

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 27 JUNE 2011
REPORT ON: RE-LOCATION OF EASTERN PRIMARY SCHOOL
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
REPORT NO.: 295-2011

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report updates members on the steps which have been taken to prepare the old Grove Academy building for occupation by Eastern Primary School, and to ensure the comfort, safety and security of the Eastern school population.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Education Committee is asked to

- i. note and approve the contents of this report;
- ii. note that pupils and staff will occupy the new Eastern Primary School building from the start of session 2011-12 (paragraph 5.1.1 below); and
- iii. note the expenditure incurred in delivering the project (section 3.0 below).

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The total estimated capital cost of the project of £1.61m, as reported to the Education Committee at its meeting on 22 November 2010 (report no. 658-2010 refers), has now risen to £1.91m. The increase has come about because further necessary works have been identified to improve the heating system, refurbish windows, prepare the nursery location, and provide additional floor coverings. This increase can be met from the Education Department's Capital Budget 2011-12.

3.2 The cost of the various road safety improvement measures (paragraph 5.3.1 below) has been estimated at £50,000. This will be funded £25k from the 'Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets' grant and £25k from the Chief Executive's Health & Safety Capital Budget for 2011-12.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Education and Policy & Resources Committees, at their meetings on 28 June 2010 (report no. 384-2010 refers), approved in principle the re-location of Eastern Primary School into the old Grove Academy building and instructed the Director of Education to begin the formal consultation exercise required in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

4.2 A progress report was approved by the Education Committee at its meeting on 23 August 2010 (report no. 420-2010 refers). In that report, the Director of Education outlined the various components of the formal consultation exercise, and set out details of the available accommodation for Eastern Primary School.

4.3 The formal consultation exercise was opened on 29 June 2010. The Consultation Report, incorporating a positive evaluation of the proposed move by HMIE, was published on 29 October 2010.

4.4 The Education Committee, in report no. 658-2010, agreed to:

- note the Consultation Report;
- re-locate permanently Eastern Primary School;
- establish a Project Board to oversee the re-location project;
- instruct the Director of Education to report back to Committee no later than June 2011; and
- instruct the Director of Education to begin work to re-locate the school.

5.0 MAIN TEXT

5.1 Date of Entry

5.1.1 The new Eastern Primary School building will be ready for use at the beginning of the new session in August. Specifically, permission for additional closure days has been granted by the Scottish Government as follows: Thursday 30th June and Friday 1st July for the packing of materials and resources, and Wednesday 17th August for unpacking. Pupils will enter the new building on Thursday 18th August.

5.2 Project Board

5.2.1 The Project Board was chaired by the Chief Executive and comprised the Convener of Education, ward elected members, parent representatives of Eastern Primary School and Grove Academy, Head Teachers, Tayside Police, Community Council representative, trade union representative and the Director of Education and other Council officers. It met on four occasions between December 2010 and April 2011. In the main, its discussions centred around issues of transport and travel and the construction programme.

5.3 Travel and Transport

5.3.1 The Project Board, having been advised by Tayside Police and Dundee City Council City Development Department staff, agreed a number of specific measures to enhance the safety of young people travelling to and from the re-located school.

- at Queen Street/Church Street: dropped kerbs; and 'SLOW' markings on the westbound approach of Queen Street
- at the Fort Street/Hill Street junction: introduction of signage and flashing ambers; resurfacing and improved skid resistance; and 'SLOW' markings
- at the Church Street/Seafield Road junction: dropped kerbs; footway surface improvements; refurbishment of the pedestrian island to deter 'u turning' vehicles; and refreshment of road markings
- at Queen Street/Camphill Road: re-location of west kerb to improve visibility and reduce crossing width; and replacement of pedestrian barrier with visi-rail
- at Church Street (west side): imposition of limited waiting to remove unrestricted parking
- at Seafield Road: creation of one-way system on the narrow section
- at Claypotts Road: additional dropped kerbs

5.3.2 All necessary Traffic Regulation Orders arising from the above measures are now progressing and should be in place by July 2011.

5.3.3 In total, 5 School Crossing Patrollers will be provided at the following locations: Queen Street/Church Street; Fort Street/Hill Street; Church Street/Seafield Road; Claypotts Road/Camperdown Street; and Camphill Road/Queen Street.

5.3.4 Eastern Primary School and Grove Academy, with the assistance of City Development Department staff and Travel Advisers, will develop a joint Travel Plan for the campus, part of which will be continuing encouragement to parents/carers to make use of the 'Park and Stride' facility at the Queen Street car park.

5.4 Construction Programme

5.4.1 The following internal works are being undertaken in the old Grove building to make it fit for purpose for Eastern Primary School: replacement floor coverings; redecoration; additional toilets; new cloakroom areas; creation of nursery accommodation; lighting enhancement; reinstatement of kitchen; provision of radiator valves and guards; electrical upgrades; IT and telephone installation; roof repairs; heating and boiler upgrade; installation of security doors; installation of interactive white boards; window refurbishment; and replacement blinds.

5.4.2 Externally, various works have been undertaken such as the provision of fencing and ramps. In addition, the Astroturf facility at the old Eastern building will be re-located with a replacement synthetic top covering, and the re-location of the climbing wall and existing equipment and resources (Wendy houses, sheds, planters, etc.) has been agreed. Following consultation with the Head Teacher and the Parent Council, it has been confirmed that no car parking spaces will be created in the playground, thereby creating a safer environment for pupils.

5.4.3 A sum of £10,000 has been made available to commission a piece of public art, both to enhance the school environment and to commemorate the move to the new location. The intention is to focus on a practical and lasting project for the school, and to that end a unique gateway from Church Street is being designed.

5.5 Parental Consultation

5.5.1 The Head Teacher and Council officers have worked closely with the Parent Council in preparing for the re-location. The Parent Council has had access to the building and has made suggestions regarding aspects of the refurbishment. As reported above, parents have also been closely involved in the Public Art project. Finally, a group of parents with keen interest in the outdoor environment have offered advice on the use of the playground space.

5.6 Links with Grove Academy

5.6.1 The two Head Teachers have begun discussions around the use of facilities, concentrating initially on optimum use of PE accommodation by the two schools. Also, the entire Grove cluster has established working groups in literacy and numeracy as part of the Curriculum for Excellence implementation programme, and will add in health & wellbeing next session.

5.7 Office Accommodation

- 5.7.1 The original re-location proposal allowed for a cohort of c.45 FTE staff to occupy a dedicated office wing in the building, separate from the school accommodation. This report confirms that 48 FTE will be based in the office wing, comprising the Education Support Officer (Sports Development), staff from the Active Schools Team and the Sports Development Team, and the Ferry Communities Officer. Given that almost all of these employees are peripatetic, and in many cases also mobile/flexible workers, their impact on car parking at the school is likely to be minimal.

6.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 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.

7.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and the Director of Finance have been consulted on this report.

8.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 Nil

Jim Collins
Director of Education

7 June 2011

JC/MM