inn. Not even starting the sports facilities under current school is demolished would be so detrimental to the school aged kids especially. These kids have had years of restrictions due to covid, then years of limited access to facilities (oil leak at games hall). To then ignore this and postpone the creation of sports facilities until after new campus built, old campus demolished and then to start sports facilities would be horrendous. And would money be ring fenced to ensure it even happened??
Not at the moment
I don't think so
High school and primary

Response
I would say people that actually want to do stuff and care
No. Just keep schools schools and Sports & leisure seperate
Parking. Safe walking routes. Allowing staff to stay in their own specialist area r.e. a High School PSA would be used to working differently than a Primary School PSA
Children
Provide better recreation areas for children between ages of 11-17
People wishing to partake in a variety of sports
Services in Ormlie are absolutely useless for 80 year old car-less people in most of Thurso
Gaelic medium education
Parking

Q11 - other uses we haven't thought about?

Base: 170 responses

Response
Health care, maybe Childsmile, school nurses infirmary type facilities. To do all those things in house
Don't know
Dounreay offices
Evening classes for all ages
Venue for performing arts possibly?, Fully serviced base for community health staff
It should only be used for Education purposes
To help along with other projects make cases for development or more funding to join up the changes and make real benefit for the community
Primary children need 2 hours of PE a week so a large school might need 2 gyms to cover this. A separate canteen/lunch hall to the school hall works better
Transport/ road traffic mNO
A hall that can be used by the community to stage the pantomime, music events etc
School nurse. Music facilities. Sporting facilities and activities - more opportunities for our children
Education should be the main focus
I think an outdoor nursery would be a fantastic resource that many parents would consider
A social space to meet with friends
A hockey pitch for Thurso Hockey
We need to think about the town centre - is it going to no longer be a town centre, if you remove council offices / library etc? How does this affect the social networks - it would be strange to see an even quieter town centre. The built fabric of the town is important to many, and to tourists too - what will their impression be of this historic place? The use of the buildings we'd 'lose' to the PoD (such as the library / miller academy) should be given considerable amount of attention. These are important historic assets and beautiful in their own right
Isolated workers from home. A hot desking space out with the campus would be a wonderful thing for the council to invest in in the town. This could provide increased custom to town cafes and shops as well as benefit those working from home alone
Community cafe/space for people of similar interests to meet
Adult training services - such as first aid, employability skills etc

Response
A base for agencies such as women's aid food bank
Not that I haven't already mentioned. I would love to see the incorporation of a purpose built to community need, community space. An auditorium and large hall with office spaces, similar to the PPP in Wick could be occupied by Thurso Community Development Trust. Alternatively, offering the Trust one of the community buildings that will become vacant when assets move to the PoD could work but puts significant pressure on the community to restore, maintain and fund a building
Volunteering and charity sector enabling
Unsure
Continued provision of community theatre, games hall and gym facilities
Community facilities should be a top priority
People of a certain age are unable to partake in sports that are physically challenging, so sports like indoor bowling is perfect to maintain movement
Relocate library to POD. Cost savings
Events space, locals arts hub
Improved sporting facilities to support young people throughout their studies
Indoor/ covered and floodlit sports facilities for winter due to our location
Disability education & clubs
Healthcare
Healthcare
Small regional sports facility/hub. Safe car drop off area for schools
Focus North seems more interested in Business/Energy and cycling paths than the Community. That is fine, but my worry is history will repeat itself and old (but good) buildings made available for next to nothing, with no long term benefit to the Community. I would like to see water sports based at the Boating Pond/Swimming Pool area with the Boating Pond and Paddling pool area opened up giving a decent area for canoeing, wind surfing in winter with easy access to the river-Thurso Bay
The POD trend may be suitable for other areas of responsibility the HC have but applying it to education is irresponsible and reckless
Sensory therapy/ play for all, not just kids or neurodiverse. Indoor tree house and zip wires. Modular changeable design. Play and keep fit and mentally healthy. Learning kitchen access for all
Your plans are not detailed enough to comment
Providing a route to employment could be helpful. Live North might be a good body to include in the POD. That follows the flow from education into employment
Festivals during holidays

Response
Offer sessions of whatever to over 21s, for example. Social anxiety etc can be heightened if kids are running about, etc
Music. Theatre
Probably
Get medical POD included do have one proper facility
Thinking about other groups in the town and making the new campus affordable for them to rent
Not sure
Health promotion / modern facilities for greater localised NHS services
Retail, cafe and monthly markets
have you thought about it just being a high school?
Parking for a large number of staff
Town hall/venue
Discovery college/centred, 1st Thurso boys brigade, Thurso 2nd scouts,
Warmloe group location free/low cost district heating inclusion. Road and transport considerations will be vital. Tie this in to the larger projects in the area like a bypass through the worker village tob
Prioritise the replacement of the unsafe school
Local guides / brownies and scouts etc have very run down meeting spaces at the moment
I think it\'s a good time to revamp all the anti bullying material and guidance and have a huge crackdown
A performance sport regional centre for Caithness and north Sutherland would be fantastic
Needs to be fully accessible for all of Thurso
Scouts, Boys Brigade, Pipe Band etc. All promote development of the youth. Simple things like storage for their equipment should be factored in
Emphasis on Community school!!!!
Dentists & nurses at schools again to ensure kids are being treated
a place for elderly or disabled people to get support (centre for information about what is available in the local area)
clubs for children e.g. gardening, keeping animals, etc. and community space e.g. sports classes, shows,

Response
See above Bonar Bridge example
Build more communion areas, that the youth can attend. There are barely any buildings dedicated to recreation. This pushes the youth into isolation and creates divide later on. Why is the only real place for the youth to come together in restaurants or pubs?
Athletics track
Possible retail outlet?
Already existing extracurricular clubs such as the Cadet Forces, school and county sports clubs, tabletop gaming clubs
no keep it a school we dont need a pool, nail salon or a gregs just keep it a school
A new sports facility like the pickaquoy centre in Orkney
hires for sport services
Local Economic Support through co-working spaces & hot desking, emergency & resilience centre for during extreme weather or crisis
i dont think so
not really
maybe board games
maybe
sorry i don't know
nahhh
anyone under 18
none i can think of
Infrastructure improvements roads, access personnel transport, maternity care
Sporting areas for competitions similar to picky centre in orkney
When considering the building you also have to look at the change to work practices to ensure services and pathways to services are better linked. This plan needs to work in tandem with te new building
Community hub
Learning
As above

Response
Childcare, particularly early age
Visiting those affected
Not any that I can think of
idk
I don't know
what about a warm space area for struggling families, older people etc. somewhere they can go to get warm, maybe have some food that doesnt cost them and to speak with other people
police
More leisure facilities, maybe pool/sauna
A concert venue? Wick has the Assesmbly rooms which are separate from the WHS Campus. THS has 1 Hall for the whole town! So it is really difficult for the school to access if the community is using it
Enhanced availability for public use
A multi use facility
Advise parent how to use it
Not that I can think.of
Unsure if this has been thought of, but it may be worth considering providing office & service point accommodation to council staff working out of the Burgh Chambers, Rotterdam St as this office is being considered in asset rationalisation as well as ensuring the site has adequate provision to become a community/adult education hub for Thurso and the wider area
A skatepark and pump track would be a huge asset to young people in the area. Other towns around the highlands have these kids of facilities but Thurso most certainly does not and never has
Gyms/ Games halls open for the public to book out of school hours
A hall for functions, shows, entertainment ect
see above. Community development opportunities, volunteering
ASN support, bereavement support ,young carer support, respite care
As I just mentioned above I really do think that putting a full 400 meter track would benefit not only the clubs but also the PE department. At the moment the track has got holes in it, it is overgrown with plants and the lines are not clear. This makes it a hazard for anyone currently and I think you should seriously consider it
Events
Youth Club provision. Cafe open at weekends would be a great benefit, somewhere to go after park run, etc

Response
The library building is iconic and part of me doesn't want to see it move... However I do see the benefit of moving it to a location with higher footfall
Cafe - a great social hub. Social enterprise potential? Place for community groups to meet (meeting rooms for hire) as storage locally
The current high school is regular used for hosting a variety of events. There needs to be a suitable event space in the new POD. This must have a stage and seating for a minimum of 400 people
An indoor bowling surface that could be used for numerous things would benefit the community. Could be used for gymnastics, concerts etc
Sell off the old school grounds to pay for the new facilities, let after school classes & clubs use the facilities, make it a hub of the community, don't treat it like a business!!
Creche facilities
Social inclusion eJobs for life facilities for those with additional support needs
Areas for kids to chill with friends during lunch breaks
Community hub and offer additional help to people with additional needs
Public transportation links. Rationalisation of emergency services infrastructure (put them all in one building)
maybe after school clubs
Maybe
nope
swimming pool built in or library like wick
library, non sport orientated activities for all ages
not sure
Not sure
Climbing wall and things to encourage youngsters to outdoor activities
more physical movement
Not sure
not that i can think of
Public speech making to express opinion, (might lead to violence if the wrong people do something stupid)
Probably Joining things up could be really beneficial. For example, a good soft play with cafe and childcare designed to be run as part of childcare/ catering college courses could be great./

Response
Out of hours use eg sports clubs, computer/games clubs, dance clubs etc
Clubhouses
A large modern public café
Bringing nursing degrees up to Caithness as a lot can't travel to Inverness
concert hall
As above
Possibly a museum and art gallery
A flexible community hub. providing a safe space for adult learning, vocational training, youth services and community events. Act as a venue for the wider community, clubs and associations
Community working space
Ensure sports facilities are suitable
No, moving away from a focus from education and trying to open a facility that is huge and the general public will have more access to presents safety issues for the children. By all means build a community hub but it doesn't have to be linked with schools. Particularly if you are trying to attract people with various social issues and or support needs. You should be more open with the public about what is really driving these plans
It would be great to see this as a space for the whole population to be able to access for multiple facilities such as the Pickaouy center in Kirkwall
venue for public concerts
Not sure
Music rooms, space for small gigs/concerts
Not just an upgrade in facilities but try to think of the bigger picture and the amount of resources available if this is to be truly successful
I take it social work dept will be situated there
unsure
provisions for adults with disabilities
shopping centre
Shopping Centres
Liberty and work out gym

Response
Town centre. Several derelict/ run down buildings, former drill hall, St Andrews church on Olig street and former Jim news building on olrig street
As above, arts and cultural provision
Not really
Rural and community hire events. Community halls and relaxation . Massages and body treatment and saunas and steam rooms for peopleís relaxation
Traffic
I donít know
Sporting excellence
Hosting site for events
Community area. Meeting rooms, office facilities for home workers needing office equipment etc
Not sure
Skatepark
No i think what has also been suggested and the plans identified are positive
Not that I know of
Using Dounreay centre, it is under used
Small regional sports facility, additional funding could be sought from Sports Scotland, Scottish Government, SSEN and any of the companies involved in renewables in our county. Compulsory purchase order for land between current school and Premier inn to enable more works to happen at once
I think they covered it all
Offices for business workers

Q12 --- Any other comments

Base: 142 responses

Response
Thank you for engaging. I would request parent councils are kept in the loop and also can be part of recruitment processes later on. Also to be given info to be shared with the parents and schools
Questions too, long
Energy petition and access code
This is a fantastic opportunity for Thurso and it's important that the community make their views known
I note the participation of NRS and in consideration of the amount of taxpayer funding expended to date on the provision of decent office accommodation and facilities on site, would rather utilise the new hub funding on office provision to attract much needed new fresh investments for the area
By creating these Community PoD it is important to not remove well used facilities from their current central facilities
Is there a role within the council for project/planning integrator that takes all these scopes and impacts from different companies and stakeholders with projects in Thurso, Caithness, the Highlands and tries to gain benefit for the community and the council in proposing slight changes and compromises to work together?
Please don't close the public library - it's a brilliant building and resource. Currently Miller Academy has good links with the building and I'd like to see that continue
You need to let the public know exactly what is going on all time
I would not like to see the current library being located to a new campus or the current swimming pool. The library is a historic building valued by the local community and in a central location. The swimming pool is a good quality modern facility and does not require to be relocated
The High School has poor accessibility, an accessible school for children with disabilities, and safe spaces for those with Autism
Don't agree with the requirement for all the pitches. Money should be spent on college courses to encourage school leavers into courses that will benefit the likes of Dounreay or SSE/ Construction Industry
For a major public investment like a new high school and sports centre, the highest priority should be a well-planned, durable, and easy-to-maintain building with a lifespan of at least 100 years. Emphasis should be on proven materials, simple and logical layouts, standardised systems, and designs that are practical to operate, clean, and adapt over time. Architectural appearance should be secondary to function and whole-of-life value, as overly complex or 'fancy' designs often lead to construction issues, higher maintenance costs, and shortened building life. Given the history of cost overruns and poor performance in some public buildings, this project should focus on long-term reliability, constructability, and value for the community rather than visual statements
More than the school roll needs to be taken into consideration when deciding sporting facilities, Thurso High School offers a wide range of certificated PE course and that needs to be taken into account when deciding the facilities. It should also be taken into account how oversubscribed current facilities are more is needed to develop the area not just the same facilities
The cost of let's for clubs. Eg - Thurso netball club are struggling to pay for their let as is, & the facilities are not maintained correctly. Until recently, no toilet facilities, court lines completely faded etc. No viewing area, so the school are unable to host a lot of further afar schools, & clubs don't want to hire as it's expensive for the quality
A fantastic opportunity for Thurso and worth noting the great things already going on and a community making the most of what they have to hand - this is an opportunity for them to really flourish and have dedicated, modern spaces

Response
The age range below omits 55 - 65. Does their opinion not count?
Please dont relocate everything to 1 place (existing pool and library) as large facilities can be overwhelming and not user friendly
Thurso Hockey Pitch
Thurso is known as the cold water surfing Mecca of the world with the whole North Coast gifted with some of the best waves in the world. Yet there is a real lack of facilities. Very few beaches have toilets, thereis no changing rooms and showers- Dunnet beach is especially in need of this as it gets super busy with Watersports users
Itis all fine talking about Thursoís future childrenís education but what about the first moment of their life. Where they are born. If a £ of the investment cared as much about their birth as their education, the future parents of this town (like me) would be far happier to actually create them. This investment in Thurso is long overdue and needed for the amount of tax we all pay. Keeping this rural community up here is vital to the survival of the area
I would not like to see the swimming pool and library combined as both are currently in fantastic locations and have been refurbished to a wonderful extent making them welcoming accessible spaces for the public
I don\'t feel educated enough to have a significant thought on which site to vote for at this stage but would welcome additional, easy to digest information to allow me to better educate myself
With the plans for more business opportunities and spaces there is likely a large number of families going to arrive over time. A central campus at high school is not what is needed but new primary schools at Penyland and mount pleasant. Those new schools should accommodate Millar Academy primary which is oldest school and should be redeveloped in my view schools
Its about time the school situation was addressed. It would be good to see the needs of all children.being met rather than financial decisions causing disruption
Please reach out to all the community user groups who use the Thurso school facilities
Dedicated facility for dementia, stroke patients
Hockey club
Traffic management must be a key consideration. The current traffic around the schools at the start and finish of the day is a nightmare
Communication is key to keeping everyone informed at every stage
Please consider womens sports as its too often overlooked and is a huge factor socialising for parents who otherwise dont get out
The town needs this, desperately. Do not let the ball be dropped with this massive opportunity. We have the options to make this something wonderful and stop the decline of the town. So please treat it this way
We badly need overnight respite care services reinstated in Thurso
I do not think everything should be on one campus. Traffic congestion will be a major issue! On the walking distance map you have created it show my house (in Mount Vernon) as being 5 minutes walk from the current High School. This is nonsense! It takes at least 20/25 minutes because there is a river in between!!! There is no public transport which serves Mount Vernon. There will need to be plenty of car parking as people will use their cars, especially those visiting the hub from outside the town or from distant parts of the town. líve just tried to fill in my age on question 14 and I canít! lím 59 and you have not included my age group!! I am now very worried that you are not checking your facts by proof reading your forms properly!

Response

Sensitivity to staff who will be affected. Really listen to education providers and learn lessons from other projects. Have you asked people on the ground in other projects what they feel works well and doesn't work well?

Please don't just try to make a 1 size fits all solution, please take into account that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to improve our town to make it fit for the future and to give people opportunities to grow and stay in the area

Good architecture in keeping with locality. Plenty of housing for key workers

If some primary schools closed, I would like to see more planning as to what happens to those buildings. Some of these are prime assets to Thurso. I do not want to see a repeat of old Wick High School to say Miller Academy. The continued current facilities of library and swimming pool. I would like more information on the cost benefits of one campus vrs other options ie will it allow more spend on community facilities. I have concerns over traffic management. Walking is a great encouragement however the reality is we have many who will use car and also those who live rurally

I am always weary of these Survey's as they can be used in having \"leading questions\" resulting in Survives having preferred result. I always prefer stages of Open Public Consultation Meeting i.e. where Public are allowed to debate, ask questions with the options. People are more likely to give their opinions in a forum, rather than singly. At the same time Transparency is always quoted, but the Minutes, if made public are condensed and I prefer like the other Official Meetings they are open to Public viewing

Considering the issues in the Highlands regarding sub-standard attainment and the challenges faced in bringing educators to the area to spend the budget on anything other than the best possible education facilities and services is reprehensible. This Community POD idea endangers the future educational outcomes for the children of the area

Are you going to involve local creatives, designers and suppliers, builders etc in the process or just pay a big city architect to do it all and contract the easy bits? We won't grow and buy into it without involvement, not just consultation

No but well done so far

If there's a provision for leisure, perhaps there should be consideration for a space for the arts, culture and heritage, to support the creativity side of the community

I think its a great opportunity for Thurso to be noticed and invested in as we sometimes feel forgotten about as we are so far North. Our services are dwindling and being centralised South. By investing in the present and future we would all like to see more people stay in the area they were brought up in to take up opportunities without having to move away

I understand these are difficult decisions. I hope the right choice is made. People over money

Centralising everything will be detrimental to areas of the town. Increased traffic in an already busy area. Facilities further away meaning people will need to drive more meaning increased traffic/pollution. What happens to vacated buildings? Left to decay?

If decisions have already been made why are you wasting time with this as many of us have already been told about the plans

We need to get this right and consultation with all age groups is essential. I was unable to attend the event in Horizons and being able to give views this way has worked for me. The more any events, surveys can be shared the better

The HC have compulsory powers why not use it the buy the ex Mart site area in Thurso. That would give you from the Premier Inn to the UHI. The swimming pool and the Library should be stand alone. Don't make the same mistakes in Thurso as was done in Wick. Cant see the HC spending £100M when the cant keep our roads in in good condition

I feel that the library and swimming pool are fine where they are. There needs to be separate spaces for PE, nurture rooms within the school, music room, art rooms, CCR rooms for teachers development time, meeting rooms, the classrooms need doors that open out onto playing field, a separate ASN base with adequate rooms, separate dining hall

Response
My priority would be to provide to class spirt and leisure facilities
Our school library is hugely important to us as a school community. It\'s loss would have a hugely detrimental effect on Thurso High School as a whole
Please ensure there is a proper, separate school library! Not only does this increase reading for pleasure, improve literacy, offers a peaceful place to study, and is a sanctuary for pupils who are anxious, sensitive and find the rest of the school too loud and busy. Pupils at Wick High School only have limited access to the public library and this hasn't worked well for either pupils or members of the public
Running track or improved athletics facility
It is very important that the new PoD provides a theatre space that can seat up to 300 people. Wick has the Assembly rooms that provides them with this facility. The new facility should NOT be a multi-use facility but should include a dedicated stage area , wing and back stage area along with lighting and sound systems
yeah its a bad idea
Communication needs to be more frequent
1 A very real concern for the town centre if several facilities are relocated to this site. 2 This would certainly require a very well thought out, positive plan for the use of empty properties that would be generated by such a move if the heart is not ripped out of the town. 3. Such facilities would not be easily accessible by walking or by public transport for the majority of the residents nor the people in the surrounding areas, we are constantly told we have an ageing population and there was much stress on accessibility in the presentation. 4 This would generate serious traffic and parking issues, especially where there are children involved. 5 There should be some regard for the existing, original Basil Spence legacy 6 The plans should include a proper auditorium for the public performances in the community- Thurso High School was designated to be a community school and is the only such performance facility in town. 7 Most other facilities are currently more centrally situated apart from the NHS Highland Admin/Management staff at William Smith House 8 A more detailed public consultation with local groups. parents, organisations and including a questionnaire such as this being sent out to house holds is needed
The potential siting of a PoD (between the existing Thurso High School and UHI campus) is problematic since it will require the use of a car, taxi ,or improved public transport to access it. To walk up there is an option for those in good health, but even they may not wish to struggle up hill in a winter gale and driving rain
Cycle lanes seem like a waste of time. Sorry
The lighting of the school car park and walkways is currently poor, this should be considered in the plans for the new school/leisure facilities
Upon reading the plans the max capacity for the new high school is 750 which is 14 more children than the current capacity at Thurso high school. Giving this investment and job security through dounreay and the renewable sector, is the highland council positive that these plans will be sufficient for space and capacity in the future
It\'s a worthwhile thing but needs as many people on side as possible - do leaflet drops etc to promote to those that dont use facebook
nope
Pod should be designed with future aspirations for county in mind ie we need to make it a pull factor for young families interested in servicing our drastic requirements to increase skill levels and types
Just take Thurso seriously. It is understandable that it is a small community. However, there is plenty of talent that gets wasted, The football here is better than most UK areas, but is kept out of the limelight. There are clever people that go off to get degrees and become industry leaders, yet they barely return home as there aren't the opportunities here
As an individual I would like to help build some of these ideas - I think you\'ll find that many people in the community would like to contribute but may feel they need training or don't know how to help
Although I do not live in Thurso and my children are in the wick catchment, we, as a family are interested in the sporting facilities in the county and the educational provision for family members in Thurso

Response
Full size running track similar to Orkney facility would allow the POD to host events. Ensure there will be a large enough canteen to accommodate the increased capacity and storage capacity for all the additional gym equipment etc
it makes more sense to have a bunch of schools around town like we already have for travel, and I liked when I moved up to high school because I had no friends in primary because I was annoying so moving to the high school I had more opportunities to have friends, that I wouldn't have because of you making it one big primary, and that's a lot of teens perspective, moving to high school is a chance to socialize with new people learn how to communicate with people who are strangers at the time, it teaches us how to be humans,
This should happen sooner rather than later
not really
why are we even doing this for and what's the purpose of it
there are not a lot of opportunities for combat sport in Thurso
nope
nah
Education should be the biggest concern. Everything else is secondary. Education must not suffer as a result of investment into other uses of the PoD
If it's going ahead it needs to be done properly or it'll be a waste of money. Look at Orkney and follow their facilities
This is a once in a lifetime opportunity which will happen whether there is community involvement or not. It will never be perfect, but it's great to see community groups being involved and having a say. In reality, there are many issues which we need to leave to the professional planners and those with experience in building/developing schools and campuses. Learn lessons from other areas which have been through this process. £100m seems like a big figure but not that much considering what is being proposed
Not really
As above
They should be making this a safe positive space for the young people of our community, where they can learn, thrive and flourish
This work needs to be part of a wider partnership approach to improving the town, e.g., old void buildings, degraded footpaths, grey drab, etc
Worried about the loss of our stunning library building
No comment
nope
I think this could be an amazing thing for the community if done right, there is so much opportunity here to support everyone in the community from teenagers, to struggling families, lonely people etc. but that means not restricting the hours people can use the facilities
For your 'Transport Options' I can only choose 1 Transport Option. I walk and cycle and take the car

Response
Show parent how to use it
Learn from the design of Wick and improve on it, seek comments from staff working in current Wick set up as to how it has been, positives and changes they would like to see then seek comments from staff who will be working in the new campus before final designs are made
Im not keen on having all the primary school children in 1 school I feel this would be more intimidating for the younger ones and would make the class sizes larger which in turn could affect the quality of education
Please ensure that the impact on transportation routes within Thurso, particularly on Ormlie Road and Princes St is mitigated and factor in measures such as increased low carbon public transport links and adequate ev charging infrastructure. Also important to ensure that the site is net zero and has sufficient recycling and circular economy principles factored in
This is very exciting and a great opportunity for the people of Thurso and surrounding area, I hope it is done to exceptional standards and that no corners are cut
Multi-functional sports spaces would be good for education and the community
Use the area above the premier inn, leave the playing fields as is
We would like a swimming pool for pupils and staff only
As a high schooler that cares about primary children I would defininatley say to keep the primary children away from the high schoolers. As I have seen how ruthless some teenagers can be and think it is best for some distance between schools to save any hassle to younger children
Improve all the girl\'s bathroom
If it\'s too big, it will be unmanageable. Risk of intruder, terrorist attack, fire etc all have more risk of mass casualties
Currently, HLH close their facilities at 2pm at weekends. The town desperately needs somewhere during weekends where children can meet and play sport
I think it is important to keep the current library facility in place. The current library is of great historical value and is located in a position that is easily accessible to the whole town
Let\'s get this right for everyone
This needs joined up thinking with a vision for the next 30-40 year not 5-10 years. Politic should not enter into consideration
I really do hope there will be careful consideration in keeping young children and much older children separate. I believe the traffic and commuting will be even more troublesome than it currently is now!
Community concerns regularly arises over transport infrastructure - needs to consider a holistic transport and connectivity strategy; public transport, walking and cycling routes, traffic flow and parking
The High School is quite far from NE Thurso. Would encourage additional transport between Sprinkpark and Thurso High School
No thank you
make better and more variety of sport complexes
listen to what the young people actually want for their future

Response
Does it all have to be in the same place? Split it somehow, have something in/near the Town Centre. The East Caithness Community monstrosity has taken facilities from the town centre which were within walking distance for lots of people and has affected footfall in the town centre. Let's not make the same mistake. With no town buses lots of people will be denied access to services
It sounds like this could be quite a big development so must ensure that there is sufficient parking and that access and exit points and a good flow as it is quite a busy road
Make sure the old building is completely removed, it would be hideous for it to stay like Wick
nope
you NEED and I mean NEED to have a Library in the new high school! And you all better listen and put one. I mean kids literacy rates are dropping like it's a world class sport already so at least make it look like you care and give them the books so they at least have the option there
I am all for better education and a better campus for our kids. but I prefer the separation of facilities. A police station for example being on a school site would be extremely concerned
We need more detailed plans to make a fully informed opinion but the initial idea is much needed
The decision must be left with the community, not Inverness bureaucrats or Wick based heads of council
Too much has been clumped into one 'project' the school redesign should be a completely separate entity where as the 'pod' map shows various buildings and services and quite simply is confusing and deterring to locals that aren't familiar with EVERY aspect
Yes. Any new development should prioritise build quality, durability and long term value. Too many modern public buildings suffer from poor longevity and high maintenance costs. These facilities should be designed and constructed to last 50 -100 years, using robust materials suited to the local climate, with ease of maintenance and adaptability built in, rather than focusing on short term design trends or architectural statements. BUILT TO LAST!
I think this is an excellent project and wish it every success
This is a terrible idea. You are trying to frame this as positive for the community with using terms like 100m funding as if we have won a prize. Many can plainly see this is a further desperate attempt to save money due to failings to invest and maintain the current schools that we have
Living out with the town but having to access Thurso it feels that rural communities do not feel quite as included with these changes as they probably should
Ensuring roads are fixed and safe to use due to more traffic
Real community is built through relationships not a council scheme. Disability accessible transport except using a transport you missed this out below
Unlike Wick new campus I would hope there is sufficient sensible dialogue with the community. Not all have access to social media
survey is very poor and doesn't address the complete and total mess of Thurso's roads and pavements, which need urgent work and will probably cost £100 million to fix
Please learn from the mistakes with the Wick High School. Keep the Thurso leisure centre and the library in their existing buildings
I think is a good idea because gave people more thing to do
Education- existing gaelic medium at Mount Pleasant school but no mention of this in education plans for POD

Response
I dont think so
None that I can think of
Putting too many services in the PoD area, without linking it t properly to public transport is a retrograde step. At the moment, there are many people with mobility/age related problems who would be unable to use \"wellness\" facilities out of the town centre. How popular was he move to include the library/swimming pool in the WHS Campus. Has a review been undertaken re usage etc? - Transport Options - I live in a part of the county where there is no public transport. Highland Council aim of greener/net zero policies could be addressed by enabling \"school\" buses to take passengers?
The Wick campus has some very positive features. People like to share the negatives and forget the improvement the facility brings
Nope
Skatepark
Nope!
Refer to the North Highland Way specification
This is a once in a lifetime chance, if done right it could give our young people the best start in whatever they choose to do and improve the Leisure facilities to help keep some of our young people in the area. Please learn from previous projects on what works and doesnt. An off the shelf design will not be the best for us, work to make it specific to our needs
No thanks
The reason councillor\'s have been saying engagement is low is that the highland council have a history of ignoring local views
What will happen to all the empty buildings ???
Waste of money, the young are all leaving. Thurso is full of pensioners and DHS scrougers

Appendix 3 – Data Tables

This appendix contains the full data tables for all survey questions. Tables are editable directly within this document. Percentages are calculated against the stated base for each question. Multi-coded questions sum to more than 100%.

Q1 – What services would you like to see accommodated in your Community PoD?

Base: 546 respondents (3 blanks excluded) | Multi-select: respondents could select more than one option | % = % of base who selected each option

Overall results

Option	Count	% of 546
Sport and leisure	412	75.5%
Education	386	70.7%
Wellbeing and social activities	254	46.5%
Enhanced community facilities	237	43.4%
Other	58	10.6%

Breakdown by age group

Option	Under 18 (n=188)		18-24 (n=28)		25-34 (n=58)		35-44 (n=98)		45-54 (n=91)		55-64 (n=26)		65 and older (n=39)		Not stated (n=18)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sport and leisure	143	76.1%	20	71.4%	48	82.8%	80	81.6%	65	71.4%	18	69.2%	27	69.2%	11	61.1%
Education	108	57.4%	14	50.0%	37	63.8%	82	83.7%	80	87.9%	19	73.1%	35	89.7%	11	61.1%
Wellbeing and social activities	62	33.0%	14	50.0%	32	55.2%	58	59.2%	52	57.1%	13	50.0%	19	48.7%	4	22.2%
Enhanced community facilities	40	21.3%	10	35.7%	33	56.9%	48	49.0%	59	64.8%	20	76.9%	21	53.8%	6	33.3%
Other	7	3.7%	4	14.3%	4	6.9%	11	11.2%	12	13.2%	6	23.1%	11	28.2%	3	16.7%

Breakdown by postcode group △ Outwith KW: n=1 (IV4 postcode). Included for completeness but excluded from narrative analysis.

Option	KW14 (Thurso) (n=359)		Other KW (Caithness) (n=40)		Outwith KW (n=1)		Not stated (n=146)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sport and leisure	277	77.2%	31	77.5%	1	100.0%	103	70.5%
Education	267	74.4%	30	75.0%	1	100.0%	88	60.3%
Wellbeing and social activities	188	52.4%	20	50.0%	0	0.0%	46	31.5%
Enhanced community facilities	183	51.0%	20	50.0%	1	100.0%	33	22.6%
Other	48	13.4%	3	7.5%	0	0.0%	7	4.8%

Breakdown by gender

Option	Woman (n=299)		Man (n=206)		Other / prefer not to say (n=21)		Not stated (n=20)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sport and leisure	224	74.9%	164	79.6%	11	52.4%	13	65.0%
Education	216	72.2%	142	68.9%	16	76.2%	12	60.0%
Wellbeing and social activities	153	51.2%	86	41.7%	11	52.4%	4	20.0%
Enhanced community facilities	134	44.8%	91	44.2%	8	38.1%	4	20.0%
Other	23	7.7%	28	13.6%	3	14.3%	4	20.0%

Breakdown by disability status

Option	No (n=449)		Yes (n=42)		Prefer not to say (n=35)		Not stated (n=20)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sport and leisure	350	78.0%	25	59.5%	21	60.0%	16	80.0%
Education	325	72.4%	24	57.1%	26	74.3%	11	55.0%
Wellbeing and social activities	210	46.8%	24	57.1%	19	54.3%	1	5.0%
Enhanced community facilities	202	45.0%	17	40.5%	14	40.0%	4	20.0%
Other	45	10.0%	7	16.7%	4	11.4%	2	10.0%
Other write-in responses (n=58)								

Breakdown by caring status

Category	Parent (n=314)		Kinship Carer (n=9)		Guardian (n=10)		Legal Custodian (n=5)		Foster Carer (n=1)		No caring responsibility stated (n=208)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sport and leisure	247	78.7%	3	33.3%	6	60.0%	4	80.0%	0	0.0%	152	73.1%
Education	239	76.1%	6	66.7%	8	80.0%	2	40.0%	1	100.0%	130	62.5%
Wellbeing and social activities	152	48.4%	3	33.3%	7	70.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	91	43.8%
Enhanced community facilities	146	46.5%	5	55.6%	4	40.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	81	38.9%
Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Breakdown by transport mode

Category	Car Owner (n=322)		Walking (n=101)		Rely on Public Transport (n=64)		Community transport (n=18)		Cycling (n=6)		Motor Cycle/Scooter (n=2)		Not stated (n=34)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sport and leisure	255	79.2%	72	71.3%	43	67.2%	16	88.9%	4	66.7%	2	100.0%	20	58.8%
Education	249	77.3%	61	60.4%	42	65.6%	10	55.6%	3	50.0%	0	0.0%	21	61.8%
Wellbeing and social activities	179	55.6%	33	32.7%	25	39.1%	9	50.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	8	23.5%
Enhanced community facilities	174	54.0%	33	32.7%	15	23.4%	6	33.3%	1	16.7%	1	50.0%	7	20.6%
Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Q2 – If you selected 'other' in Q1, please provide more information

Base: 63 substantive responses | Excluded as non-substantive: 5 | Multi-coded: responses may appear in more than one category

Overall results

Category	Count	% of 63
Arts, culture and performance	17	27.0%
Health services	9	14.3%
Sport and leisure	8	12.7%
Community spaces / hall hire	5	7.9%
ASN / disability provision	5	7.9%
Library / learning	5	7.9%
Youth space	4	6.3%
Transport	3	4.8%
Governance / process concerns	3	4.8%
Business / co-working	2	3.2%
Town centre / environment	1	1.6%
Other	3	4.8%

Breakdown by age group

Category	Under 18 (n=5)		18-24 (n=5)		25-34 (n=7)		35-44 (n=13)		45-54 (n=12)		55-64 (n=7)		65 and older (n=10)		Not stated (n=3)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Arts, culture and performance	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	23.1%	5	41.7%	3	42.9%	3	30.0%	2	66.7%
Health services	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	28.6%	2	15.4%	2	16.7%	1	14.3%	2	20.0%	0	0.0%
Sport and leisure	2	40.0%	1	20.0%	2	28.6%	3	23.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Community spaces / hall hire	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	15.4%	1	8.3%	0	0.0%	2	20.0%	0	0.0%
ASN / disability provision	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	7.7%	2	16.7%	0	0.0%	2	20.0%	0	0.0%
Library / learning	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	1	14.3%	0	0.0%	2	16.7%	1	14.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Youth space	0	0.0%	1	20.0%	1	14.3%	0	0.0%	1	8.3%	1	14.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Transport	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	14.3%	1	7.7%	0	0.0%	1	14.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	14.3%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%
Business / co-working	0	0.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	8.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Town centre / environment	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	7.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%	2	40.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%

Breakdown by postcode group

△ Outwith KW: n=1. Included for completeness, excluded from narrative analysis.

Category	KW14 (Thurso) (n=50)		Other KW (Caithness) (n=3)		Outwith KW (n=0)		Not stated (n=9)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Arts, culture and performance	15	30.0%	0	0.0%	0	0%	2	22.2%
Health services	9	18.0%	0	0.0%	0	0%	0	0.0%
Sport and leisure	7	14.0%	0	0.0%	0	0%	1	11.1%
Community spaces / hall hire	4	8.0%	0	0.0%	0	0%	1	11.1%
ASN / disability provision	4	8.0%	1	33.3%	0	0%	0	0.0%
Library / learning	3	6.0%	1	33.3%	0	0%	1	11.1%
Youth space	2	4.0%	1	33.3%	0	0%	1	11.1%
Transport	2	4.0%	1	33.3%	0	0%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	3	6.0%	0	0.0%	0	0%	0	0.0%
Business / co-working	2	4.0%	0	0.0%	0	0%	0	0.0%
Town centre / environment	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0%	1	11.1%
Other	1	2.0%	0	0.0%	0	0%	2	22.2%

Breakdown by gender

Category	Woman (n=25)		Man (n=30)		Other / prefer not to say (n=3)		Not stated (n=4)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Arts, culture and performance	3	12.0%	10	33.3%	2	66.7%	2	50.0%
Health services	6	24.0%	3	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sport and leisure	4	16.0%	4	13.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Community spaces / hall hire	2	8.0%	3	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
ASN / disability provision	4	16.0%	1	3.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Library / learning	3	12.0%	2	6.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Youth space	2	8.0%	2	6.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Transport	0	0.0%	2	6.7%	0	0.0%	1	25.0%
Governance / process concerns	1	4.0%	1	3.3%	1	33.3%	0	0.0%
Business / co-working	1	4.0%	1	3.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Town centre / environment	0	0.0%	1	3.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	1	4.0%	1	3.3%	0	0.0%	1	25.0%

Breakdown by disability status

Category	No (n=48)		Yes (n=8)		Prefer not to say (n=4)		Not stated (n=2)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Arts, culture and performance	13	27.1%	2	25.0%	1	25.0%	1	50.0%
Health services	7	14.6%	2	25.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sport and leisure	6	12.5%	2	25.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Community spaces / hall hire	5	10.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
ASN / disability provision	4	8.3%	1	12.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Library / learning	4	8.3%	1	12.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Youth space	4	8.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Transport	2	4.2%	0	0.0%	1	25.0%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	2	4.2%	0	0.0%	1	25.0%	0	0.0%
Business / co-working	2	4.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Town centre / environment	1	2.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%	1	12.5%	1	25.0%	1	50.0%

Breakdown by caring status

Category	Parent (n=315)		Kinship Carer (n=10)		Guardian (n=10)		Legal Custodian (n=5)		Foster Carer (n=1)		No caring responsibility stated (n=211)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Arts, culture and performance	6	1.9%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	9	4.3%
Health services	5	1.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%
Sport and leisure	7	2.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	1.9%
Community spaces / hall hire	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
ASN / disability provision	1	0.3%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%
Library / learning	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Youth space	5	1.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.9%
Transport	4	1.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%
Governance / process concerns	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.9%
Business / co-working	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.9%
Town centre / environment	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%
Other	11	3.5%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	9	4.3%

Breakdown by transport mode

Category	Car Owner (n=322)		Walking (n=102)		Rely on Public Transport (n=65)		Community transport (n=18)		Cycling (n=6)		Motor Cycle/Scooter (n=2)		Not stated (n=37)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Arts, culture and performance	11	3.4%	3	2.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	5.4%
Health services	6	1.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sport and leisure	6	1.9%	3	2.9%	1	1.5%	1	5.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Community spaces / hall hire	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
ASN / disability provision	3	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Library / learning	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Youth space	6	1.9%	1	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Transport	4	1.2%	0	0.0%	1	1.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	2	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Business / co-working	2	0.6%	1	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Town centre / environment	2	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	12	3.7%	5	4.9%	0	0.0%	2	11.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	8.1%

Q3 – What are your top priorities for sport and leisure facilities?

Base: 459 substantive responses | 12 non-substantive excluded | Multi-coded: responses may appear in more than one category

Overall results

Category	Count	% of 459
Swimming pool / aquatic facilities	112	24.4%
Indoor courts / games hall	181	39.4%
Athletics / running track	47	10.2%
All-weather / outdoor pitches	117	25.5%
Gym / fitness (incl. gymnastics and dance)	131	28.5%
Skate park / pump track / cycling	21	4.6%
Climbing wall	20	4.4%
Accessibility and affordability	73	15.9%
Facilities quality (changing rooms, equipment)	52	11.3%
Youth provision	62	13.5%
Arts / performance	16	3.5%
Governance / process concerns	16	3.5%
Other / one-off	39	8.5%

Breakdown by age group

Category	Under 18 (n=141)		18-24 (n=25)		25-34 (n=52)		35-44 (n=91)		45-54 (n=79)		55-64 (n=24)		65 and older (n=33)		Not stated (n=14)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Swimming pool / aquatic facilities	29	20.6%	6	24.0%	15	28.8%	28	30.8%	18	22.8%	5	20.8%	5	15.2%	6	42.9%
Indoor courts / games hall	47	33.3%	6	24.0%	24	46.2%	41	45.1%	37	46.8%	8	33.3%	12	36.4%	6	42.9%
Athletics / running track	3	2.1%	0	0.0%	8	15.4%	17	18.7%	9	11.4%	2	8.3%	5	15.2%	3	21.4%
All-weather / outdoor pitches	35	24.8%	3	12.0%	11	21.2%	29	31.9%	22	27.8%	3	12.5%	10	30.3%	4	28.6%
Gym / fitness (incl. gymnastics and dance)	41	29.1%	7	28.0%	18	34.6%	29	31.9%	19	24.1%	8	33.3%	6	18.2%	3	21.4%
Skate park / pump track / cycling	2	1.4%	0	0.0%	4	7.7%	10	11.0%	2	2.5%	1	4.2%	2	6.1%	0	0.0%
Climbing wall	0	0.0%	1	4.0%	6	11.5%	8	8.8%	2	2.5%	2	8.3%	1	3.0%	0	0.0%
Accessibility and affordability	6	4.3%	3	12.0%	16	30.8%	18	19.8%	16	20.3%	5	20.8%	8	24.2%	1	7.1%
Facilities quality (changing rooms, equipment)	20	14.2%	0	0.0%	4	7.7%	13	14.3%	7	8.9%	3	12.5%	3	9.1%	2	14.3%
Youth provision	6	4.3%	2	8.0%	13	25.0%	17	18.7%	16	20.3%	4	16.7%	4	12.1%	0	0.0%
Arts / performance	3	2.1%	0	0.0%	3	5.8%	4	4.4%	2	2.5%	0	0.0%	2	6.1%	2	14.3%
Governance / process concerns	2	1.4%	1	4.0%	2	3.8%	4	4.4%	3	3.8%	2	8.3%	2	6.1%	0	0.0%
Other / one-off	14	9.9%	5	20.0%	3	5.8%	3	3.3%	4	5.1%	4	16.7%	4	12.1%	2	14.3%

Breakdown by postcode group

△ Outwith KW: n=1. Included for completeness, excluded from narrative analysis.

Category	KW14 (Thurso) (n=326)		Other KW (Caithness) (n=35)		Outwith KW (n=1)		Not stated (n=97)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Swimming pool / aquatic facilities	81	24.8%	13	37.1%	0	0.0%	18	18.6%
Indoor courts / games hall	136	41.7%	14	40.0%	0	0.0%	31	32.0%
Athletics / running track	40	12.3%	4	11.4%	0	0.0%	3	3.1%
All-weather / outdoor pitches	83	25.5%	9	25.7%	0	0.0%	25	25.8%
Gym / fitness (incl. gymnastics and dance)	93	28.5%	13	37.1%	0	0.0%	25	25.8%
Skate park / pump track / cycling	19	5.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	2.1%
Climbing wall	18	5.5%	1	2.9%	0	0.0%	1	1.0%
Accessibility and affordability	66	20.2%	4	11.4%	0	0.0%	3	3.1%
Facilities quality (changing rooms, equipment)	35	10.7%	2	5.7%	0	0.0%	15	15.5%
Youth provision	54	16.6%	1	2.9%	1	100.0%	6	6.2%
Arts / performance	16	4.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	12	3.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	4.1%
Other / one-off	26	8.0%	2	5.7%	0	0.0%	11	11.3%

Breakdown by gender

Category	Woman (n=244)		Man (n=183)		Other / prefer not to say (n=17)		Not stated (n=15)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Swimming pool / aquatic facilities	65	26.6%	36	19.7%	6	35.3%	5	33.3%
Indoor courts / games hall	98	40.2%	73	39.9%	5	29.4%	5	33.3%
Athletics / running track	23	9.4%	21	11.5%	2	11.8%	1	6.7%
All-weather / outdoor pitches	53	21.7%	59	32.2%	2	11.8%	3	20.0%
Gym / fitness (incl. gymnastics and dance)	84	34.4%	41	22.4%	5	29.4%	1	6.7%
Skate park / pump track / cycling	5	2.0%	15	8.2%	1	5.9%	0	0.0%
Climbing wall	11	4.5%	7	3.8%	2	11.8%	0	0.0%
Accessibility and affordability	44	18.0%	27	14.8%	0	0.0%	2	13.3%
Facilities quality (changing rooms, equipment)	28	11.5%	21	11.5%	2	11.8%	1	6.7%
Youth provision	38	15.6%	22	12.0%	2	11.8%	0	0.0%
Arts / performance	8	3.3%	8	4.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	8	3.3%	7	3.8%	0	0.0%	1	6.7%
Other / one-off	23	9.4%	11	6.0%	3	17.6%	2	13.3%

Breakdown by disability status *Multi-coded: responses covering multiple topics appear in more than one category. Percentages sum to more than 100%.*

Category	No (n=386)		Yes (n=31)		Prefer not to say (n=29)		Not stated (n=13)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Swimming pool / aquatic facilities	88	22.8%	10	32.3%	9	31.0%	5	38.5%
Indoor courts / games hall	168	43.5%	2	6.5%	8	27.6%	3	23.1%
Athletics / running track	40	10.4%	3	9.7%	3	10.3%	1	7.7%
All-weather / outdoor pitches	105	27.2%	6	19.4%	4	13.8%	2	15.4%
Gym / fitness (incl. gymnastics and dance)	112	29.0%	8	25.8%	8	27.6%	3	23.1%
Skate park / pump track / cycling	19	4.9%	0	0.0%	2	6.9%	0	0.0%
Climbing wall	15	3.9%	4	12.9%	1	3.4%	0	0.0%
Accessibility and affordability	65	16.8%	6	19.4%	2	6.9%	0	0.0%
Facilities quality (changing rooms, equipment)	45	11.7%	4	12.9%	2	6.9%	1	7.7%
Youth provision	57	14.8%	1	3.2%	4	13.8%	0	0.0%
Arts / performance	15	3.9%	1	3.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	14	3.6%	1	3.2%	1	3.4%	0	0.0%
Other / one-off	29	7.5%	2	6.5%	5	17.2%	3	23.1%

Breakdown by caring status

Category	Parent (n=315)		Kinship Carer (n=10)		Guardian (n=10)		Legal Custodian (n=5)		Foster Carer (n=1)		No caring responsibility stated (n=211)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Swimming pool / aquatic facilities	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Indoor courts / games hall	88	27.9%	1	10.0%	2	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	45	21.3%
Athletics / running track	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
All-weather / outdoor pitches	47	14.9%	2	20.0%	2	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	24	11.4%
Gym / fitness (incl. gymnastics and dance)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Skate park / pump track / cycling	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Climbing wall	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Accessibility and affordability	35	11.1%	3	30.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	18	8.5%
Facilities quality (changing rooms, equipment)	16	5.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	15	7.1%
Youth provision	34	10.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	3.3%
Arts / performance	2	0.6%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	1.4%
Governance / process concerns	5	1.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other / one-off	57	18.1%	2	20.0%	4	40.0%	3	60.0%	0	0.0%	39	18.5%

Breakdown by transport mode

Category	Car Owner (n=322)		Walking (n=102)		Rely on Public Transport (n=65)		Community transport (n=18)		Cycling (n=6)		Motor Cycle/Scooter (n=2)		Not stated (n=37)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Swimming pool / aquatic facilities	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Indoor courts / games hall	103	32.0%	17	16.7%	10	15.4%	2	11.1%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	3	8.1%
Athletics / running track	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
All-weather / outdoor pitches	56	17.4%	9	8.8%	5	7.7%	1	5.6%	1	16.7%	1	50.0%	2	5.4%
Gym / fitness (incl. gymnastics and dance)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Skate park / pump track / cycling	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Climbing wall	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Accessibility and affordability	47	14.6%	4	3.9%	2	3.1%	0	0.0%	2	33.3%	0	0.0%	1	2.7%
Facilities quality (changing rooms, equipment)	15	4.7%	9	8.8%	4	6.2%	1	5.6%	2	33.3%	0	0.0%	1	2.7%
Youth provision	35	10.9%	3	2.9%	1	1.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	5.4%
Arts / performance	3	0.9%	3	2.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	3	0.9%	1	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other / one-off	47	14.6%	25	24.5%	15	23.1%	6	33.3%	2	33.3%	1	50.0%	9	24.3%

Q4 – What are your top priorities for wellbeing and social activities?

Base: 336 substantive responses | Multi-coded: responses may appear in more than one category

Overall results

Category	Count	% of 336
Mental health and wellbeing services	36	10.7%
Youth space and activities	76	22.6%
Community spaces / hall hire	120	35.7%
Arts, culture and performance	44	13.1%
Health and social care services	24	7.1%
Café / third space	16	4.8%
ASN / disability provision	12	3.6%
Learning / life skills	42	12.5%
Elderly / isolation	24	7.1%
Outdoor / green spaces	14	4.2%
Accessibility and affordability	33	9.8%
Governance / process concerns	20	6.0%
Other / one-off	22	6.5%

Breakdown by age group

Category	Under 18 (n=77)		18-24 (n=19)		25-34 (n=41)		35-44 (n=76)		45-54 (n=68)		55-64 (n=22)		65 and older (n=26)		Not stated (n=7)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Mental health and wellbeing services	7	9.1%	2	10.5%	9	22.0%	8	10.5%	6	8.8%	1	4.5%	2	7.7%	1	14.3%
Youth space and activities	15	19.5%	4	21.1%	11	26.8%	21	27.6%	17	25.0%	4	18.2%	3	11.5%	1	14.3%
Community spaces / hall hire	31	40.3%	3	15.8%	15	36.6%	28	36.8%	26	38.2%	7	31.8%	7	26.9%	3	42.9%
Arts, culture and performance	9	11.7%	1	5.3%	8	19.5%	9	11.8%	9	13.2%	2	9.1%	5	19.2%	1	14.3%
Health and social care services	2	2.6%	2	10.5%	3	7.3%	4	5.3%	5	7.4%	5	22.7%	3	11.5%	0	0.0%
Café / third space	1	1.3%	0	0.0%	2	4.9%	3	3.9%	5	7.4%	2	9.1%	3	11.5%	0	0.0%
ASN / disability provision	1	1.3%	1	5.3%	4	9.8%	0	0.0%	6	8.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Learning / life skills	8	10.4%	3	15.8%	6	14.6%	7	9.2%	10	14.7%	4	18.2%	2	7.7%	2	28.6%
Elderly / isolation	3	3.9%	1	5.3%	2	4.9%	6	7.9%	7	10.3%	1	4.5%	4	15.4%	0	0.0%
Outdoor / green spaces	3	3.9%	0	0.0%	2	4.9%	2	2.6%	2	2.9%	4	18.2%	1	3.8%	0	0.0%
Accessibility and affordability	5	6.5%	3	15.8%	2	4.9%	6	7.9%	10	14.7%	4	18.2%	3	11.5%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	3	3.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.4%	5	6.6%	4	5.9%	3	13.6%	3	11.5%	1	14.3%
Other / one-off	9	11.7%	3	15.8%	1	2.4%	2	2.6%	4	5.9%	1	4.5%	2	7.7%	0	0.0%

Breakdown by postcode group △ Outwith KW: n=1. Included for completeness, excluded from narrative analysis.

Category	KW14 (Thurso) (n=257)		Other KW (Caithness) (n=25)		Outwith KW (n=1)		Not stated (n=53)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Mental health and wellbeing services	31	12.1%	1	4.0%	0	0.0%	4	7.5%
Youth space and activities	60	23.3%	6	24.0%	0	0.0%	10	18.9%
Community spaces / hall hire	97	37.7%	9	36.0%	0	0.0%	14	26.4%
Arts, culture and performance	33	12.8%	3	12.0%	0	0.0%	8	15.1%
Health and social care services	20	7.8%	1	4.0%	0	0.0%	3	5.7%
Café / third space	13	5.1%	2	8.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.9%
ASN / disability provision	10	3.9%	1	4.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.9%
Learning / life skills	29	11.3%	4	16.0%	0	0.0%	9	17.0%
Elderly / isolation	20	7.8%	2	8.0%	0	0.0%	2	3.8%
Outdoor / green spaces	10	3.9%	1	4.0%	0	0.0%	3	5.7%
Accessibility and affordability	27	10.5%	3	12.0%	1	100.0%	2	3.8%
Governance / process concerns	17	6.6%	1	4.0%	0	0.0%	2	3.8%
Other / one-off	13	5.1%	1	4.0%	0	0.0%	8	15.1%

Breakdown by gender

Category	Woman (n=190)		Man (n=125)		Other / prefer not to say (n=14)		Not stated (n=7)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Mental health and wellbeing services	24	12.6%	10	8.0%	2	14.3%	0	0.0%
Youth space and activities	50	26.3%	21	16.8%	5	35.7%	0	0.0%
Community spaces / hall hire	69	36.3%	45	36.0%	4	28.6%	2	28.6%
Arts, culture and performance	28	14.7%	15	12.0%	1	7.1%	0	0.0%
Health and social care services	16	8.4%	7	5.6%	0	0.0%	1	14.3%
Café / third space	14	7.4%	2	1.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
ASN / disability provision	10	5.3%	2	1.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Learning / life skills	30	15.8%	11	8.8%	0	0.0%	1	14.3%
Elderly / isolation	15	7.9%	8	6.4%	1	7.1%	0	0.0%
Outdoor / green spaces	10	5.3%	4	3.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Accessibility and affordability	19	10.0%	12	9.6%	1	7.1%	1	14.3%
Governance / process concerns	6	3.2%	8	6.4%	3	21.4%	3	42.9%
Other / one-off	5	2.6%	15	12.0%	2	14.3%	0	0.0%

Breakdown by disability status *Multi-coded: responses covering multiple topics appear in more than one category. Percentages sum to more than 100%.*

Category	No (n=288)		Yes (n=22)		Prefer not to say (n=22)		Not stated (n=4)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Mental health and wellbeing services	31	10.8%	3	13.6%	2	9.1%	0	0.0%
Youth space and activities	68	23.6%	3	13.6%	5	22.7%	0	0.0%
Community spaces / hall hire	105	36.5%	8	36.4%	6	27.3%	1	25.0%
Arts, culture and performance	41	14.2%	1	4.5%	2	9.1%	0	0.0%
Health and social care services	22	7.6%	1	4.5%	1	4.5%	0	0.0%
Café / third space	14	4.9%	1	4.5%	1	4.5%	0	0.0%
ASN / disability provision	9	3.1%	3	13.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Learning / life skills	35	12.2%	3	13.6%	3	13.6%	1	25.0%
Elderly / isolation	21	7.3%	1	4.5%	2	9.1%	0	0.0%
Outdoor / green spaces	11	3.8%	0	0.0%	3	13.6%	0	0.0%
Accessibility and affordability	29	10.1%	2	9.1%	2	9.1%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	13	4.5%	0	0.0%	6	27.3%	1	25.0%
Other / one-off	17	5.9%	2	9.1%	2	9.1%	1	25.0%

Breakdown by caring status

Category	Parent (n=315)		Kinship (n=10)		Carer		Guardian (n=10)		Legal (n=5)		Custodian		Foster (n=1)		Carer		No caring responsibility stated (n=211)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Mental health and wellbeing services	16	5.1%	1	10.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	12	5.7%
Youth space and activities	41	13.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	24	11.4%
Community spaces / hall hire	31	9.8%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	24	11.4%
Arts, culture and performance	23	7.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	21	10.0%
Health and social care services	13	4.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.9%
Café / third space	11	3.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	2.4%
ASN / disability provision	7	2.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	1.9%
Learning / life skills	27	8.6%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	11	5.2%
Elderly / isolation	17	5.4%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	2.4%
Outdoor / green spaces	9	2.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	2.4%
Accessibility and affordability	12	3.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	8	3.8%
Governance / process concerns	5	1.6%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	1.4%
Other / one-off	76	24.1%	3	30.0%	5	50.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	52	24.6%

Breakdown by transport mode

Category	Car Owner (n=322)		Walking (n=102)		Rely on Public Transport (n=65)		Community transport (n=18)		Cycling (n=6)		Motor Cycle/Scooter (n=2)		Not stated (n=37)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Mental health and wellbeing services	25	7.8%	2	2.0%	3	4.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Youth space and activities	51	15.8%	6	5.9%	5	7.7%	1	5.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	5.4%
Community spaces / hall hire	47	14.6%	2	2.0%	2	3.1%	2	11.1%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	2	5.4%
Arts, culture and performance	31	9.6%	4	3.9%	7	10.8%	1	5.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.7%
Health and social care services	13	4.0%	1	1.0%	1	1.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Café / third space	15	4.7%	1	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
ASN / disability provision	7	2.2%	2	2.0%	1	1.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.7%
Learning / life skills	29	9.0%	1	1.0%	5	7.7%	2	11.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	5.4%
Elderly / isolation	20	6.2%	1	1.0%	0	0.0%	2	11.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Outdoor / green spaces	10	3.1%	1	1.0%	2	3.1%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Accessibility and affordability	14	4.3%	4	3.9%	0	0.0%	1	5.6%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	6	1.9%	3	2.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other / one-off	69	21.4%	29	28.4%	21	32.3%	4	22.2%	2	33.3%	0	0.0%	12	32.4%

Q5 – Which education option would work best as part of the Community PoD?

Base (answered): 528 of 549

Option (as recorded in data)	Count	% of base
Option 5: Separate High School and two separate primary schools with revised catchment areas.	155	29.4%
Option 2: Education Campus (One Primary School). Thurso High, a combined large primary school, early learning and childcare provision, and additional support needs (ASN) base, all located on one campus (location confirmed as current high school site with playing fields)	120	22.7%
Option 3: Education Campus (Two Primary Schools). Thurso High, one primary school, early learning provision, and additional support needs (ASN) base, on one campus, with a second primary school located elsewhere with revised catchment areas.	143	27.1%
Option 4: Separate High School and one large combined primary school.	110	20.8%
Option 1: Retain the status quo	0	0.0%

Breakdown by age group

Option	Under 18 (n=184)		18-24 (n=27)		25-34 (n=57)		35-44 (n=96)		45-54 (n=91)		55-64 (n=25)		65 and older (n=37)		Not stated (n=11)	
Option 5: Separate High School and two separate primary schools	47	25.5%	5	18.5%	17	29.8%	25	26.0%	35	38.5%	8	32.0%	16	43.2%	2	18.2%
Option 3: Education Campus (Two Primary Schools)	35	19.0%	10	37.0%	21	36.8%	28	29.2%	27	29.7%	10	40.0%	9	24.3%	3	27.3%
Option 2: Education Campus (One Primary School)	41	22.3%	8	29.6%	11	19.3%	23	24.0%	21	23.1%	5	20.0%	8	21.6%	3	27.3%
Option 4: Separate High School and one large combined primary school	61	33.2%	4	14.8%	8	14.0%	20	20.8%	8	8.8%	2	8.0%	4	10.8%	3	27.3%

Breakdown by postcode group

△ Outwith KW: n=1 (IV4 postcode). Included for completeness but excluded from narrative analysis.

Option	KW14 (Thurso) (n=343)		Other KW (Caithness) (n=50)		Outwith KW (n=1)		Not stated (n=134)	
Option 5: Separate High School and two separate primary schools	110	32.1%	9	18.0%	1	100.0%	35	26.1%
Option 3: Education Campus (Two Primary Schools) [merged]	100	29.2%	14	28.0%		0.0%	29	21.6%
Option 2: Education Campus (One Primary School)	74	21.6%	17	34.0%		0.0%	29	21.6%
Option 4: Separate High School and one large combined primary school	59	17.2%	10	20.0%		0.0%	41	30.6%

Breakdown by gender

Option	Woman (n=294)		Man (n=200)		Other / prefer not to say (n=21)		Not stated (n=13)	
Option 5: Separate High School and two separate primary schools	103	35.0%	42	21.0%	9	42.9%	1	7.7%
Option 3: Education Campus (Two Primary Schools) [merged]	71	24.1%	64	32.0%	3	14.3%	5	38.5%
Option 2: Education Campus (One Primary School)	60	20.4%	50	25.0%	5	23.8%	5	38.5%
Option 4: Separate High School and one large combined primary school	60	20.4%	44	22.0%	4	19.0%	2	15.4%

Breakdown by disability status

Option	No (n=439)		Yes (n=41)		Prefer not to say (n=35)		Not stated (n=13)	
Option 5: Separate High School and two separate primary schools	130	29.6%	10	24.4%	11	31.4%	4	30.8%
Option 3: Education Campus (Two Primary Schools) [merged]	120	27.3%	12	29.3%	8	22.9%	3	23.1%
Option 2: Education Campus (One Primary School)	96	21.9%	11	26.8%	10	28.6%	3	23.1%
Option 4: Separate High School and one large combined primary school	93	21.2%	8	19.5%	6	17.1%	3	23.1%

Breakdown by caring status

“No caring responsibility stated” = respondents who did not select any caring role.

Option	Parent (n=310)		Kinship Carer (n=9)		Guardian (n=10)		Legal Custodian / Foster Carer (n=6)		No caring responsibility stated (n=193)	
Option 5: Separate High School and two separate primary schools	91	29.4%	3	33.3%	2	20.0%		0.0%	59	30.6%
Option 3: Education Campus (Two Primary Schools) [merged]	84	27.1%	3	33.3%	3	30.0%	2	33.3%	51	26.4%
Option 2: Education Campus (One Primary School)	71	22.9%	3	33.3%	3	30.0%	1	16.7%	42	21.8%
Option 4: Separate High School and one large combined primary school	64	20.6%		0.0%	2	20.0%	3	50.0%	41	21.2%

Breakdown by transport mode

Cycling (n=6) and Motor Cycle/Scooter (n=2) excluded from breakdown due to small numbers.

Option	Car Owner (n=315)		Walking (n=99)		Rely on Public Transport (n=62)		Community transport (n=18)		Not stated (n=34)	
Option 5: Separate High School and two separate primary schools	87	27.6%	36	36.4%	14	22.6%	6	33.3%	12	35.3%
Option 3: Education Campus (Two Primary Schools) [merged]	101	32.1%	22	22.2%	13	21.0%	3	16.7%	4	11.8%
Option 2: Education Campus (One Primary School)	76	24.1%	18	18.2%	16	25.8%	3	16.7%	7	20.6%
Option 4: Separate High School and one large combined primary school	51	16.2%	23	23.2%	19	30.6%	6	33.3%	11	32.4%

Q6 – Please explain why you chose the above education option (open text)

Base: 378 substantive responses | Multi-coded: responses may fall into more than one category | Percentages calculated against base (n=378) | Non-substantive responses excluded (blank n=107; no opinion / non-answer n=66)

Overall results

Category	Count	% of 378
Primary / secondary separation	260	68.8%
Traffic, access and walkability	110	29.1%
Transition and integration benefits	103	27.2%
Campus size and manageability	85	22.5%
Geography and catchment	64	16.9%
Cost effectiveness and resource efficiency	45	11.9%
ASN and additional support needs	36	9.5%
School identity and community belonging	26	6.9%
Wick comparison	12	3.2%

Breakdown by age group

Category	Under 18 (n=99)		18-24 (n=22)		25-34 (n=46)		35-44 (n=78)		45-54 (n=78)		55-64 (n=21)		65 and older (n=29)		Not stated (n=5)	
Primary / secondary separation	75	75.8%	10	45.5%	32	69.6%	54	69.2%	49	62.8%	17	81.0%	20	69.0%	3	60.0%
Traffic, access and walkability	16	16.2%	4	18.2%	16	34.8%	29	37.2%	27	34.6%	8	38.1%	10	34.5%		0.0%
Transition and integration benefits	19	19.2%	10	45.5%	16	34.8%	23	29.5%	23	29.5%	3	14.3%	8	27.6%	1	20.0%
Campus size and manageability	16	16.2%	4	18.2%	10	21.7%	22	28.2%	20	25.6%	5	23.8%	7	24.1%	1	20.0%
Geography and catchment	7	7.1%	2	9.1%	5	10.9%	12	15.4%	23	29.5%	6	28.6%	8	27.6%	1	20.0%
Cost effectiveness and resource efficiency	3	3.0%	2	9.1%	8	17.4%	14	17.9%	12	15.4%	2	9.5%	2	6.9%	2	40.0%
ASN and additional support needs	5	5.1%	2	9.1%	5	10.9%	8	10.3%	11	14.1%	2	9.5%	2	6.9%	1	20.0%
School identity and community belonging	3	3.0%		0.0%	5	10.9%	9	11.5%	5	6.4%		0.0%	2	6.9%	2	40.0%
Wick comparison		0.0%	2	9.1%	2	4.3%	3	3.8%	3	3.8%	1	4.8%	1	3.4%		0.0%

Breakdown by postcode group *△ Outwith KW: n=1 (IV postcode). Included for completeness but excluded from narrative analysis.*

Category	KW14 (Thurso) (n=286) (n=286)		Other KW (Caithness) (n=37) (n=37)		Outwith KW (n=1) (n=1)		Not stated (n=54) (n=54)	
Primary / secondary separation	198	69.2%	22	59.5%	1	100.0%	39	72.2%
Traffic, access and walkability	92	32.2%	5	13.5%		0.0%	13	24.1%
Transition and integration benefits	80	28.0%	14	37.8%		0.0%	9	16.7%
Campus size and manageability	68	23.8%	10	27.0%		0.0%	7	13.0%
Geography and catchment	51	17.8%	5	13.5%		0.0%	8	14.8%
Cost effectiveness and resource efficiency	36	12.6%	7	18.9%		0.0%	2	3.7%
ASN and additional support needs	30	10.5%	4	10.8%		0.0%	2	3.7%
School identity and community belonging	24	8.4%	1	2.7%		0.0%	1	1.9%
Wick comparison	9	3.1%	2	5.4%		0.0%	1	1.9%

Breakdown by gender

Category	Woman (n=221) (n=221)		Man (n=137) (n=137)		Other / prefer not to say (n=16) (n=16)		Not stated (n=4) (n=4)	
Primary / secondary separation	156	70.6%	89	65.0%	12	75.0%	3	75.0%
Traffic, access and walkability	68	30.8%	37	27.0%	4	25.0%	1	25.0%
Transition and integration benefits	61	27.6%	38	27.7%	4	25.0%		0.0%
Campus size and manageability	58	26.2%	21	15.3%	3	18.8%	3	75.0%
Geography and catchment	31	14.0%	32	23.4%	1	6.2%		0.0%
Cost effectiveness and resource efficiency	23	10.4%	19	13.9%	2	12.5%	1	25.0%
ASN and additional support needs	25	11.3%	10	7.3%	1	6.2%		0.0%
School identity and community belonging	11	5.0%	14	10.2%	1	6.2%		0.0%
Wick comparison	8	3.6%	2	1.5%	1	6.2%	1	25.0%

Breakdown by disability status

Category	No (n=325) (n=325)		Yes (n=27) (n=27)		Prefer not to say (n=22) (n=22)		Not stated (n=4) (n=4)	
Primary / secondary separation	224	68.9%	19	70.4%	14	63.6%	3	75.0%
Traffic, access and walkability	93	28.6%	11	40.7%	6	27.3%		0.0%
Transition and integration benefits	85	26.2%	7	25.9%	11	50.0%		0.0%
Campus size and manageability	74	22.8%	5	18.5%	5	22.7%	1	25.0%
Geography and catchment	58	17.8%	3	11.1%	3	13.6%		0.0%
Cost effectiveness and resource efficiency	39	12.0%	2	7.4%	4	18.2%		0.0%
ASN and additional support needs	30	9.2%	4	14.8%	2	9.1%		0.0%
School identity and community belonging	24	7.4%	1	3.7%	1	4.5%		0.0%
Wick comparison	9	2.8%	1	3.7%	2	9.1%		0.0%

Breakdown by caring status

“No caring responsibility stated” = respondents who did not select any caring role.

Category	Parent (n=229)		Kinship Carer (n=7)		Guardian (n=6)		Legal Custodian / Foster Carer (n=1)		No caring responsibility stated (n=154)	
Primary / secondary separation	135	59.0%	3	42.9%	2	33.3%		0.0%	78	50.6%
Traffic, access and walkability	61	26.6%	2	28.6%	1	16.7%		0.0%	33	21.4%
Transition and integration benefits	49	21.4%		0.0%	1	16.7%		0.0%	37	24.0%
Campus size and manageability	46	20.1%	2	28.6%		0.0%		0.0%	28	18.2%
Geography and catchment	30	13.1%	2	28.6%		0.0%		0.0%	25	16.2%
Cost effectiveness and resource efficiency	26	11.4%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	14	9.1%
ASN and additional support needs	20	8.7%	1	14.3%		0.0%		0.0%	11	7.1%
School identity and community belonging	13	5.7%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	8	5.2%
Wick comparison	9	3.9%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	3	1.9%

Breakdown by transport mode *Cycling (n=6) and Motor Cycle/Scooter (n=2) excluded from breakdown due to small numbers.*

Category	Car Owner (n=256)		Walking (n=62)		Rely on Public Transport (n=45)		Community transport (n=12)		Not stated (n=22)	
Primary / secondary separation	148	57.8%	33	53.2%	23	51.1%	6	50.0%	8	36.4%
Traffic, access and walkability	75	29.3%	13	21.0%	2	4.4%	2	16.7%	5	22.7%
Transition and integration benefits	67	26.2%	10	16.1%	5	11.1%	2	16.7%	3	13.6%
Campus size and manageability	57	22.3%	10	16.1%	4	8.9%	3	25.0%	2	9.1%
Geography and catchment	42	16.4%	11	17.7%	3	6.7%		0.0%	1	4.5%
Cost effectiveness and resource efficiency	36	14.1%	2	3.2%	1	2.2%		0.0%	1	4.5%
ASN and additional support needs	28	10.9%	4	6.5%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%
School identity and community belonging	19	7.4%	2	3.2%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%
Wick comparison	11	4.3%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	1	4.5%

Q7 – When considering education provision, what are the most important factors?

Base: 467 respondents | All respondents ranked all 7 factors | Position 1 = highest priority, position 7 = lowest

Factor	Avg rank (1=best)	% ranked 1st	% ranked 2nd	% ranked 3rd	% in top 3	% ranked last
Quality of education	1.73	65.5%	15.6%	7.7%	88.9%	0.6%
School environment and facilities	3.61	8.1%	20.8%	22.1%	51.0%	5.4%
Staff	3.71	5.4%	23.8%	19.5%	48.6%	8.4%
Smooth ELC-primary-secondary transition	4.30	3.9%	13.9%	16.7%	34.5%	9.6%
Support services	4.43	1.9%	10.5%	20.1%	32.5%	14.1%
Distance to travel	4.89	10.7%	8.4%	7.3%	26.3%	28.1%
Campus size	5.33	4.5%	7.1%	6.6%	18.2%	33.8%

By age Average rank by age group (lower = higher priority)

Factor	Under 18 (n=134) Avg rank	18-24 (n=25) Avg rank	25-34 (n=59) Avg rank	35-44 (n=95) Avg rank	45-54 (n=89) Avg rank	55-64 (n=22) Avg rank	65 and older (n=32) Avg rank	Not stated (n=11) Avg rank
Quality of education	1.84	1.88	1.78	1.40	1.70	1.73	2.19	1.64
School environment and facilities	3.49	4.12	3.44	3.39	3.87	3.59	3.78	4.18
Staff	4.15	3.64	3.93	3.34	3.56	3.36	3.34	3.45
Smooth ELC-primary-secondary transition	4.31	4.16	4.36	4.43	4.02	4.14	4.59	4.64
Support services	4.44	3.76	4.03	4.31	4.73	4.86	4.91	4.45
Distance to travel	4.61	4.84	4.88	5.65	4.88	4.86	3.97	4.64
Campus size	5.16	5.60	5.58	5.48	5.25	5.45	5.22	5.00

By postcode Average rank by postcode group (lower = higher priority)

⚠ Outwith KW: n=1. Included for completeness, excluded from narrative analysis.

Factor	KW14 (Thurso) (n=327) Avg rank	Other KW (Caithness) (n=38) Avg rank	Outwith KW (n=1) Avg rank	Not stated (n=101) Avg rank
Quality of education	1.67	1.66	1.00	1.98
School environment and facilities	3.58	3.42	2.00	3.78
Staff	3.57	3.34	4.00	4.31
Smooth ELC-primary-secondary transition	4.30	4.29	6.00	4.27
Support services	4.35	4.42	5.00	4.70
Distance to travel	5.11	5.03	3.00	4.14
Campus size	5.43	5.84	7.00	4.82

By Gender Average rank by gender (lower = higher priority)

Factor	Woman (n=263) Avg rank	Man (n=174) Avg rank	Other / prefer not to say (n=19) Avg rank	Not stated (n=11) Avg rank
Quality of education	1.61	1.90	1.84	1.82
School environment and facilities	3.60	3.55	4.21	3.64
Staff	3.71	3.63	3.79	4.82
Smooth ELC-primary-secondary transition	4.33	4.32	3.95	3.64
Support services	4.29	4.61	4.58	4.64
Distance to travel	4.92	4.87	4.79	4.55
Campus size	5.53	5.11	4.84	4.91

By Disability status Average rank by disability status (lower = higher priority)

Factor	No (n=394) Avg rank	Yes (n=32) Avg rank	Prefer not to say (n=29) Avg rank	Not stated (n=12) Avg rank
Quality of education	1.68	1.78	2.07	2.58
School environment and facilities	3.49	4.09	4.45	4.25
Staff	3.66	4.34	3.28	4.50
Smooth ELC-primary-secondary transition	4.35	3.88	4.31	3.75
Support services	4.47	3.91	4.34	4.67
Distance to travel	4.96	4.88	4.28	4.17
Campus size	5.39	5.12	5.28	4.08

By caring status Avg rank: lower number = ranked higher priority.

Factor	Parent (n=315)	Kinship Carer (n=10)	Guardian (n=10)	Legal Custodian (n=5)	Foster Carer (n=1)	No caring responsibility stated (n=211)
Quality of education	1.72	1.75	1.67	1.75	N/A	1.75
School environment and facilities	3.53	4.25	3.44	3.75	N/A	3.74
Staff	3.68	4.50	3.56	5.00	N/A	3.70
Smooth ELC-primary-secondary transition	4.32	5.50	4.33	4.25	N/A	4.21
Support services	4.47	5.75	4.33	4.50	N/A	4.37
Distance to travel	4.98	2.50	5.78	5.00	N/A	4.74
Campus size	5.30	3.75	4.89	3.75	N/A	5.48

By transport Avg rank: lower number = ranked higher priority.

Factor	Car Owner (n=322)	Walking (n=102)	Rely on Public Transport (n=65)	Community transport (n=18)	Cycling (n=6)	Motor Cycle/Scooter (n=2)	Not stated (n=37)
Quality of education	1.58	2.19	1.63	1.77	1.33	1.00	2.46
School environment and facilities	3.57	4.10	3.16	3.69	2.00	2.00	3.88
Staff	3.48	4.10	4.06	4.31	3.33	5.00	4.35
Smooth ELC-primary-secondary transition	4.36	4.10	4.16	4.54	5.67	4.00	3.96
Support services	4.41	4.47	4.49	4.31	6.00	6.00	4.46
Distance to travel	5.12	4.11	4.96	4.62	5.67	7.00	4.19
Campus size	5.49	4.95	5.53	4.77	4.00	3.00	4.69

Q8 – What do you see as the benefits of connecting the PoD with UHI NWH?

Base: 320 substantive responses | Multi-coded: responses may appear in more than one category

Overall results

Category	Count	% of 320
Smooth transition / familiarity	87	27.2%
Wider curriculum and course access	85	26.6%
Encouraging further education / aspiration	85	26.6%
Shared resources and efficiencies	42	13.1%
Staff and communication benefits	37	11.6%
Opposition / scepticism	34	10.6%
Links already exist / no change needed	36	11.2%
Other / one-off	22	6.9%

Breakdown by age group

Category	Under 18 (n=76)		18-24 (n=21)		25-34 (n=34)		35-44 (n=66)		45-54 (n=69)		55-64 (n=19)		65 and older (n=29)		Not stated (n=6)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Smooth transition / familiarity	26	34.2%	8	38.1%	8	23.5%	14	21.2%	18	26.1%	6	31.6%	7	24.1%	0	0.0%
Wider curriculum and course access	17	22.4%	6	28.6%	9	26.5%	20	30.3%	22	31.9%	5	26.3%	3	10.3%	3	50.0%
Encouraging further education / aspiration	12	15.8%	8	38.1%	13	38.2%	21	31.8%	15	21.7%	8	42.1%	8	27.6%	0	0.0%
Shared resources and efficiencies	2	2.6%	1	4.8%	6	17.6%	12	18.2%	12	17.4%	5	26.3%	4	13.8%	0	0.0%
Staff and communication benefits	5	6.6%	4	19.0%	2	5.9%	8	12.1%	9	13.0%	4	21.1%	3	10.3%	2	33.3%
Opposition / scepticism	6	7.9%	1	4.8%	4	11.8%	7	10.6%	7	10.1%	0	0.0%	8	27.6%	1	16.7%
Links already exist / no change needed	3	3.9%	3	14.3%	9	26.5%	11	16.7%	5	7.2%	2	10.5%	3	10.3%	0	0.0%
Other / one-off	10	13.2%	2	9.5%	1	2.9%	4	6.1%	4	5.8%	0	0.0%	1	3.4%	0	0.0%

Breakdown by postcode group △ Outwith KW: n=1. Included for completeness, excluded from narrative analysis.

Category	KW14 (Thurso) (n=249)		Other KW (Caithness) (n=26)		Outwith KW (n=1)		Not stated (n=44)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Smooth transition / familiarity	69	27.7%	7	26.9%	0	0.0%	11	25.0%
Wider curriculum and course access	67	26.9%	9	34.6%	0	0.0%	9	20.5%
Encouraging further education / aspiration	70	28.1%	7	26.9%	1	100.0%	7	15.9%
Shared resources and efficiencies	32	12.9%	5	19.2%	0	0.0%	5	11.4%
Staff and communication benefits	30	12.0%	5	19.2%	0	0.0%	2	4.5%
Opposition / scepticism	31	12.4%	1	3.8%	0	0.0%	2	4.5%
Links already exist / no change needed	32	12.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	9.1%
Other / one-off	13	5.2%	3	11.5%	0	0.0%	6	13.6%

Breakdown by gender

Category	Woman (n=177)		Man (n=125)		Other / prefer not to say (n=13)		Not stated (n=5)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Smooth transition / familiarity	46	26.0%	38	30.4%	2	15.4%	1	20.0%
Wider curriculum and course access	48	27.1%	28	22.4%	7	53.8%	2	40.0%
Encouraging further education / aspiration	50	28.2%	31	24.8%	3	23.1%	1	20.0%
Shared resources and efficiencies	18	10.2%	21	16.8%	2	15.4%	1	20.0%
Staff and communication benefits	23	13.0%	12	9.6%	2	15.4%	0	0.0%
Opposition / scepticism	20	11.3%	13	10.4%	1	7.7%	0	0.0%
Links already exist / no change needed	21	11.9%	13	10.4%	2	15.4%	0	0.0%
Other / one-off	14	7.9%	6	4.8%	1	7.7%	1	20.0%

Breakdown by disability status Multi-coded: responses covering multiple topics appear in more than one category. Percentages sum to more than 100%. Opposition / scepticism responses are included for completeness – note the question asked specifically about benefits.

Category	No (n=276)		Yes (n=21)		Prefer not to say (n=20)		Not stated (n=3)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Smooth transition / familiarity	75	27.2%	8	38.1%	4	20.0%	0	0.0%
Wider curriculum and course access	71	25.7%	5	23.8%	7	35.0%	2	66.7%
Encouraging further education / aspiration	73	26.4%	9	42.9%	3	15.0%	0	0.0%
Shared resources and efficiencies	34	12.3%	2	9.5%	6	30.0%	0	0.0%
Staff and communication benefits	32	11.6%	1	4.8%	4	20.0%	0	0.0%
Opposition / scepticism	29	10.5%	2	9.5%	3	15.0%	0	0.0%
Links already exist / no change needed	32	11.6%	1	4.8%	3	15.0%	0	0.0%
Other / one-off	18	6.5%	0	0.0%	3	15.0%	1	33.3%

Breakdown by caring status

Category	Parent (n=315)		Kinship Carer (n=10)		Guardian (n=10)		Legal Custodian (n=5)		Foster Carer (n=1)		No caring responsibility stated (n=211)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Smooth transition / familiarity	31	9.8%	1	10.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	31	14.7%
Wider curriculum and course access	33	10.5%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	20	9.5%
Encouraging further education / aspiration	73	23.2%	2	20.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	41	19.4%
Shared resources and efficiencies	7	2.2%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	1.4%
Staff and communication benefits	3	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%
Opposition / scepticism	8	2.5%	0	0.0%	2	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	1.4%
Links already exist / no change needed	14	4.4%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	2.8%
Other / one-off	95	30.2%	2	20.0%	3	30.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	55	26.1%

Breakdown by transport mode

Category	Car Owner (n=322)		Walking (n=102)		Rely on Public Transport (n=65)		Community transport (n=18)		Cycling (n=6)		Motor Cycle/Scooter (n=2)		Not stated (n=37)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Smooth transition / familiarity	45	14.0%	9	8.8%	6	9.2%	3	16.7%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Wider curriculum and course access	40	12.4%	6	5.9%	5	7.7%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	2	5.4%
Encouraging further education / aspiration	91	28.3%	16	15.7%	5	7.7%	1	5.6%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	3	8.1%
Shared resources and efficiencies	10	3.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Staff and communication benefits	3	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.7%
Opposition / scepticism	8	2.5%	3	2.9%	0	0.0%	1	5.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.7%
Links already exist / no change needed	17	5.3%	2	2.0%	0	0.0%	1	5.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.7%
Other / one-off	89	27.6%	28	27.5%	22	33.8%	5	27.8%	2	33.3%	0	0.0%	10	27.0%

Q9 – What do you see as the disadvantages of connecting the PoD with UHI NWH?

Base: 267 substantive responses | Multi-coded: responses may appear in more than one category

Overall results

Category	Count	% of 267
Safeguarding and child protection	39	14.6%
Intimidation and negative influence	43	16.1%
Campus size / overcrowding	83	31.1%
Traffic and transport	38	14.2%
Developmental / pedagogical concerns	43	16.1%
Staffing and management concerns	40	15.0%
No disadvantages seen	24	9.0%
Other / one-off	16	6.0%

Breakdown by age group

Category	Under 18 (n=63)		18-24 (n=17)		25-34 (n=32)		35-44 (n=59)		45-54 (n=56)		55-64 (n=17)		65 and older (n=18)		Not stated (n=5)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Safeguarding and child protection	3	4.8%	1	5.9%	6	18.8%	11	18.6%	14	25.0%	1	5.9%	3	16.7%	0	0.0%
Intimidation and negative influence	11	17.5%	1	5.9%	3	9.4%	11	18.6%	13	23.2%	2	11.8%	1	5.6%	1	20.0%
Campus size / overcrowding	34	54.0%	7	41.2%	9	28.1%	11	18.6%	12	21.4%	6	35.3%	3	16.7%	1	20.0%
Traffic and transport	6	9.5%	2	11.8%	7	21.9%	9	15.3%	10	17.9%	3	17.6%	0	0.0%	1	20.0%
Developmental / pedagogical concerns	6	9.5%	4	23.5%	5	15.6%	11	18.6%	8	14.3%	2	11.8%	6	33.3%	1	20.0%
Staffing and management concerns	3	4.8%	4	23.5%	3	9.4%	12	20.3%	8	14.3%	5	29.4%	4	22.2%	1	20.0%
No disadvantages seen	5	7.9%	1	5.9%	2	6.2%	10	16.9%	4	7.1%	0	0.0%	2	11.1%	0	0.0%
Other / one-off	1	1.6%	0	0.0%	3	9.4%	4	6.8%	3	5.4%	3	17.6%	2	11.1%	0	0.0%

Breakdown by postcode group △ Outwith KW: n=1. Included for completeness, excluded from narrative analysis.

Category	KW14 (Thurso) (n=212)		Other KW (Caithness) (n=23)		Outwith KW (n=1)		Not stated (n=31)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Safeguarding and child protection	33	15.6%	4	17.4%	0	0.0%	2	6.5%
Intimidation and negative influence	32	15.1%	5	21.7%	0	0.0%	6	19.4%
Campus size / overcrowding	59	27.8%	6	26.1%	1	100.0%	17	54.8%
Traffic and transport	31	14.6%	2	8.7%	0	0.0%	5	16.1%
Developmental / pedagogical concerns	39	18.4%	2	8.7%	0	0.0%	2	6.5%
Staffing and management concerns	35	16.5%	3	13.0%	0	0.0%	2	6.5%
No disadvantages seen	20	9.4%	3	13.0%	0	0.0%	1	3.2%
Other / one-off	14	6.6%	1	4.3%	0	0.0%	1	3.2%

Breakdown by gender

Category	Woman (n=149)		Man (n=102)		Other / prefer not to say (n=13)		Not stated (n=3)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Safeguarding and child protection	23	15.4%	14	13.7%	1	7.7%	1	33.3%
Intimidation and negative influence	25	16.8%	16	15.7%	1	7.7%	1	33.3%
Campus size / overcrowding	52	34.9%	28	27.5%	2	15.4%	1	33.3%
Traffic and transport	21	14.1%	14	13.7%	3	23.1%	0	0.0%
Developmental / pedagogical concerns	25	16.8%	15	14.7%	2	15.4%	1	33.3%
Staffing and management concerns	23	15.4%	14	13.7%	3	23.1%	0	0.0%
No disadvantages seen	9	6.0%	14	13.7%	1	7.7%	0	0.0%
Other / one-off	9	6.0%	4	3.9%	3	23.1%	0	0.0%

Breakdown by disability status Multi-coded: responses covering multiple topics appear in more than one category. Percentages sum to more than 100%. No disadvantages seen responses included for completeness.

Category	No (n=228)		Yes (n=20)		Prefer not to say (n=17)		Not stated (n=2)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Safeguarding and child protection	35	15.4%	3	15.0%	1	5.9%	0	0.0%
Intimidation and negative influence	37	16.2%	2	10.0%	3	17.6%	1	50.0%
Campus size / overcrowding	71	31.1%	7	35.0%	4	23.5%	1	50.0%
Traffic and transport	29	12.7%	4	20.0%	5	29.4%	0	0.0%
Developmental / pedagogical concerns	37	16.2%	2	10.0%	3	17.6%	1	50.0%
Staffing and management concerns	33	14.5%	1	5.0%	6	35.3%	0	0.0%
No disadvantages seen	21	9.2%	1	5.0%	2	11.8%	0	0.0%
Other / one-off	13	5.7%	1	5.0%	2	11.8%	0	0.0%

Breakdown by caring status

Category	Parent (n=315)		Kinship (n=10)		Carer		Guardian (n=10)		Legal Custodian (n=5)		Foster Carer (n=1)		No caring responsibility stated (n=211)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Safeguarding and child protection	29	9.2%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	13	6.2%
Intimidation and negative influence	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Campus size / overcrowding	42	13.3%	1	10.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	23	10.9%
Traffic and transport	21	6.7%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	19	9.0%
Developmental / pedagogical concerns	4	1.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.9%
Staffing and management concerns	7	2.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	9	4.3%
No disadvantages seen	10	3.2%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	1.4%
Other / one-off	85	27.0%	3	30.0%	1	10.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	62	29.4%

Breakdown by transport mode

Category	Car Owner (n=322)		Walking (n=102)		Rely on Public Transport (n=65)		Community transport (n=18)		Cycling (n=6)		Motor Cycle/Scooter (n=2)		Not stated (n=37)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Safeguarding and child protection	34	10.6%	5	4.9%	3	4.6%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Intimidation and negative influence	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Campus size / overcrowding	48	14.9%	8	7.8%	6	9.2%	2	11.1%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	2	5.4%
Traffic and transport	30	9.3%	7	6.9%	3	4.6%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Developmental / pedagogical concerns	6	1.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Staffing and management concerns	12	3.7%	2	2.0%	0	0.0%	1	5.6%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
No disadvantages seen	9	2.8%	2	2.0%	1	1.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	5.4%
Other / one-off	91	28.3%	29	28.4%	16	24.6%	8	44.4%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	7	18.9%

Q10 – Are there specific groups or topics we should give additional attention to?

Base: 241 substantive responses | Multi-coded: responses may appear in more than one category

Overall results

Category	Count	% of 241
ASN / neurodiversity / disability	48	19.9%
Sports and leisure	49	20.3%
Young people / youth provision	30	12.4%
Traffic, transport and safe routes	23	9.5%
Arts, culture and performance	16	6.6%
Mental health and wellbeing	18	7.5%
Community engagement process	76	31.5%
Elderly / older adults	9	3.7%
Governance / process concerns	19	7.9%
Other / one-off	17	7.1%

Breakdown by age group

Category	Under 18 (n=29)		18-24 (n=19)		25-34 (n=28)		35-44 (n=59)		45-54 (n=58)		55-64 (n=15)		65 and older (n=28)		Not stated (n=5)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
ASN / neurodiversity / disability	4	13.8%	5	26.3%	6	21.4%	10	16.9%	17	29.3%	3	20.0%	3	10.7%	0	0.0%
Sports and leisure	15	51.7%	4	21.1%	6	21.4%	12	20.3%	9	15.5%	1	6.7%	2	7.1%	0	0.0%
Young people / youth provision	1	3.4%	6	31.6%	3	10.7%	9	15.3%	7	12.1%	3	20.0%	1	3.6%	0	0.0%
Traffic, transport and safe routes	1	3.4%	0	0.0%	1	3.6%	6	10.2%	7	12.1%	2	13.3%	5	17.9%	1	20.0%
Arts, culture and performance	4	13.8%	2	10.5%	3	10.7%	3	5.1%	3	5.2%	0	0.0%	1	3.6%	0	0.0%
Mental health and wellbeing	3	10.3%	2	10.5%	4	14.3%	4	6.8%	4	6.9%	0	0.0%	1	3.6%	0	0.0%
Community engagement process	2	6.9%	4	21.1%	13	46.4%	18	30.5%	24	41.4%	4	26.7%	8	28.6%	3	60.0%
Elderly / older adults	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	0	0.0%	1	1.7%	4	6.9%	0	0.0%	3	10.7%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	0	0.0%	9	15.3%	3	5.2%	2	13.3%	2	7.1%	2	40.0%
Other / one-off	6	20.7%	1	5.3%	1	3.6%	3	5.1%	2	3.4%	1	6.7%	3	10.7%	0	0.0%

Breakdown by postcode group

△ Outwith KW: n=1. Included for completeness, excluded from narrative analysis.

Category	KW14 (Thurso) (n=198)		Other KW (Caithness) (n=19)		Outwith KW (n=1)		Not stated (n=23)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
ASN / neurodiversity / disability	41	20.7%	4	21.1%	0	0.0%	3	13.0%
Sports and leisure	37	18.7%	5	26.3%	0	0.0%	7	30.4%
Young people / youth provision	27	13.6%	1	5.3%	0	0.0%	2	8.7%
Traffic, transport and safe routes	19	9.6%	2	10.5%	0	0.0%	2	8.7%
Arts, culture and performance	13	6.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	13.0%
Mental health and wellbeing	12	6.1%	1	5.3%	0	0.0%	5	21.7%
Community engagement process	64	32.3%	9	47.4%	0	0.0%	3	13.0%
Elderly / older adults	8	4.0%	1	5.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	17	8.6%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	1	4.3%
Other / one-off	13	6.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	17.4%

Breakdown by gender

Category	Woman (n=136)		Man (n=88)		Other / prefer not to say (n=12)		Not stated (n=5)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
ASN / neurodiversity / disability	35	25.7%	11	12.5%	1	8.3%	1	20.0%
Sports and leisure	23	16.9%	23	26.1%	2	16.7%	1	20.0%
Young people / youth provision	21	15.4%	9	10.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Traffic, transport and safe routes	11	8.1%	9	10.2%	1	8.3%	2	40.0%
Arts, culture and performance	8	5.9%	8	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Mental health and wellbeing	12	8.8%	4	4.5%	1	8.3%	1	20.0%
Community engagement process	47	34.6%	25	28.4%	4	33.3%	0	0.0%
Elderly / older adults	6	4.4%	3	3.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	3	2.2%	11	12.5%	3	25.0%	2	40.0%
Other / one-off	4	2.9%	10	11.4%	3	25.0%	0	0.0%

Breakdown by disability status

Multi-coded: responses covering multiple topics appear in more than one category. Percentages sum to more than 100%.

Category	No (n=205)		Yes (n=16)		Prefer not to say (n=18)		Not stated (n=2)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
ASN / neurodiversity / disability	36	17.6%	8	50.0%	4	22.2%	0	0.0%
Sports and leisure	44	21.5%	2	12.5%	3	16.7%	0	0.0%
Young people / youth provision	26	12.7%	2	12.5%	2	11.1%	0	0.0%
Traffic, transport and safe routes	19	9.3%	1	6.2%	2	11.1%	1	50.0%
Arts, culture and performance	13	6.3%	2	12.5%	1	5.6%	0	0.0%
Mental health and wellbeing	14	6.8%	2	12.5%	2	11.1%	0	0.0%
Community engagement process	70	34.1%	2	12.5%	4	22.2%	0	0.0%
Elderly / older adults	9	4.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	13	6.3%	1	6.2%	3	16.7%	2	100.0%
Other / one-off	14	6.8%	1	6.2%	2	11.1%	0	0.0%

Breakdown by caring status

Category	Parent (n=315)		Kinship Carer (n=10)		Guardian (n=10)		Legal Custodian (n=5)		Foster Carer (n=1)		No caring responsibility stated (n=211)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
ASN / neurodiversity / disability	24	7.6%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	12	5.7%
Sports and leisure	35	11.1%	0	0.0%	2	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	17	8.1%
Young people / youth provision	37	11.7%	2	20.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	11	5.2%
Traffic, transport and safe routes	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Arts, culture and performance	14	4.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	12	5.7%
Mental health and wellbeing	8	2.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	3.3%
Community engagement process	18	5.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	10	4.7%
Elderly / older adults	5	1.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	1.4%
Governance / process concerns	4	1.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.9%
Other / one-off	52	16.5%	1	10.0%	1	10.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	40	19.0%

Breakdown by transport mode

Category	Car Owner (n=322)		Walking (n=102)		Rely on Public Transport (n=65)		Community transport (n=18)		Cycling (n=6)		Motor Cycle/Scooter (n=2)		Not stated (n=37)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
ASN / neurodiversity / disability	29	9.0%	5	4.9%	2	3.1%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sports and leisure	41	12.7%	6	5.9%	4	6.2%	3	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Young people / youth provision	47	14.6%	3	2.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.7%
Traffic, transport and safe routes	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Arts, culture and performance	17	5.3%	2	2.0%	3	4.6%	3	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.7%
Mental health and wellbeing	13	4.0%	0	0.0%	2	3.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Community engagement process	24	7.5%	4	3.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Elderly / older adults	8	2.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	5	1.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.7%
Other / one-off	60	18.6%	15	14.7%	8	12.3%	3	16.7%	2	33.3%	0	0.0%	7	18.9%

Q11 – Are there other uses for the Thurso PoD we haven't thought about?

Base: 132 substantive responses | Multi-coded: responses may appear in more than one category

Overall results

Category	Count	% of 132
Sports facility / regional centre	29	22.0%
Community hub / meeting and social spaces	60	45.5%
Performing arts and events venue	13	9.8%
Health and social care facilities	15	11.4%
Early years / childcare	4	3.0%
Library relocation	5	3.8%
Governance / process concerns	11	8.3%
Other / one-off	14	10.6%

Breakdown by age group

Category	Under 18 (n=15)		18-24 (n=8)		25-34 (n=18)		35-44 (n=32)		45-54 (n=29)		55-64 (n=12)		65 and older (n=16)		Not stated (n=2)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sports facility / regional centre	9	60.0%	3	37.5%	3	16.7%	5	15.6%	6	20.7%	3	25.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Community hub / meeting and social spaces	5	33.3%	4	50.0%	7	38.9%	14	43.8%	15	51.7%	7	58.3%	7	43.8%	1	50.0%
Performing arts and events venue	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	5.6%	4	12.5%	5	17.2%	1	8.3%	2	12.5%	0	0.0%
Health and social care facilities	1	6.7%	1	12.5%	4	22.2%	3	9.4%	2	6.9%	1	8.3%	3	18.8%	0	0.0%
Early years / childcare	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	16.7%	0	0.0%	1	3.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Library relocation	1	6.7%	1	12.5%	0	0.0%	1	3.1%	1	3.4%	1	8.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	15.6%	1	3.4%	1	8.3%	3	18.8%	1	50.0%
Other / one-off	1	6.7%	2	25.0%	1	5.6%	4	12.5%	2	6.9%	1	8.3%	2	12.5%	1	50.0%

Breakdown by postcode group △ Outwith KW: n=1. Included for completeness, excluded from narrative analysis.

Category	KW14 (Thurso) (n=113)		Other KW (Caithness) (n=11)		Outwith KW (n=1)		Not stated (n=7)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sports facility / regional centre	24	21.2%	2	18.2%	0	0.0%	3	42.9%
Community hub / meeting and social spaces	52	46.0%	7	63.6%	0	0.0%	1	14.3%
Performing arts and events venue	13	11.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Health and social care facilities	13	11.5%	2	18.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Early years / childcare	4	3.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Library relocation	3	2.7%	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	1	14.3%
Governance / process concerns	9	8.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	1	14.3%
Other / one-off	10	8.8%	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	3	42.9%

Breakdown by gender

Category	Woman (n=70)		Man (n=54)		Other / prefer not to say (n=6)		Not stated (n=2)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sports facility / regional centre	15	21.4%	14	25.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Community hub / meeting and social spaces	36	51.4%	22	40.7%	1	16.7%	1	50.0%
Performing arts and events venue	5	7.1%	6	11.1%	2	33.3%	0	0.0%
Health and social care facilities	7	10.0%	7	13.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%
Early years / childcare	3	4.3%	1	1.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Library relocation	2	2.9%	2	3.7%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	3	4.3%	7	13.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%
Other / one-off	8	11.4%	4	7.4%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%

Breakdown by disability status Multi-coded: responses covering multiple topics appear in more than one category. Percentages sum to more than 100%.

Category	No (n=110)		Yes (n=12)		Prefer not to say (n=8)		Not stated (n=2)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sports facility / regional centre	27	24.5%	2	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Community hub / meeting and social spaces	53	48.2%	5	41.7%	1	12.5%	1	50.0%
Performing arts and events venue	11	10.0%	0	0.0%	2	25.0%	0	0.0%
Health and social care facilities	9	8.2%	5	41.7%	1	12.5%	0	0.0%
Early years / childcare	4	3.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Library relocation	3	2.7%	1	8.3%	1	12.5%	0	0.0%
Governance / process concerns	10	9.1%	0	0.0%	1	12.5%	0	0.0%
Other / one-off	9	8.2%	1	8.3%	2	25.0%	2	100.0%

Breakdown by caring status

Category	Parent (n=315)		Kinship (n=10)		Carer		Guardian (n=10)		Legal (n=5)		Custodian		Foster (n=1)		Carer		No caring responsibility stated (n=211)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sports facility / regional centre	15	4.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	18	8.5%		
Community hub / meeting and social spaces	11	3.5%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	1.4%		
Performing arts and events venue	10	3.2%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	1.4%		
Health and social care facilities	10	3.2%	0	0.0%	2	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%		
Early years / childcare	4	1.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		
Library relocation	2	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	1.4%		
Governance / process concerns	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.9%		
Other / one-off	47	14.9%	1	10.0%	2	20.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	33	15.6%		

Breakdown by transport mode

Category	Car Owner (n=322)		Walking (n=102)		Rely on Public Transport (n=65)		Community transport (n=18)		Cycling (n=6)		Motor (n=2)		Cycle/Scooter		Not stated (n=37)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sports facility / regional centre	19	5.9%	7	6.9%	4	6.2%	1	5.6%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	1	2.7%		
Community hub / meeting and social spaces	11	3.4%	1	1.0%	2	3.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.7%		
Performing arts and events venue	12	3.7%	1	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		
Health and social care facilities	11	3.4%	1	1.0%	0	0.0%	1	5.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		
Early years / childcare	4	1.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		
Library relocation	4	1.2%	0	0.0%	1	1.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		
Governance / process concerns	1	0.3%	2	2.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		
Other / one-off	56	17.4%	13	12.7%	5	7.7%	2	11.1%	2	33.3%	0	0.0%	6	16.2%		

Q12 – Are there any other comments you would like to make?

Base: 119 substantive responses | Multi-coded: responses may appear in more than one category

Overall results

Category	Count	% of 119
Process and communication concerns	42	35.3%
Library / swimming pool retention	12	10.1%
Sports facilities	18	15.1%
Traffic and transport	14	11.8%
Safeguarding / campus separation	9	7.6%
General support / optimism	18	15.1%
Opposition / scepticism	14	11.8%
Town centre / wider regeneration	8	6.7%
Other / one-off	11	9.2%

Breakdown by age group

Category	Under 18 (n=8)		18-24 (n=5)		25-34 (n=16)		35-44 (n=32)		45-54 (n=29)		55-64 (n=7)		65 and older (n=18)		Not stated (n=4)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Process and communication concerns	0	0.0%	1	20.0%	3	18.8%	14	43.8%	10	34.5%	3	42.9%	10	55.6%	1	25.0%
Library / swimming pool retention	1	12.5%	0	0.0%	4	25.0%	2	6.2%	3	10.3%	1	14.3%	1	5.6%	0	0.0%
Sports facilities	3	37.5%	2	40.0%	3	18.8%	3	9.4%	4	13.8%	1	14.3%	2	11.1%	0	0.0%
Traffic and transport	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	6.2%	4	13.8%	2	28.6%	4	22.2%	2	50.0%
Safeguarding / campus separation	2	25.0%	0	0.0%	1	6.2%	3	9.4%	1	3.4%	0	0.0%	1	5.6%	1	25.0%
General support / optimism	1	12.5%	1	20.0%	3	18.8%	8	25.0%	3	10.3%	0	0.0%	2	11.1%	0	0.0%
Opposition / scepticism	1	12.5%	2	40.0%	1	6.2%	2	6.2%	4	13.8%	1	14.3%	2	11.1%	1	25.0%
Town centre / wider regeneration	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	6.2%	1	3.1%	1	3.4%	0	0.0%	3	16.7%	2	50.0%
Other / one-off	1	12.5%	0	0.0%	2	12.5%	2	6.2%	4	13.8%	1	14.3%	1	5.6%	0	0.0%

Breakdown by postcode group △ Outwith KW: n=1. Included for completeness, excluded from narrative analysis.

Category	KW14 (Thurso) (n=107)		Other KW (Caithness) (n=7)		Outwith KW (n=0)		Not stated (n=5)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Process and communication concerns	37	34.6%	4	57.1%	0	0%	1	20.0%
Library / swimming pool retention	11	10.3%	0	0.0%	0	0%	1	20.0%
Sports facilities	17	15.9%	1	14.3%	0	0%	0	0.0%
Traffic and transport	10	9.3%	3	42.9%	0	0%	1	20.0%
Safeguarding / campus separation	9	8.4%	0	0.0%	0	0%	0	0.0%
General support / optimism	17	15.9%	0	0.0%	0	0%	1	20.0%
Opposition / scepticism	11	10.3%	0	0.0%	0	0%	3	60.0%
Town centre / wider regeneration	8	7.5%	0	0.0%	0	0%	0	0.0%
Other / one-off	11	10.3%	0	0.0%	0	0%	0	0.0%

Breakdown by gender

Category	Woman (n=64)		Man (n=44)		Other / prefer not to say (n=8)		Not stated (n=3)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Process and communication concerns	20	31.2%	19	43.2%	3	37.5%	0	0.0%
Library / swimming pool retention	9	14.1%	2	4.5%	1	12.5%	0	0.0%
Sports facilities	11	17.2%	6	13.6%	1	12.5%	0	0.0%
Traffic and transport	8	12.5%	3	6.8%	2	25.0%	1	33.3%
Safeguarding / campus separation	7	10.9%	1	2.3%	1	12.5%	0	0.0%
General support / optimism	10	15.6%	8	18.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Opposition / scepticism	2	3.1%	9	20.5%	3	37.5%	0	0.0%
Town centre / wider regeneration	4	6.2%	2	4.5%	0	0.0%	2	66.7%
Other / one-off	8	12.5%	1	2.3%	1	12.5%	1	33.3%

Breakdown by disability status

Multi-coded: responses covering multiple topics appear in more than one category. Percentages sum to more than 100%.

Category	No (n=99)		Yes (n=5)		Prefer not to say (n=12)		Not stated (n=3)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Process and communication concerns	36	36.4%	3	60.0%	3	25.0%	0	0.0%
Library / swimming pool retention	10	10.1%	2	40.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sports facilities	14	14.1%	1	20.0%	2	16.7%	1	33.3%
Traffic and transport	10	10.1%	0	0.0%	3	25.0%	1	33.3%
Safeguarding / campus separation	7	7.1%	0	0.0%	2	16.7%	0	0.0%
General support / optimism	18	18.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Opposition / scepticism	9	9.1%	1	20.0%	4	33.3%	0	0.0%
Town centre / wider regeneration	7	7.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%
Other / one-off	7	7.1%	0	0.0%	3	25.0%	1	33.3%

Breakdown by caring status

Category	Parent (n=315)		Kinship Carer (n=10)		Guardian (n=10)		Legal Custodian (n=5)		Foster Carer (n=1)		No caring responsibility stated (n=211)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Process and communication concerns	10	3.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	3.3%
Library / swimming pool retention	11	3.5%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	2.4%
Sports facilities	21	6.7%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	14	6.6%
Traffic and transport	16	5.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	15	7.1%
Safeguarding / campus separation	2	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%
General support / optimism	32	10.2%	0	0.0%	2	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	11	5.2%
Opposition / scepticism	3	1.0%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	3.3%
Town centre / wider regeneration	4	1.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	2.4%
Other / one-off	23	7.3%	1	10.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	13	6.2%

Breakdown by transport mode

Category	Car Owner (n=322)		Walking (n=102)		Rely on Public Transport (n=65)		Community transport (n=18)		Cycling (n=6)		Motor Cycle/Scooter (n=2)		Not stated (n=37)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Process and communication concerns	14	4.3%	2	2.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.7%
Library / swimming pool retention	15	4.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	5.6%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sports facilities	28	8.7%	5	4.9%	1	1.5%	1	5.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.7%
Traffic and transport	23	7.1%	4	3.9%	1	1.5%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	2	5.4%
Safeguarding / campus separation	3	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
General support / optimism	37	11.5%	4	3.9%	2	3.1%	1	5.6%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Opposition / scepticism	4	1.2%	4	3.9%	1	1.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	5.4%
Town centre / wider regeneration	7	2.2%	1	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.7%
Other / one-off	27	8.4%	4	3.9%	2	3.1%	0	0.0%	2	33.3%	0	0.0%	3	8.1%