

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE	15 September 2011
DIRECTOR	Annette Bruton
TITLE OF REPORT:	Primary School Estates Review Update
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/11/056

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update members of the Committee on progress with reviewing the Primary School Estate. In addition, the report seeks to update members on the issues arising from a detailed review of educational needs within North West Aberdeen, to address two large housing developments in this area.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- a) Notes the progress being made on reviewing the Primary School Estate.
- b) Notes the outcome of consultant's report in relation to educational provision within North West Aberdeen, which will be reported to Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee in relation to progressing planning applications for major housing developments in this area of the city.
- c) Authorise Officers to continue negotiations with developers, and colleagues within Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure, in order to identify the optimum solution, to address the increased pupil numbers resulting from the proposed new housing developments in Stoneywood and Mugiemoos, in terms of both educational impact and deliverability.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of carrying out the review of the Primary School Estate will be accommodated within revenue budgets for Education, Culture and Sport.

The cost of employing consultants to undertake the review of educational needs within North West Aberdeen, were covered by contributions from two developers, who have potential housing developments in this area, and were negotiated by officers in the Environment, Planning and Infrastructure Service, in line with Planning Gain procedures.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant other implications in relation to the proposals, although statutory public consultation will be required for any changes to school catchment areas and educational service provision, in line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

5. BACKGROUND/ MAIN ISSUES

Aberdeen City Council undertook a detailed review of our Secondary School estate last year, which culminated in a report to a special meeting of the Education, Culture and Sport Committee on 28 October 2010.

As a follow-up to the above report, the Education, Culture and Sport Committee on 24 March 2011 considered the requirement to redefine the catchment areas of Aberdeen Grammar School and Harlaw Academy. However, given the potential knock-on effect of which changes to secondary school zones, may have on primary schools, it was agreed that it would be more efficient to undertake a comprehensive review of all school provision, including the potential re-zoning of these 2 secondary schools.

The intention is to carry out the majority of the review and analysis work during the remainder of 2011, with a report on the key issues being considered by the Education, Culture and Sport Committee in January 2012. This would then be followed up by detailed consultation and engagement with pupils, parents, staff and other key stakeholders during early 2012, in order that detailed proposals can be developed and considered later in the year.

This work will be crucial to ensuring that our primary schools continue to meet requirements in terms of the three key aspects of: sufficiency; suitability; and condition.

The review of Primary Schools will allow us to respond to key issues including:

- pressure on school catchments within specific areas of the City,
- declining roles within other areas of the City;
- deteriorating school buildings;
- inefficient buildings with high running costs;
- the changing demands of the new Curriculum for Excellence;
- the 5 Year Business Plan option to close up to 5 Primary Schools;
- the need to review Roman Catholic school provision across the city; and
- the implications of the new Local Development Plan, which proposes the development of over 30,000 new homes in Aberdeen over the next 25 years.

As a sub-set of the above review, a specific study is currently underway, looking at school provision within the North West Aberdeen, (i.e. the Bucksburn, Mugiemoor, Stoneywood and Dyce area), in order to identify the impact two large housing developments, which are due to come forward within the next few months. This work will ensure that the Council can clearly articulate the responsibility for developers to contribute to new or extended educational

provision in these areas, and will ultimately feed into the outcomes of the wider review of the primary school estate.

The study has considered the following proposed new housing developments:

- Mugiemooss Road (Local Development Plan ref: OP22)
- Stoneywood Estate (Local Development Plan ref: OP24)

Based on the City Council's school roll projections, work has been carried out to analyse the potential additional school pupils generated from these developments, and the impact that these will have on the rolls of local primary schools.

The Report on the study states that:

'There is insufficient capacity in the primary schools within the Bucksburn ASG to cope with the projected growth within the ASG. With Newhills Primary School reaching capacity due to growth in its own zone and Kingswells Primary School nearing capacity and physically distant from the development areas, a way will need to be found meet the growing need to additional primary school capacity within the Bucksburn and Stoneywood zones.'

On the basis of the projections Bucksburn Primary School will exceed its capacity in 2014. The 169 pupils generated by the developments in OP22 and OP27 take the school over its capacity by 144 pupils by 2019.

On the basis of the projections Stoneywood Primary School will exceed its capacity in 2017. The 93 pupils generated by the developments in OP24 take the school over its capacity by 19 pupils by 2019.'

Officers within Education, Culture and Sport are currently in discussion with the developers, and colleagues within Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure to consider options for addressing these issues, through appropriate financial contributions towards new or extended school provision.

The aim is to identify the optimum solution to address the increased pupil numbers resulting from the proposed new housing developments in terms of both educational impact and deliverability, and the intention would be for officers to report detailed proposals to a future meeting of the Committee.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Study into North West Aberdeen, August 2011
Property Asset Management Plan 2009 (Non-Housing)
Education, Culture and Sport Service Asset Management Plan 2011

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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