

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 17 NOVEMBER 2003
REPORT ON: REPLACEMENT OF KINGSPARK SCHOOL
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
REPORT NO: 725-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to build a new Kingspark School on an appropriate site to be selected from amongst those to be freed up as a consequence of school mergers and closures arising from the Dundee Schools PPP Project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the committee:

- i) approve the proposal to build a new Kingspark School on a vacated Dundee Schools PPP Project site.
- ii) remits the Director of Education to identify options for an appropriate site for the new Kingspark School from amongst those described at i) above.
- iii) instructs the Director of Education to bring forward a further report which sizes the new school following consultation with the Director of Education in Angus Council and identifies site options in light of this.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 At its meeting of 16 December 2002 the Committee approved Report No 898-2002 "Dundee Schools PPP Project – Report on the Outcome of the Formal Consultation Process" which proposed that the new Kingspark School be built on the Kirkton Park site adjacent to the present Kingspark building.

6.2 At its meeting of 31 March 2003 the Committee subsequently approved Report No 260-2003 "Update on the Financial Implications of the Dundee Schools Capital Project" which identified funding for the replacement of the existing Kingspark School from sources outwith the PPP Project.

6.3 At its meeting of 30 June 2003 the Committee approved Report No 449-2003 "Dundee Schools PPP Project – Outcome of the Formal Consultation Process in Respect of the Proposal to

merge Lawside RC Academy and St Saviour's RC High School in a New Build Secondary School and to extend and refurbish St John's RC High School" which proposed that Lawside RC Academy and St Saviour's RC High School be merged in a new build secondary school on the Kirkton Park site.

- 6.4 The area required for the new denominational Secondary School and associated playing fields on the Kirkton Park site precludes the construction of a new Kingspark School adjacent to the present Kingspark School on the Kirkton Park site.
- 6.5 As part of the overall consultation process undertaken by the Education Department, "Parent to Parent" was commissioned to carry out individual consultations with the parents/carers of pupils at Kingspark in their homes. The findings from this consultation indicate that in the view of the parents and carers the actual location of the new Kingspark School within the City is not an issue.
- 6.6 The roll of Kingspark School is presently 142 pupils. Of that number, 35 pupils come from addresses that lie within Angus Council. Consequently, discussions are underway with the Director of Education in Angus as to that Council's position with regard to the provision of the new Kingspark School.
- 6.7 Since the submission of the Dundee Schools PPP Project Business Case in December 2001, further guidance has been published in relation to Section 15 of the "Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000". This "Guidance on Presumption of Mainstream Education" came in to force on 1 August 2003 and requires all those pupils who are able to function in a mainstream school, albeit in a special unit at that school, to be in attendance there. This, in conjunction with the outcome of the discussions described at para 6.6 above may have implications for the sizing of the new Kingspark School.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 As described above the new denominational secondary school and associated playing fields are to be located on the Kirkton Park site. It is therefore not possible to build the new Kingspark School adjacent to the present Kingspark School on the same site. Accordingly a suitable alternative site will require to be identified from amongst the sites to be vacated as a result of mergers and closures associated with the Dundee Schools PPP Project.

8.0 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Chief Executive, the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), the Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and the Director of Leisure and Arts have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

6 November 2003