

## **BACKGROUND REPORT**

<b><u>Name of Committee:</u></b>	<b>Education, Culture and Sport</b>
<b><u>Date of Meeting:</u></b>	<b>18 February 2010</b>
<b><u>Title of Report:</u></b>	<b>Motion by Councillor Ironside - Former School at Greenfern</b>
<b><u>Director:</u></b>	<b>Annette Bruton</b>
<b><u>Author of Report:</u></b>	<b>Derek Samson</b>
<b><u>Report Number</u></b>	<b>ECS/10/22</b>

### **Summary of Purpose of Report**

To inform Education, Culture and Sport Committee of options available regarding future use of the vacated Education, Culture and Sport property at the former Nursery/Infant School at Greenfern.

### **Report**

Greenfern Nursery/Infant School closed in session 2003/04 as it merged to form Kingsford School on the adjacent site. Since then, it has been held on the Education, Culture and Sport Account, as its future use was to be included in the review of the Learning (School) Estate.

The building does not have currently any proposed use by Education, Culture and Sport and is considered surplus to requirements. Although the review of the Learning Estate is on-going, the condition of neither property would not allow immediate use without significant expenditure to bring it up to a satisfactory standard.

Demolition of the building will address concerns of local residents who have expressed concern at the level of vandalism and instances of anti-social behaviour at the site.

There are no direct financial implications for the Council or any Services of the Council from this Report in itself, other than the need to request to Finance and Resources Committee for funding to meet the costs of demolition.

The site at Greenfern could be the possible location of a new-build school (possibly with Denominational provision), with community facilities.

It would not be financially justifiable to upgrade the existing building, the deterioration in the condition of which is due mainly to vandalism.

If approval is received, tenders could be sought in March and April, with a final Report to Finance and Resources Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Demolition could be commenced soon after and completed during the school summer holidays, 2010.

### **Options**

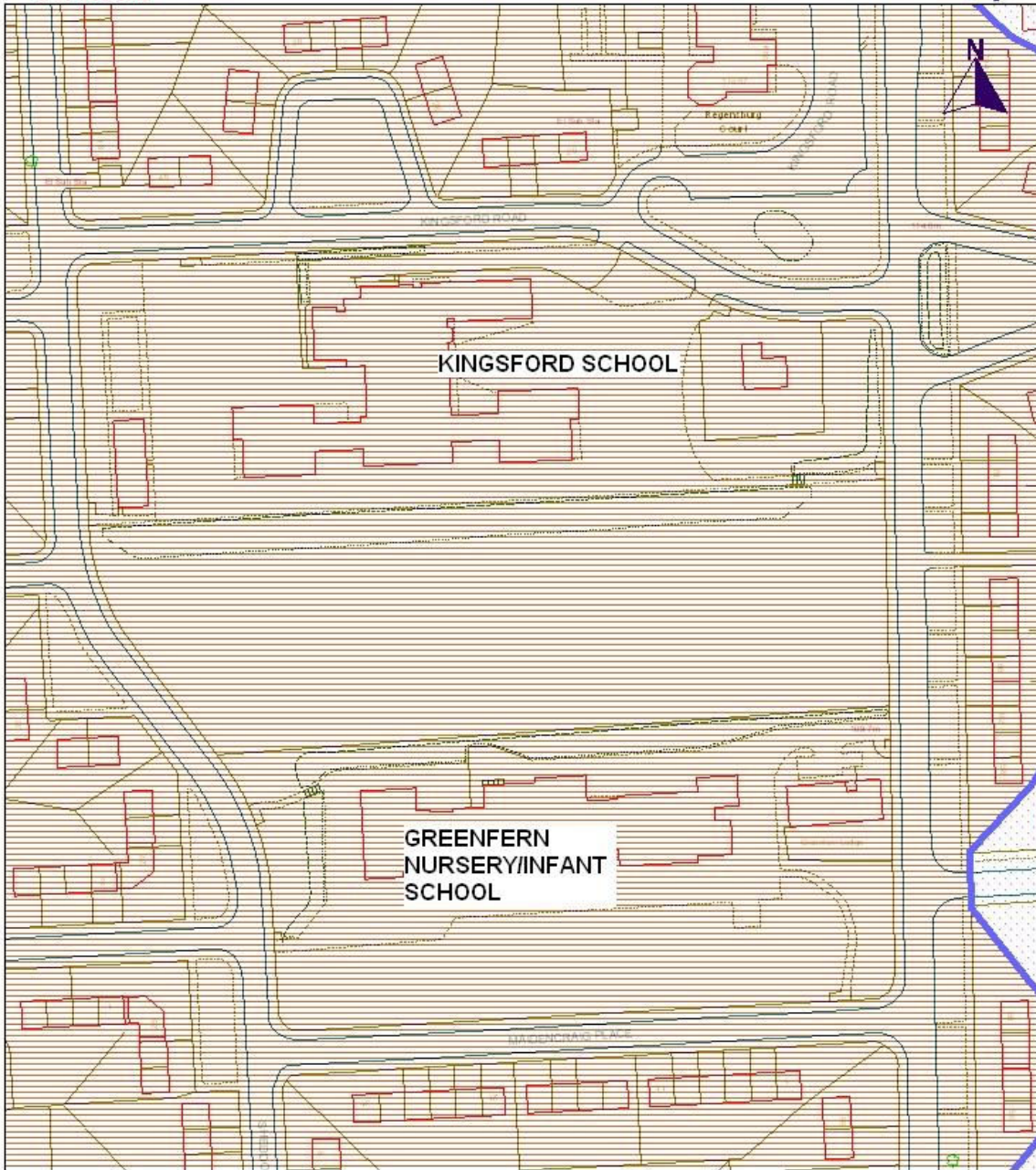
- (i) Consider demolition of the former Greenfern Nursery/Infant School building and request associated funding from Finance and Resources Committee;
- (ii) Consider retention of the cleared site at Greenfern for potential future development to provide Education, Culture and Sport Services;
- (iii) Consider providing Community facilities which may include activities currently delivered at Summerhill Centre<sup>1</sup>. It is acknowledged that an options appraisal on providing suitable local facilities is currently being carried out by Community Learning and Development.

### **REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

<sup>1</sup>Reference: Minute of Resources Management Committee, 26 February 2008.



**Title:** Greenfern

**Scale:** 1:1250

**Date:** 08 February 2010

**Map Ref:** NJ8907SE



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