

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 22 NOVEMBER 2010

**REPORT ON: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION REPORT ON PROPOSED
RELOCATION OF EASTERN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 658-2010

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report contains the formal Consultation Report, in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, on the proposal to relocate permanently Eastern Primary School to the building formerly occupied by Grove Academy. The Consultation Report was published on 29th October, 2010.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- i. notes the contents of this Committee report;
- ii. notes the accompanying Consultation Report, including the report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) on the proposal;
- iii. agrees to relocate permanently Eastern Primary School to the site of the old Grove Academy building; and
- iv. instructs the Director of Education to begin work to allow Eastern Primary School to relocate in August, 2011.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The total estimated capital cost of the project is £1.61m and will be funded from the allowance in the Capital Plan for developing Grove House and maintaining Eastern Primary School (appendix 3).

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 The Consultation Report is attached to this Committee Report, along with the HMIE report on the proposal (appendix 1) and a collation of 'Frequently Asked Questions and Comments' (appendix 2), being a summary of all written and oral representations received during the consultation period.

4.2 Copies of representations received and notes of meetings held during the consultation period, including oral representations, have been passed to Group Leaders, the Lord Provost and the Depute Lord Provost.

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. There are no major issues. An Equality Impact Assessment has

been carried out and will be made available on the Council website:
www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/

6.0 CONSULTATION

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

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Equality Impact Assessment

JIM COLLINS
Director of Education

8 November 2010

Ref: JC/LW/

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

CONSULTATION REPORT

ON PROPOSED RELOCATION OF EASTERN PRIMARY SCHOOL

This Consultation Report is available on the Dundee City Council website - www.dundeeecity.gov.uk/education - and also in printed form from the following locations: Floor 2, Tayside House; Eastern Primary School; and Grove Academy.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its meeting on 28th June 2010, the Education and Policy & Resources Committees approved the report entitled 'Review of Grove Office and Eastern Primary Accommodation' (report no. 384-2010 refers). The Education Committee also received and approved a progress report on the proposal at its meeting on 23rd August 2010 (report no. 420-2010 refers).
- 1.2 The proposal was to relocate permanently Eastern Primary School and nursery class, including an enhanced provision facility which addresses the needs of those children who require additional support in their learning, to the building formerly occupied by Grove Academy. In addition, a cohort of up to 45 other Education Department staff would be located within this building.
- 1.3 A number of educational benefits were identified which this proposal would give:
 - the proximity to the new Grove Academy would allow, in effect, the creation of an all-through campus incorporating early years, primary and secondary sectors, which would facilitate and enhance the implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence
 - better opportunities for effective transition between the sectors
 - ready opportunity for the sharing of accommodation, for instance primary use of the swimming pool
 - greatly enhance accommodation for Eastern Primary School, including spacious classrooms, break out space for active play, extensive PE and games facilities, and a dedicated dining hall and servery
 - safe and secure playground space for Eastern Primary School
 - scope for future expansion of Eastern Primary School into a three-stream school if necessary
- 1.4 Two other important considerations led to the proposal for relocation:
 - the number of staff potentially requiring parking space at or around the old Grove building would reduce from a figure well in excess of 300 (as

envisaged in the Council's original proposal to develop Grove House for office accommodation) to approximately 70

- there would be significant capital savings of £1.61m.

- 1.5 As a result the Director of Education was remitted to carry out the consultation procedures in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 in respect of the proposal to permanently relocate Eastern Primary School to the old Grove Academy building. The consultation programme is detailed in paragraph 4.2.1 below, and a summary of the main points raised is set out in section 4.3.
- 1.6 A report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) is required under the terms of the Act to address the educational aspects of the proposal. Their report is attached as appendix 1.
- 1.7 The Director of Education has considered carefully the HMIE report and its implications, in particular where HMIE have acknowledged some concerns raised during the consultation period. However, the broad thrust of the HMIE report is clearly that they recognise the potential benefits that will accrue from the proposed move and the large measure of support for it, and therefore the Education Committee will now be recommended to approve the proposal.

2.0 CONSULTATION

2.1 The formal consultation procedure included:

- the preparation of a Proposal Paper (29th June) and corrected Proposal Paper (18th August) included with a letter to the parents/carers of young people at Eastern Primary and Grove Academy, and to the staff of the two schools;
- information, including the Proposal Paper and corrected Proposal Paper, placed on the Education Department's website;
- an announcement of the original proposal in the local press (1st July) and of the corrected proposal (18th August);
- an invitation to any person to make written representation to the Director of Education;
- public meetings in Broughty Ferry (30th and 31st August);
- meetings with the Parent Councils of Eastern Primary (30th August and 14th September) and Grove Academy (31st August);
- meetings with the staff of the two schools (30th and 31st August);
- meetings with the Pupil Councils of the two schools (14th and 17th September);
- consultation with representatives of the teacher and support staff trade unions; and
- meetings with other interested bodies, such as Broughty Ferry Community Council (6th July), Broughty Ferry Education & Recreation Association (BERA) (21st September), the Local Community Planning Partnership (18th August), and Dundee Leisure (10th September).

2.2 27 written representations were received on the proposal during the consultation period.

2.3 A summary of written and oral representations received, collated as a list of 'Frequently Asked Questions/Comments', is attached as appendix 2, and the Department's responses have been added.

- 2.4 In accordance with the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 copies of all written representations and 'Frequently Asked Questions/Comments' were submitted to HMIE for their consideration in the preparation of their report.

3.0 MAIN ISSUES ARISING FROM THE CONSULTATION, WITH RESPONSES

- 3.1 Parents and staff seek reassurance that the refurbishment of the old Grove building will be to a high standard.

It is intended to spend in the region of £1.5m on redecoration of all classrooms and teaching areas, the provision of new floor coverings, adequate toilet provision, adequate IT infrastructure, servery reinstatement and dining storage facilities, and appropriate fencing and other external works. In addition, the playground space will be finished with appropriate playground markings, and the playground fittings currently used by Eastern Primary will be relocated, i.e. climbing wall fixtures and the Astro turf.

- 3.2 Travel and transport arrangements have been a major source of concern, to which there are a number of responses:

- 1. Traffic management systems are already in place at the main road crossings, and these will be supplemented by the provision of school crossing patrollers.*
- 2. Council transportation staff will work with both schools to create a joint Travel Plan for the schools. This will advise on appropriate ways of going to and coming from school, and will reinforce, inter alia, the availability of the Park & Stride facility at Queen Street Car Park. In this respect, it is proposed to extend the facility for free parking to 30 minutes in the morning and afternoon.*
- 3. Limited waiting provision will be considered for the north side of Albert Road and the west side of Church Street to facilitate drop off arrangements.*
- 4. The Council will take steps to dedicate the car parking facility in front of the school in Camperdown Road for DCC employees.*
- 5. Eastern Primary School will work with STRIDE (Sustainable Travel in Dundee East) to identify the main walking routes and these will then be further assessed by the Council's transportation division. STRIDE is a local community-based environmental group which seeks, among other aims, to encourage active travel.*

- 3.3 There is a belief that the Education Department has not adequately set out the benefits of the all-through campus with Grove Academy.

Attention has been drawn to the opportunities arising from shared accommodation and positive shared experiences. The Head Teachers and staffs of the schools will be able to liaise closely on curricular and pastoral matters, most obviously regarding the implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence. All of this will make for much more effective transition between the two schools, which is an ongoing process, not restricted to one-day or two-day visits close to the end of primary 7. Finally, it will be important that these opportunities for Eastern Primary School do not in any sense leave Grove Academy's other associated schools, Barnhill and Forthill, at a disadvantage, and the Head Teacher of Grove will ensure their continued involvement in all educational developments.

- 3.4 Reassurance is sought about the security of the building, both in terms of the entrance area to the nursery, and in view of the other Education staff who will occupy the building.

The nursery will have a secure entry that can be controlled by nursery staff during the day, and the main school entrance will likewise be controlled and accessed only by Education Department staff, who all will have undergone appropriate checks.

- 3.5 Questions have been raised concerning the implications of any rise in the population of Eastern Primary School. Specifically, will the need for additional classrooms lead to an inevitable loss of the specialist facilities; and will changes to the catchment areas of Eastern, Barnhill and Forthill be necessary?

The possibility of expansion of capacity has already been highlighted as a benefit of this proposal, and clearly that would necessitate additional classroom accommodation. However, any expansion, if it occurs, is likely to be gradual. Certainly no sudden, immediate or dramatic expansion is envisaged. In terms of the catchment areas, these will remain as at present. The Director of Education will, as is normal practice across the city, keep all catchment areas under review.

- 3.6 There is a belief among some parents that this proposal has been made simply because financial savings will accrue.

This is an erroneous view. While the clear opportunity for financial savings has never been hidden, and is obviously very important at a time of severe financial constraints, nevertheless the main drivers for this proposal, as outlined in the original Proposal Paper, repeated in this Consultation Report, and acknowledged by HMle in their report, have been educational.

4.0 THE SCHOOL PREMISES (GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1967

- 4.1 It has already been acknowledged that the proposed school does not meet the requirements of the above Act, and accordingly the Education Committee instructed the Director of Education to apply to Scottish Ministers for dispensation from the standards.

- 4.2 The application was duly made and, following usual procedures, Scottish Ministers asked HMle to report on it. Having considered that report, Scottish Ministers have now approved the application.

JIM COLLINS
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

27th October, 2010

CONSULTATION PROPOSAL BY DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT BY HM INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION ADDRESSING EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE EASTERN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY CLASS PERMANENTLY TO A BUILDING FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY GROVE ACADEMY.

1. Introduction

1.1 Dundee City Council proposes to relocate permanently Eastern Primary School and Nursery Class, including an enhanced provision facility which addresses the needs of those children who require additional support in their learning, to a building formerly occupied by Grove Academy. In addition, a cohort of up to 45 other education department staff will be located within this building.

1.2 This report from HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) is required under the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*. It has been prepared by HMIE in accordance with the terms of the Act.

1.3 HM Inspectors undertook the following activities in considering the educational aspects of the proposal:

- attendance at the public meeting held on August 30th 2010 in connection with the Council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the Council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, and written and oral submissions from parents and others;
- consideration of further representations made directly to HMIE on relevant educational aspects of the proposal;
- consideration of further information on all schools affected; and
- visits to the site of the former Grove Academy building, Eastern Primary School, Grove Academy and the playing field behind St Luke's Church, and discussion with relevant consultees.

1.4 HMIE considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the school, for any other users, for children likely to become pupils of the school within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper, and other children and young people in the Council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;

- how the Council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- benefits which the authority believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the Council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

2. Consultation process

- 2.1 Dundee City Council undertook the initial consultation on its proposals with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*.
- 2.2 The Parent Council and the majority of parents of Eastern Primary School support the proposal overall. The Parent Council undertook an informative on-line poll of parents' views on the proposal.
- 2.3 Staff are broadly in support of the proposal.
- 2.4 Most parents and staff accept that accommodation in the former Grove Academy building will be more spacious, with larger classrooms, increased open spaces for flexible learning out of the classroom, and superior facilities for physical education, expressive arts and assemblies. They seek assurance that the building and the playground space will be finished to a high standard. Some staff have expressed concern about aspects of health and safety of the entrance to the nursery.
- 2.5 Parents and local residents are concerned that an increase in vehicles in the Grove Academy area could lead to congestion. Many parents from the eastern extent of the catchment have stated they would have to drive their children to school should the proposal go ahead, and they feel that education authority staff who would be housed in the building would travel to work by car.
- 2.6 Parents and staff are aware that the proposed building will be able to accommodate any future rise in the number of primary school-aged children in Broughty Ferry. However, they are concerned that any such future rise might lead to the loss of some of the specialist facilities to accommodate more classrooms.
- 2.7 The Council's proposal would involve Eastern Primary School being housed in the former Grove Academy building, which is adjacent to the site of the new Grove Academy. The proposal envisages benefits arising from what it describes as a '3-18 campus', that is, a site on which a nursery, primary school and secondary school would be conveniently adjacent. Parents feel that the benefits of a 3-18 campus and how it will work in practice have not been set out clearly by the Council. A few parents are concerned that close proximity to secondary school pupils may result in negative influences on their children.
- 2.8 The Council extended the period which had initially been allowed for consultation. However, some parents feel that they would have liked more time to consider the proposal fully. Some feel that the proposal is for financial rather than educational reasons.

- 2.9 A few parents seek reassurance about security due to the number of education authority staff and their visitors who will share with the school an entrance to the proposed building.
- 2.10 A number of parents are concerned about road safety and seek assurance that the proposed travel plan will be in place before Eastern Primary School moves to the former Grove Academy building.
- 2.11 The Council consulted children through the Eastern Primary School Pupil Council. Children and parents are keen that the playground in the proposed new location of the school be completed to a high standard. The Council has given assurances that the playground equipment and all-weather sports pitch which are features of the provision at the current location of the school will be moved to the former Grove Academy building. Overall, children feel positive about the move.

3. Educational aspects of the proposal

- 3.1 The proposed school site does not meet the requirements of the Schools Premises Act 1967. The overall site size at the former Grove Academy building, 7500 square metres in area, is 1500 square metres less than the minimum requirement set out in the Act. However, the proposed new site is considerably larger than the current Eastern Primary School site, which is 4740 square metres in area. The playground space at the proposed new site, 2927 square metres, is larger than the playground at the current site of Eastern Primary School, which is 2708 square metres. At present, classes in Eastern Primary School make use of the nearby Orchar Park on an occasional basis for sporting activities. Orchar Park is a short walk from the current location of the school, but it would not be practicable for classes to walk to Orchar Park from the proposed new location of the school. The Council proposes that, instead, staff and pupils would be able to use the grass area (1530 square metres) belonging to St Luke's Church, which is a short walk from the proposed new site of the school in the former Grove Academy building. Orchar Park and Dawson Park would not be within walking distance for primary children and would require transport. The school will benefit from a games hall and from the all-weather sports pitch which is currently at Eastern Primary School.
- 3.2 Children are likely to benefit from enhanced accommodation. Classrooms will be larger and will offer a more comfortable environment for learning. There will be increased open areas for staff to extend aspects of learning and allow children to work more cooperatively in groups. There will be designated spaces for art, drama and music activities. Children will benefit from increased space in the dining area and hall. This has the potential to lead to better opportunities for physical education and for whole-school events such as assemblies. Staff will be better able to provide children with two hours of good quality physical education each week.
- 3.3 Accommodation for the enhanced provision will be improved, resulting in a better environment for learning. Support for learning staff will benefit from the provision of a

number of breakout rooms for working with small groups of children. The proposed new building will have improved disability access.

- 3.4 Staff will be able to hold regular whole-school assemblies to strengthen the school identity and ethos. Currently, staff have difficulty bringing the whole school together within the space available at the current Eastern Primary School building and have to limit the number of parents and carers attending assemblies and events such as school shows. There will also be space in the proposed new building for parent and community groups to meet.
- 3.5 Proximity to Grove Academy will provide some opportunities for children to access academy facilities such as the swimming pool. Overall, the proximity of Grove Academy to the proposed new site of Eastern Primary School has the potential to lead to closer links between the secondary and the primary school in the future, and improved transitions as children move from P7 into S1, which will be of overall benefit to the children. The Council has not set out fully how these improved links will be implemented.
- 3.6 A larger nursery space will allow the Council to consider expanding nursery provision to meet the future needs of the area. The Council will seek registration with the Care Commission to ensure the proposed space and access arrangements for the nursery meet the necessary requirements.
- 3.7 Space will be available for the Eastern Primary School After School Club on-site and not off-site as is currently the case.
- 3.8 Children likely to become pupils within the next two years will benefit from the educational benefits outlined above. This proposal does not change their status as future pupils of Eastern Primary School.
- 3.9 Traffic management is a major concern for parents. Eastern Primary School staff are well-experienced in this aspect of the work of the school and the school has piloted the Council's revised dropping-off and parking policy. All measures in that policy will apply to the new site. Eastern Primary School will continue with its 'Park and Stride' policy, which enables parents to park their car safely and walk their children the remaining distance to school. A full School Access Strategy will be developed for both schools on the proposed new site. The Council proposes that school crossing patrollers will assist children to cross the main roads in the area and that the start and finishing times of Eastern Primary School and Grove Academy will be staggered to ease traffic congestion at the start and end of the school day.
- 3.10 Increased space at the former Grove Academy building gives the potential for the Council to increase the roll of Eastern Primary School, thereby giving parents greater choice of schools in Broughty Ferry.
- 3.11 Education staff in Dundee are experienced in working with children and young people to ensure smooth transitions to alternative accommodation. Consultations with the children about the move have already begun.

- 3.12 The proposal is likely to bring financial benefits to the Council, which feels that the efficiencies would contribute to the overall benefit of children and young people elsewhere in Dundee City.

4. Summary

- 4.1 This proposal has the potential to lead to educational benefits for current or future pupils at Eastern Primary School, principally through more spacious accommodation and enhanced opportunities for a wider range of learning experiences. In particular, children would have better opportunities for effective learning in the expressive arts and physical education. The proposal also outlines opportunities for improved joint working with Grove Academy, although parents feel the Council has not fully set out details of how learners would benefit from the siting of Eastern Primary School on the same campus as Grove Academy. Financial savings will offer opportunities to the Council to benefit the wider educational community in the Council area.
- 4.2 The education department intends to minimise any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal by ensuring that travel to and from school and access arrangements to the site are well managed to alleviate any congestion and road safety issues. The Council plans to move playground equipment, including the all-weather pitch currently on site at Eastern Primary School, to the new site. The Council proposes that staff and pupils would be able to make use of a grassed area belonging to a local church.
- 4.3 Parents and children would welcome the opportunity to be involved in travel plans and in decisions about the refurbishment of the building. Continuing communication with all stakeholders will ensure a smooth transition to the refurbished former Grove Academy building.

HM Inspectorate of Education
September, 2010

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, AND RESPONSES

(This section constitutes a summary of all written and oral representations received during the consultation period.)

- What will happen to the catchment area for Eastern Primary School? Are there any plans to change the catchment areas for the school?
There are no plans to review the catchment area of Eastern Primary School. The Department is aware of pressure on places in Broughty Ferry, particularly to the north, and the Director regularly reviews all catchment areas across the city. However, there are no plans to review at present.
- Can the plans for the proposals be made available at the public meetings so that interested parties can view them and ask any questions?
Copies of the plans/documents will be available at all meetings.
- What commitment can be given with regards to the existing playground equipment/provision at Eastern Primary School, as this was purchased from the proceeds of fundraising and we would not wish it to be lost?
All playground equipment, including the Astroturf, will be moved to the Grove site if the proposal is approved.
- What access to specialist teacher provision will there be from Grove Academy and will this include modern foreign language provision? Given that peripatetic teachers of drama and art/design have been taken away, can those teachers in Grove Academy support Eastern Primary?
This will be for the two Head Teachers to decide. They have already begun initial discussions and are very positive at the opportunities this presents.
- If the proposal goes ahead, what is planned for the existing Eastern Primary School building, bearing in mind that this is a Grade A listed building? Would it be sold for conversion to residential flats? What is the legal status with regard to the sale of the building and any future change of use?
The building will be declared surplus to requirements by the Director of Education and then handed over to the Director of City Development. We can give the absolute reassurance that it will not be converted to office accommodation.
- There is currently much rumour and speculation on the future use of the existing school building - could the council publish its proposed use of it to run in parallel with the consultation exercise?
This is not a requirement of this consultation exercise, but the point is noted and recorded.
- What impact, if any, will this have on the use of the Centenary Games Hall by Grove Academy, as it is used for public occasions, or for community use?
The Hall will be primarily used by Eastern Primary School during the day, but there will be close liaison with Grove Academy for use, e.g. prizegiving.

- If there is increased space available to Eastern Primary School, will this result in increased numbers of pupils being admitted to the school and will class sizes increase as a result? What, then, would be the impact on Grove Academy in the future?
We are not anticipating any large increase in pupil numbers at Eastern Primary School. There are no concerns whatsoever regarding the capacity of Grove Academy, now or in the future.
- Are the playground and car parking facilities at the old Grove building smaller than the existing provision? How will access to the playground be managed and monitored, particularly if more pupils are taken into the school? Will this result in more congestion around the area of the school at peak hours, i.e. drop off/collection times?
There will be close working with Transportation colleagues to minimise disruption/congestion at peak times. They are already aware of concerns and will be looking to develop a Travel Access Strategy to support traffic movement in the area.
- Can it be confirmed that the old Grove building can provide disabled access?
The building can provide disabled access.
- Can the public consultation events be held in the old Grove building to allow the attendees to view the interior of the building?
At present, this is not possible due to health and safety issues around the site. As soon as it is declared safe, the Parent Council, and thereafter the wider parent body, will be invited to tour the building.
- Why, in the consultation document, are there not more details regarding plans to deal with the traffic congestion which will happen if the proposal goes ahead?
There is the existing 'Park & Stride' arrangement in place at Queen Street car park. This is an issue at every school and we shall be working closely with Transportation colleagues to further minimise any congestion.
- Could the 'Park & Stride' times at the Queen Street car park be extended to allow for more time to walk to/from the old Grove building?
This is a valid issue, and is noted and recorded.
- When the original proposal to relocate only Education and Social Work Department staff to the old Grove building was first mooted, there was an office space identified for the Local Community Planning Partnership officer (currently based in Whitfield). Could there still be consideration to providing her with an office if the proposal goes ahead?
This is noted and recorded.
- What is the potential pupil capacity of Eastern Primary School if relocated to the old Grove building?
The capacity is presently 365 pupils, plus the nursery children. There are no immediate plans to increase this. If, in the future, it did become a 3-stream school throughout then the capacity of primary pupils would be 550. We would stress that there are no plans to move to this at this time.
- Should there not be a parallel exercise to look at the viability of selling the existing Eastern Primary School building, given the current financial climate and the restrictions imposed by Historic Scotland? This should be ongoing at present as the financial saving to the Council must depend in part upon the successful sale of the building for private development.
The point is noted and recorded. This is not part of the official consultation exercise for this proposal.

- Will the Care Commission assess the proposed nursery accommodation?
The Care Commission require to register all premises and this will include the new facility.
- Can Eastern Primary School staff get parking passes or permits for Queen Street car park?
This is noted and recorded, but it is worth noting that all Council employees pay for their parking at work.
- Will there be separate reception/staff areas for Eastern Primary School staff and EDS staff?
Both will have discrete entrances, reception areas and other facilities.
- Will Social Work staff be using the facilities?
No.
- Staff have concerns regarding the corridors and stairwells of the Grove building
This is noted and we will ensure that the issue is given due consideration when the building is refurbished.
- There is some concern from staff in the Enhanced Provision regarding its proposed location, including the discrete entrance.
The point is noted, but this was seen as an educational gain as it would allow the Enhanced Provision pupils to enter calmly and without distractions from other pupils.
- Will staff have a say in the refurbishment of the building, e.g. colour schemes?
There is a protocol for refurbishing buildings/new builds which does involve staff in deciding aspects of the fabric of the building.
- If the school did expand in the future, say to a 3-stream school, could the part of the building used by EDS be reclaimed for school use?
That could be done, but we would reiterate that there are no plans, at this time, to increase the capacity of Eastern Primary to a 3-stream school.
- How involved will the pupils be in the consultation process and, if going ahead, the transition process towards moving to the new building?
As with previous mergers/new builds the pupils will be fully involved and informed in the process. This is an area where, in the past, Dundee has received praise for the quality of pupil involvement and we would expect this to be no different. The process of discussing the proposals with the children has already begun.
- Can catchment areas be reviewed to accommodate parents who live just on the periphery of the Eastern catchment area so that they can have priority 1 status?
There are no plans to review catchment areas at this time.
- What are the anticipated financial savings to the Council and how are these broken down?
There are no exact costs as yet. It is important to recognise that major re-wiring is required in the existing Eastern building. There will be capital savings.

- Why is this only the second option for the old Grove building, after the proposed re-development for office accommodation only, if the benefits, etc. are so great?
The major re-wiring exercise which became known to us required us to re-think the original use of the building. Although the wiring is safe in terms of health and safety, it is 'precarious' in terms of delivering the service. The recommendation to us was that re-wiring could not be done without a major upheaval for the school, involving decanting pupils out of the building, only to return to a building with no enhancements other than re-wiring. If this proposal goes ahead, there will be an enhanced level of accommodation.
- Why is this proposal of an all-through campus arrangement only being considered for Eastern Primary and not for other similar profile schools across the city, e.g. Blackness or Ancrum primaries?
There are opportunities to look at sites all the time. The Director and staff are constantly reviewing the school estate.
- Why was a new build Eastern Primary facility not considered as part of the new Grove Academy project?
The point is noted.
- With regards to potential traffic congestion, have Tayside Police been asked to provide a report or is the Council working along with them to assess the issues?
There is no accident record in the vicinity. Working with Transportation colleagues we would be looking to discourage as many people as possible from driving, and would be looking to develop a Travel Access Strategy. We have regular meetings with the police and will consider a range of options, including making Seafield Road a one-way system and other traffic calming measures.
- How can you ensure that the pupils of Eastern Primary School are not subjected to an 'adverse environment', i.e. exposure to the Grove pupils who can regularly be seen smoking and congregating at the school?
This will be an operational issue for the SMT of both schools to manage. There will be an element of anti-social behaviour in all schools, so no guarantees can ever be given, but the Head Teachers will be robustly monitoring this. There is no evidence to suggest that primary pupils will be at risk: indeed there are many opportunities for positive interactions, e.g. peer support, shadowing, buddying.
- Will Eastern Primary operate staggered breaks and lunchtimes in the new building?
This will, again, be an operational issue for the Head Teachers to address. However, we recognise that this may cause difficulties for some parents if children are coming out at different times.
- How will parents be reassured that there will be a smooth and seamless transition to the new building, i.e. from the present "community school" to an "urbanised complex"?
How we involve parents and young people is a very important part of the process. The Head Teacher, school staff and other Education Department staff will make this a priority and there is already a lot of experience with similar transitions. It is something which we do very well in Dundee.

- Can the consultation process be extended and, if the proposal is rejected, where does that leave Eastern Primary?
The consultation process will end on 28th September. This has already been extended to take account of the corrected paper. If the proposal is rejected, Eastern Primary will remain as it is. However, pupils will still have to be decanted to accommodate the re-wiring which must take place.
- Will the Out of School Care Club 'Schools Out' be integrated into the new building, and not be replaced by a DCC facility?
'Schools Out' will be integrated into the new building. DCC do not operate OoSC provision in any school.
- Is this proposal a short-term solution to the budget deficit? Can this not be put aside in favour of a rise in Council Tax payments?
There is no doubt that financial saving is one driver for this proposal, but it is not the main one. The main driver is the educational benefit and gain which is on offer to the school. This proposal would not have gone ahead if the two Head Teachers were not fully supportive.
- With regard to the educational benefits indicated, has anyone looked at the timetables/staff availability at Grove Academy to ensure that these benefits can be realised?
Both Head Teachers have begun to liaise on the possible opportunities for this.
- Looking at dimensions in the consultation documents, the rooms do not appear to be much bigger than the existing accommodation?
All rooms in Grove are bigger than the current provision, and some are very much bigger. In addition, many of the rooms are of unusual shape, with excellent views and features, along with the space to provide break out areas for pupils to work independently and interactively.
- How will there be the usual excellent and effective nursery - P1 transition when it may involve moving to a new building?
The already excellent transition arrangements will be maintained and implemented. The Head Teacher and staff will ensure that the children enjoy the same benefits and outcomes as if they were transferring within the same building.
- One parent commented that he had personally experienced an all-through campus arrangement and found it "horrific". This was countered by another parent who had experienced this also and thought it was "wonderful".
This point was noted and recorded.
- The curriculum of the school at present provides all the opportunities outlined, so what would be better?
Better accommodation affords more room for active learning and small group provision, and is nearer to the specialist provisions at Grove Academy. The proposed site enhances the curriculum further.
- One parent commented that this is an exciting and wonderful opportunity and should go ahead for the good of the children, and should be viewed as an opportunity and not a threat.
The point was noted and recorded.

FINANCIAL APPENDIX

Capital Costs

Original alterations, etc. to Grove adjusted for Easter PS		£1,340,000
Additional costs at Grove for permanent relocation of Eastern PS		
Toilets for pupils (2 sets)	£80,000	
Toilets for nursery	£20,000	
Servery reinstatement	£15,000	
Dining storage	£20,000	
Fencing and externals	<u>£30,000</u>	
	£165,000	
Prelims and contingencies	<u>£35,000</u>	
	£200,000	
Fees 13.8% (and Admin charges)	<u>£30,000</u>	
	£230,000	£230,000
Decant costs		<u>£40,000</u>
		£1,610,000