

DRAFT

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

18 FEBRUARY, 2010

GREENFERN SCHOOL SITE – NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR IRONSIDE – ECS/10/22

11. Reference was made to article 18 of the minute of Council of 16 December 2009, wherein the undernoted motion by Councillor Ironside had initially been referred to the Housing and Environment Committee and which had been subsequently referred to this Committee for consideration:-

“That this Council expedites its plans to demolish the old Greenfern School site which is currently a haven for vandalism and anti-social behaviour causing the residents of the area great concern.”

The Committee had before it a background report by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport, which outlined the options available regarding the future use of the vacated property at the Greenfern site. The report noted that the school had been closed since the 2003/04 session when it was merged to form Kingsford School on the adjacent site. Since that time it had 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 report noted that the building did not have currently any proposed use by the service, however, due to the review of the learning estate being on-going, it was noted that the site at Greenfern was a potential location for a new-build school with possible denominational provision and community facilities. It was noted that demolition of the building would address the concerns of local residents who had expressed concern at the level of vandalism and instances of anti-social behaviour at the site and the due to the vandalism contributing to the deterioration in the condition of the building, it was noted that it would not be financially justifiable to simply upgrade the existing building.

The report set out the options which were open to the Committee in relation to the site, namely:- (a) to consider demolition of the former Greenfern Nursery/Infant School building and request associated funding from the Finance and Resources Committee; (b) to consider retention of the cleared site at Greenfern for potential future development to provide Education, Culture and Sport Services; and (c) to consider providing Community facilities which may include activities currently delivered at the Summerhill Centre, although it was acknowledged that an options appraisal on providing suitable local facilities was currently being carried out by Community Learning and Development.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to agree the terms of the motion;
- (ii) to indicate its support of the options set out in the report; and
- (iii) to refer the matter to the Finance and Resources Committee, in order to allow the financial aspects of the options to be considered, and that this referral be accompanied by a report from officers.