Planning

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 October 2026 15:12
To: Planning
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: TP/ED/26/0104 - objection

Dear Planning officer

I object to this application. I support a new Lenzie Academy, but the application should not be granted until the Council can show that the site has been properly assessed.

1. No evidence the project has been screened or assessed
In response to my FOI request (FOI/22195), the Council's internal review stated that the project had not been screened under the Council's Impact Assessment Guide and Checklist at the time of my enquiry. I have seen nothing in the application documents showing that screening has since taken place or that the Council has decided whether an EQIA, a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) or any other assessment is required. The Council has said impact assessments would be dealt with through the planning process, so this application is the point at which they should be before the decision-maker.

2. Loss of open space and of children's play and recreation
Whitegates Park is currently open parkland and playing fields. I understand it is protected open space under the Local Development Plan and part of the Green Network. Its loss engages the open space, sport and recreation policies of the LDP and NPF4, which I ask officers to assess against the application. The application should show, and I cannot see that it does, whether the effect on children's play and recreation was considered when the site was selected, and what replacement or community-accessible space will be provided. Article 31 of the UNCRC, incorporated by the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 and in force since 16 July 2024, protects children's right to play and recreation, and the Council must not act incompatibly with it in connection with a relevant function.

3. Alternatives
The policy tests for loss of protected open space depend on whether reasonable alternatives exist. Without screening or assessment, there is no clear record that the effects of the Whitegates site, including on children, health and the environment, were weighed against alternatives such as the existing Myrtle Avenue site.

4. Timing of any assessment
An assessment completed after the site has been chosen and the application submitted risks recording a decision already taken, not informing it.

If the Planning officer cannot give satisfactory answers, I ask that the application be refused or deferred until the assessments are complete and published.
Kind regards

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