

SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Cluster:</u>	Capital
<u>Date:</u>	02 May 2025
<u>Title of Update:</u>	Ferryhill School Suitability Improvements
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UPDATE:

Background

Built in 1877 and extended to include an annex in 1935, Ferryhill School is a Victorian school which serves pupils from Ferryhill, parts of the City Centre and the Harbour area of Aberdeen. The pupil roll has increased steadily over the years, and as of August 2023, the school is operating with 16 classes.

The Council's School Estate Plan was approved in September 2022 by the former Education Operational Delivery Committee when officers were instructed to take forward a detailed action plan to develop and improve the school estate. This included an instruction to carry out a feasibility study, to identify options for improving the suitability of Ferryhill School.

Design Development

After reviewing the feedback, in particular concerns around the decant of the school to Walker Road and the disruption this could cause to the operation of the school, pupils and parents, the proposals were updated and a review of the delivery and procurement strategy was undertaken.

The review identified a compliant procurement route that could minimise disruption, and address concerns about the length of time children would be relocated to Walker Road. To do so a decision was made to bring forward the design and construction of the standalone nursery from May 2025 to January 2025 with a proposed completion date of summer 25. This would allow the nursery provision to remain onsite, without the need to decant the children to Walker Road School, for the duration of the works. This also removed the need for school transport with the associated savings.

At the same time the proposals were shaped following discussions with the school, drop-in sessions with parents and Community Council engagement.

Procurement

To achieve these dates, and de-risk the construction programme, a Main Contractor was appointed early in the design process to support the design team and to carry out enabling works in advance of the main works.

On completion of the market testing exercise, and subsequent analysis of the cost, a Main Contractor was appointment to carry out the construction of the Nursery. Works commenced late January with an anticipated completion date summer 2025.

The design process for the refurbishment and extension of the existing school continues with an expected start date of summer 2025 and an expected completion date of summer 2026.

It is anticipated that the final tender amount will be ready early July 2025. Once it has been checked the FBC can be completed and submitted to the next F&R Committee.