

REPORT TO: RECESS SUB-COMMITTEE - 1 AUGUST 2007

REPORT ON: DROP-OFF AND PARKING ARRANGEMENTS AT PARK PLACE NURSERY SCHOOL

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 382-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report proposes a pilot drop-off and parking arrangement at Park Place Nursery School, which will be monitored, evaluated and reported to the Education Committee before a final decision is taken on the proposed merger of Park Place Nursery School with Bellfield Nursery School.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Recess Sub-Committee should:

- i. approve the contents of this report;
- ii. instruct the Directors of Education and Planning & Transportation to implement, monitor and evaluate the proposed pilot outlined in para. 7.3; and
- iii. agree that the Education Committee will not discuss the proposed merger of Bellfield Nursery School with Park Place Nursery School at its meeting on 13th August 2007, but that the findings of the pilot will be incorporated in a full report to the Education Committee in due course.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of implementing the proposed pilot access arrangement is approximately £4,000 to cover signing, road lining and temporary fencing to close off that part of the playground where there will be vehicular access. This cost of £4,000 can be met from the Education Department Revenue Budget.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no sustainability issues arising from this report.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Approval of this report will ensure that all parents/carers, their children and other relevant parties will have equal access to Park Place Nursery School.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 At its meeting on 11th June 2007 the Education Committee approved Report No. 283-2007 'Merger of Bellfield Nursery School and Park Place Nursery School', and agreed that the outcome of the consultation exercise on the proposed merger should be reported to the Education Committee on 13th August 2007.
- 6.2 Since then, the Education Department has decided that children entering their second nursery year should be able to remain at Bellfield Nursery School during session 2007-08, but that no 3-year old children should be enrolled. It is envisaged that these latter children will attend Park Place Nursery School or Law Nursery School, or any other nursery school chosen by their parents/carers.
- 6.3 Prior to and during the consultation exercise significant concern has been raised regarding the difficulties in dropping off very young children and the general parking restrictions at Park Place Nursery School. It is the view of the Education Department that this matter can be resolved, but would benefit from more detailed examination of the issues.
- 6.4 At present, most parents/carers wishing to access Park Place Nursery School by car do so via Park Place itself and, if necessary, park at a designated point in that road. They share that arrangement with the parents of children at Park Place Primary School. There is no satisfactory turning area in Park Place, and so parents exit the area via Small's Lane through the university campus. Some parents/carers park in neighbouring streets and walk their children to and from the school, entering either by the main gate or by the back door off the staff car park behind the school.
- 6.5 The Director of Planning & Transportation and the Director of Education have therefore explored alternative options to facilitate access to the school.

7.0 PROPOSALS

- 7.1 While the Director of Planning & Transportation prepares a full assessment of the available access options, it is proposed that a temporary solution to the issue of vehicle access should be agreed and implemented, as a pilot arrangement, for a limited period. This will allow officers the opportunity to verify the extent to which numbers attending Park Place Nursery have increased, and to monitor the implications of the temporary solution for the children and their staff, their parents/carers, the children and staff attending Park Place Primary School, and the local community.
- 7.2 As a direct consequence, it is further proposed that the Education Committee should not discuss the proposed merger of Bellfield and Park Place Nursery Schools on 13th August as originally decided. That report should now be discussed by the Education Committee once the pilot is concluded, and should incorporate the pilot's findings.
- 7.3 The proposed option (see attached plan) would allow access to the southern half of the eastern playground from South Tay Street via Cross Lane and egress via the same route. A drop-off area and turning circle would be

formed in the southern half of the playground area. The northern half of the playground, where staff car parking is located, would be accessed separately from the north.

- 7.4 There are no known obstacles to creating this access and egress route, and it can be relatively easily implemented to allow its operation and impact to be tested on site. It is therefore proposed that a pilot of this option commences on 14 August 2007.
- 7.5 It should be noted that the current access via Park Place and egress via Small's Lane is not considered an option, since it is already busy with traffic generated by existing Park Place parents and University staff and students.
- 7.6 The proposed option involves vehicles accessing, to some extent, the eastern playground area at the back of the school, and this will be carefully monitored, to judge its impact on pupil access and their current use of the area, and with regard to health and safety implications. The Head Teacher and staff, parents/carers and other parties will need to be involved in arriving at a solution which benefits the school, pupils and parents/carers.

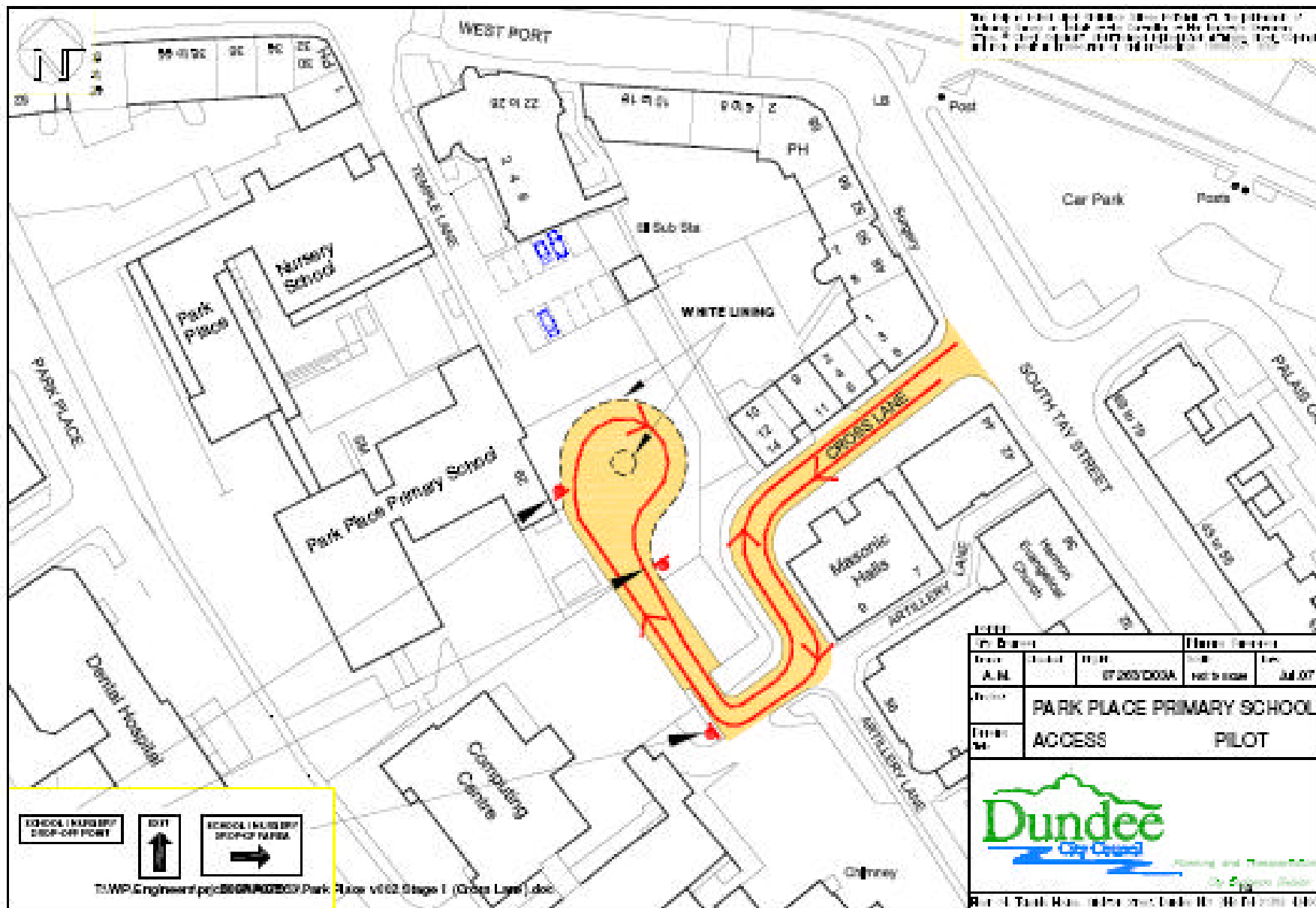
8.0 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Director of Planning & Transportation.

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

25 July 2007

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382-2007, Drop-off and parking arrangements at Park Place Primary and Nursery Schools, 1 August 2007