

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 10th DECEMBER 2007

REPORT ON: ST PAUL'S RC ACADEMY

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 658-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to merge Lawside Academy and St Saviour's High School, on their existing sites, into the new St Paul's RC Academy from the beginning of academic session 2008-09.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee should:

- i. note the contents of this report; and
- ii. approve the merger of Lawside Academy and St Saviour's High School, on their existing sites, to form St Paul's RC Academy (School Road) and St Paul's RC Academy (Drumgeith Road) in August 2008.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 At its meeting on 26th November 2007 the Education Committee approved a report on the Dundee Schools PPP Project, which advised the Committee as to progress on the construction of the schools in phase 1 of the project (Report No. 591-2007 refers).

4.2 That report advised that the anticipated construction completion date for St Paul's was November 2008. Previous experience suggests that at least 8 weeks after that, excluding the Christmas holiday, will be necessary for the installation of loose furniture and new equipment, and then for the transfer of existing equipment/material. The earliest anticipated occupancy date, therefore, will be January 2009.

4.3 A number of options regarding occupancy date were considered and discussed with staff, and the eventual preferred option was to move in as soon as the new building becomes available and ready, in January 2009.

4.4 However, it is considered advantageous to merge the two schools in name in August 2008, and operate in St Paul's (Drumgeith Road campus) and St Paul's (School Road campus). The reasons are:

- The vision for the new school can be established in consultation with all staff, pupils and parents/carers.
- Appointed staff will be clear in their positions and responsibilities. The process of appointing promoted staff is scheduled to be completed by May 2008.
- Curriculum and timetabling issues will have been highlighted and dealt with by identified staff.
- The school uniform policy can be intimated to parents in advance of the actual occupation of the new building. Parents will be in a position to purchase the necessary items for the beginning of the academic year 2008-09, thereby assisting in providing a firm foundation for the ethos of the new school.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

5.2 There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance. Consultation meetings have also been held with the teacher trade unions, the teaching and support staffs of Lawside Academy and St Saviour's High School, and the Roman Catholic Church authorities.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

Anne Wilson
Director of Education

29th November 2007

JC/DD