

Report to: Environmental & Consumer Protection Committee

Report on: The Clean Air Act 1993 – Chimney Height etc. Approval for:
Glebelands Primary School
St Joseph's Primary School
Ancrum Primary School
Cleington Primary School
Park Place Primary School

Report by: Director of Environmental & Consumer Protection

Report No: 426/2000

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To seek approval for (i) the chimney heights, (ii) the exemptions from the need to fit grit and dust exemption plant.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Council grants chimney height approval for.

Glebelands Primary School at a height no less than 20m above ground level.
St Joseph's Primary School at a height no less than 12m above ground level.
Ancrum Primary School at a height no less than 18.5m above ground level.
Cleington Primary School at a height no less than 20m above ground level.
Park Place Primary School at a height no less than 5.5m above ground level.

2.2 It is further recommended that the Council approves the applications for exemptions from the requirement to fit arrestment plants for grit and dust.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 None.

4. Local Agenda 21 Implications

4.1 Pollution is limited to levels at which natural systems can cope.

4.2 The approval of the contents of this report is consistent with the Council's Corporate Plan which provides for a rigorous approach to air quality.

5. Equal Opportunities Implications

5.1 None.

6. Report

6.1 Chimney height approval is sought on behalf of the Education Department for the minimum height of the chimneys serving the replacement boilers to be installed in these five schools.

- 6.2 The existing chimneys will be reused in all cases. These chimneys are at a height above the minimum needed to disperse flue gases from modern gas fired plant. This should be considered beneficial, as the extra heights will aid flue gas dispersion.
- 6.3 Officers within the Environmental and Consumer Protection Department have calculated the minimum height using the Scottish Executive Document "Method of Calculating Chimney Heights", Third Edition, a 1956 Clean Air Act Memorandum.
- 6.4 Under the Clean Air Act 1993 it is a requirement that all furnaces rated at more than 366 kw input are fitted with plant for arresting grit and dust. Gas fired plant, however, are, upon application, granted and exemption from this requirement.
- 6.5 It has been acknowledged that modern gas fired furnaces are capable of operating in such a manner that emissions, adequately dispersed will not be prejudicial to health or a nuisance.
- 6.6 The Clean Air Act 1993 permits the Council to grant such an exemption.
- 6.7 Officers of ECPD are unaware of any gas fired boiler furnace in the country which is fitted with such a grit and dust arrestment plant.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The undernoted minimum chimney heights will satisfy all the requirements of the Scottish Office Memorandum on Chimney Heights.

Glebelands Primary, 19m above ground level
St Joseph's Primary, 12m above ground level
Ancrum Primary, 18.5m above ground level
Clelington Primary, 20m above ground level
Park Place Primary, 5.5m above ground level

- 7.2 Accordingly, it is recommended that these applications should be approved.
- 7.3 Having considered the nature of gas fired furnaces, their pollutants and health effects and having considered the advice and recommendations from other bodies, it is recommended that the application for exemptions from the requirements to install arrestment plants be approved.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 Chief Executive
Director of Finance
Director of Support Services

Signed Date
Director of Environmental & Consumer Protection