

**REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 10 DECEMBER 2007**  
**REPORT ON: REPLACEMENT OF KINGSPARK SPECIAL SCHOOL - UPDATE**  
**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**  
**REPORT NO: 625 - 2007**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report provides an update on the proposal to build a new school to replace Kingspark Special School, for children and young people with complex and profound needs, and for those with severe autistic spectrum disorder.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) note the content of this report;
- (ii) approve Balfield playing fields as the proposed site for the replacement Kingspark School with main access to and egress from the school site to be taken from Johnston Avenue via Glenaffric Terrace;
- (iii) approve Glentruim Terrace as an identified access/egress point for cleansing vehicles and emergency services only;
- (iv) instruct the Director of Education to formally consult on Balfield playing fields as the proposed site for the replacement of Kingspark School in terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 and to report back to Committee in due course on the outcome of the consultation;
- (v) approve that the facility be constructed to accommodate 125 pupils; and
- (vi) instruct the Director of Education to bring forward detailed accommodation schedules for this revised roll in due course.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The updated estimated cost of the project is £15m. It is anticipated that approximately £3m will be recovered from the partner bodies leaving a balance of £12m to be funded by the City Council. Provision of £9m is currently included in the 2007-2010 Capital Plan and a further £3m will require to be added at the next Capital Plan review.

## **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

### **4.1.1 Location**

At its meeting of 19 March 2007 the Education Committee approved the report "Replacement of Kingspark Special School" in which it was asked to note (inter alia) that Balfield playing fields behind St John's High School was the preferred site for the replacement of Kingspark School (Report No. 193-2007 refers).

4.1.2 Residents in the area surrounding Balfield playing fields were consulted regarding the proposal to site the replacement school on Balfield playing fields. While in principle the residents were generally agreeable to the school being located on the site, there was concern as to how the site would be accessed, with the residents holding the view that access should be taken from Clepington Road.

This suggestion was taken into consideration when the options for accessing the site were examined by the Council's Transportation and Traffic sections. However, it was concluded that the preferred option on safety grounds is for access to be taken from Johnston Avenue via Glenaffric Terrace. Furthermore the additional costs of access from Clepington Road are estimated at up to £250,000 for traffic management arrangements alone with additional on-site engineering works also being required at an estimated cost of up to £100,000. The above figures do not include any allowance for the cost of moving the statutory undertakers' plant that is known to run under the footpath on the south side of Clepington Road.

- 4.1.3 In the interim, further detailed work has now been completed which confirms this site as the proposed location for the replacement Kingspark School. It is proposed that the main access to and egress from the school site be taken from Johnston Avenue via Glenaffric Terrace and that Glentruim Terrace is identified as an access/egress point for cleansing vehicles and emergency services only. A site plan indicating the footprint of the building is attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.1.4 At its meeting of 31 March 2003, the Education Committee approved the report "Update on the Financial Implications of the Dundee Schools Capital Project" (Report No. 260-2003 refers) which identified funding for the replacement of the existing Kingspark School from sources outwith the PPP Project.
- 4.1.5 At the time when the replacement for Kingspark School was to be included within the Dundee Schools PPP Project, the proposed site was ground adjacent to the present school. This proposal was formally consulted on and approved by the Education Committee at its meeting on 16 December 2002. (Report No. 898-2002 "Dundee Schools PPP Project - Report on the Outcome of the Formal Consultation Process" refers).
- 4.1.6 In the intervening five years, the size and type of accommodation required has developed and consequently it is no longer physically possible to fit the proposed new build on this site. Furthermore, given the nature of the client group within Kingspark, there could be no question of a decant arrangement to facilitate the demolition of the existing school in advance of a new build.
- 4.1.7 In view of the proposed change of location, it is considered appropriate to re-consult formally on the use of Balfield playing fields as the site for the replacement school.

#### 4.2 **Size of Population**

- 4.2.1 In recent months a careful review of the size of the build has been undertaken with due consideration given to the needs of individual young people currently in attendance at Kingspark, population trends within this client group and likely projections into the future.
- 4.2.2 In light of paragraph 4.2.1 above it is proposed to build a flexible facility for 125 pupils with autistic spectrum disorder/complex and profound needs. The design brief will ensure that there is space and scope to expand on the site should this be required in the future and that the accommodation can be used flexibly to meet the widest range of demands. It is anticipated that a maximum of 10 of these pupils will be from Angus at any one time, probably all with complex and profound needs.

#### 4.3 **Accommodation Schedules**

- 4.3.1 Detailed accommodation schedules are currently being produced for the build in accordance with the revised roll figure of 125, in consultation with representatives from Tayside Health Board. These schedules will be brought forward to the Education Committee in due course. In summary, the general teaching accommodation will comprise 22 classrooms in 3 main teaching areas (autistic spectrum disorder, primary and secondary), each area also incorporating a dining/multi-functional space. There will also be 6 practical classrooms for music, art and home economics that will be shared by all pupils. In addition there will be an assembly hall, a gym hall and swimming and therapy pools. Located strategically throughout the building and where required accessible directly from classrooms will be toilets, storage

areas and therapy rooms. There will also be a production kitchen and a laundry on site. The health accommodation will be located in a separate suite that can be operated independently of the school, and will include rooms for physiotherapy, dental treatment, speech therapy, occupational therapy, orthotics and nursing staff. The school management suite will include rooms for the Head Teacher and Depute Head Teachers, meetings rooms, a conference room and various administrative offices. In addition there will be a staffroom with the usual range of facilities.

#### 4.4 **Project Development**

- 4.4.1 A Project Board similar to that established to manage the Dundee Schools PPP Project has now been set up to oversee all aspects of the new build in accordance with recommendation (iii) contained in the report entitled "Replacement of Kingspark School" (Report No. 193-2007 refers). The Board comprises Elected Members from both the Administration and Opposition, officers from the Education, Architectural Services and Finance Departments, representatives from NHS Tayside and Angus Council, school staff and parent/carer representatives and teacher and support staff unions. The Project Board is chaired by the Chief Executive who also chairs a Project Management Board comprising officers of the Council who are working on the design and delivery of the replacement for Kingspark School.

#### 5.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

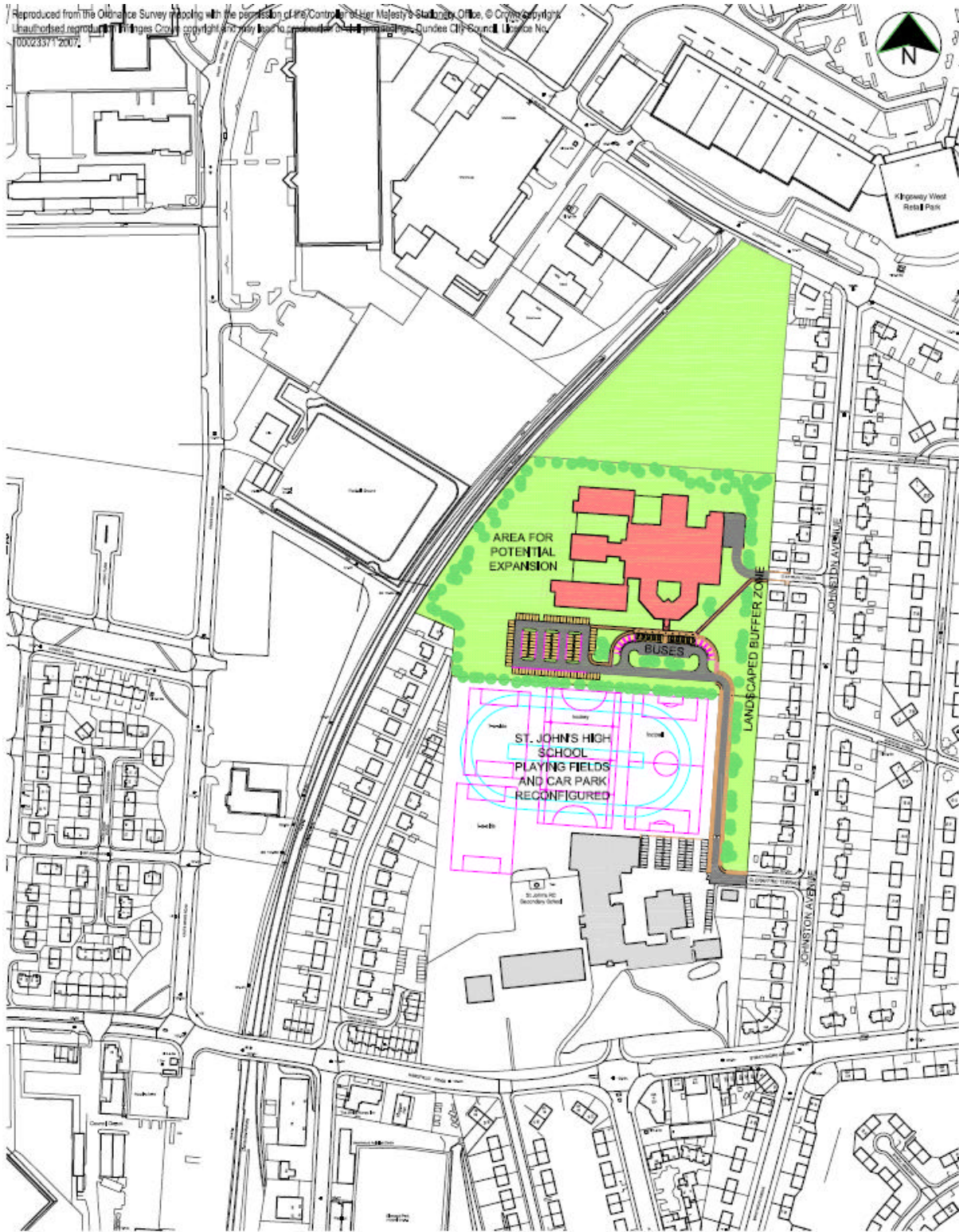
#### 6.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Head of Finance and the Director of Planning and Transportation have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

#### 7.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None

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**KINGSPARK LEARNING FACILITY  
FEASIBILITY STUDY  
SITE LAYOUT PLAN**

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION 16 NOV 2007

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