

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 21 FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT ON: DUNDEE SCHOOLS PPP PROJECT – OUTCOME OF THE
FORMAL CONSULTATION PROCESS IN RESPECT OF
DECANT ARRANGEMENTS FOR POWRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 123-2005

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The report details the representations made during the formal publication and consultation exercise on proposed decant arrangements for Powrie Primary School.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) note the content of the findings from the consultation as detailed at para 6.4 below
- (ii) instruct the Director of Education to proceed with the implementation of the decant proposal for Powrie Primary School and
- (iii) consult with the trade unions on staffing issues arising from the early merger

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The costs arising from the recommendations contained in this report were approved by the Education Committee at its meeting of 20 December 2004 (Report 836-2004 refers).

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 20 December 2004, the Committee remitted the Director of Education to carry out the Statutory Consultation procedures in terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 in respect of:

- (i) the proposal to merge Powrie Primary School and Douglas Primary School on the Douglas Primary School site at the start of session 2005-06 for a period of one year or until the new school on the site of Powrie Primary School is ready.

6.2 This proposal was advertised in the "Courier" on 14 January and all statutory consultees received a copy of the consultation document on that date.

6.3 An evening public consultation meeting was held at Powrie Primary School on 1 February and at Douglas Primary School on 3 February. A meeting for all Powrie Primary School and Douglas Primary School staff was held at Douglas Primary School on 2 February at the end of the school day.

6.4 A summary of the topics/issues raised in questions asked at the public meetings is attached at Appendix 1 and copies of the full notes of questions raised at the three meetings referred to in para 6.3 above are also attached.

7.0 OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE POWRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL DECANT PROPOSAL

7.1 There was unanimous agreement given to the proposal by the parent body of both Powrie and Douglas Primary Schools.

8.0 CONSULTATION

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

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

4 February 2005

AW/GRP/EAG

DUNDEE SCHOOLS PPP PROJECT

POWRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL DECANT ARRANGEMENTS

SUMMARY OF TOPICS/ISSUES RAISED AT THE FORMAL CONSULTATION MEETINGS

* Asterisk denotes the number and frequency of questions asked under a particular topic heading.

Issues	Health and Safety Inc. - safety of pupils during construction - drop off/pick up - car parking (staff)	Travel/Distance Inc - road safety - transport provision - out of school use	Site Inc - size - location/access - catchment - geographical spread of RC school	Ethos Inc - general ethos of school - school name/uniforms - size of school/class - community ethos - disruption of education	Staffing Inc - levels of staffing - surplus of HT - support staff - staff merge
Powrie P. S.	*	****		*****	*
Douglas P.S.		*		***	***
Staff of the above	*		*	*****	*****

Issues	Nursery Provision Inc - pre-fives - integration of SEN - staffing	Out of School Provision Inc - access -travel distance	Community Facilities Inc - access - cost of lets - competition - security	PPP/Joint Venture Inc - principle of PPP - finance issues - timescale - building maint. - final decision (who) - other options	Technical Inc - consultation re Design with staff/pupils/community - availability of plans	Timescale Inc - timetable - change of admin.
Powrie P. S.	***	**		****	*****	
Douglas P.S.				*	*	**
Staff of the above	****				*	***

DUNDEE SCHOOLS PPP PROJECT
POWRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL DECANT ARRANGEMENTS
PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING
HELD AT POWRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON TUESDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2005 AT 7.00 PM

In Attendance

Councillor Kevin Keenan, Education Convener
Councillor George Regan
Gillian Ross Pond, PPP Project Director
John Don, Education Adviser PPP
David Mann, Education Adviser PPP
Anne McLaren, Head Teacher, Powrie Primary School
Members of the public 45

Questions/Topics raised

- Happy with what has been proposed but what will class sizes be?
- Member of the public indicated that it was not a bad thing to merge ahead of time
- What is going to happen to the teachers?
- Does that mean that all pupils will need a Douglas uniform?
- Do not have a problem with the arrangements proposed as long as all children are the same.
- Concerned about safety matters – there will be additional numbers for pupils going into the Douglas building. Will there be more playtime supervisors and crossing patrollers?
- Will there be enough room for Learning Support teachers to withdraw pupils from classes?
- When will they start demolishing Powrie – will it be in July 2005?
- The letter indicates that the school will be off the Powrie site for a year or as long as it takes which leads me to believe that it might be longer. Is it likely to be longer than a year?
- Is it safe to assume that you will be taking resources from this school to ensure adequate resources for the number of pupils that will be in Douglas?
- Are all the plans ready to go – is there any chance of seeing the plans?
- Are classes going to be bigger than present – will there be more support in the larger classes than at present?
- What about After School Clubs – will they continue in the new school?

- Will Dundee City Council provide After School Clubs – parent indicated she cannot make use of the present Club because she only works part time – she cannot afford to put children to the Boomerang Club?
- Is the school going to have special classes for special needs pupils?

- Are you going to merge classes and use mobile units – will different stages of pupils be mixed?
- Would it not be easier to have a meeting with two schools together rather than separate meetings?
- It might be an idea to have a joint meeting at Douglas when the final plans are available.
- Are there plans to have joint events for pupils of both schools when this goes ahead?
- How will you do the merge of classes?
- If this proposal is given the go ahead you will have to be quick off the mark to let parents know about the preferred uniform so they can prepare in advance?
- Are there going to be two Head Teachers at the new school?
- Will there be a chance for other pupils with disabilities other than hearing impaired to come to the new school?
- Where will temporary classes go in the Douglas grounds?
- How many temporary units will be required?
- Has there been any look at the security for the units – they tend to be a target for vandals?
- Parent expressed concern about the increased volume of traffic around Douglas due to small streets and many more pupils/parents in the area due to the merger?
- Will traffic assessments be done for the new school?
- Is it possible to get another gate into Douglas Primary School?
- Will there be adequate dining facilities for the increased number of pupils at Douglas?
- What is happening to Douglas when the new school is ready?
- Councillors were praised for the work they had done to bring this proposal forward.
- Does Douglas and Powrie have a nursery – will all the children be able to be accommodated - will the times change for dismissal due to the increased numbers of pupils?
- A member of the audience indicated that the LIG circulated a Newsletter to parents after their meetings to keep them informed of developments.
- What happens if the Committee does not approve this proposal?

DUNDEE SCHOOLS PPP PROJECT
POWRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL DECANT ARRANGEMENTS
END OF SCHOOL DAY STAFF CONSULTATION MEETING
HELD AT DOUGLAS PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON WEDNESDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2005 AT 3.30 PM

In Attendance

Gillian Ross Pond, PPP Project Director
Sandy Weston, Education Resources Manager
John Don, Education Adviser PPP
David Mann, Education Adviser PPP
Members of staff from Douglas and Powrie Primary Schools 40

Questions/Topics raised

- What happens about promoted posts?
- Up until very recently staff were under the impression that only Head Teachers would have to apply for their post.
- Who is involved in making the decision on staffing?
- A member of the teaching staff indicated she wished to apply for the wind down scheme but has been led to believe that nothing could be done until the staffing situation was clear – would wish clarification on wind down position – would not wish to have a part time post – she had been told the process could not begin until her timetable was known?
- When will the new Head Teacher be in place?
- Is there a guarantee that the Head Teacher will be in place by June and how will this be achieved?
- At present there is a 20-20 split in the Nursery, however the Nursery is to get bigger due to the merger – can we keep present staff earmarked to be moved?
- If the nursery teacher is to be redeployed out of the nursery would she remain on the school

staff?

- Is the length of service a criterion for deciding who would be moved or redeployed?
- Concern was expressed about a colleague who was distressed because she does not know if she will remain on the staff.
- Member of staff indicated that there will be staff who do not wish to move out of the nursery and others who will.
- There are four Support for Learning staff between both schools – will there still be four staff in the new school – if not how is it decided who goes and who stays?
- Will all Support Staff be guaranteed their jobs in August 2005 in the new school bearing in mind that the new school is to be 0-12 provision?
- If jobs are not guaranteed what is the criteria for redeployment?

- If anyone offered redeployment is not happy about the position offered will there be a package on offer?
- When will support staff be told about their future employment and what is the timetable for that?
- If staff are not happy with the proposals will there be enough time to look for something else?
- What will happen about reduced class contact time provision?
- When will the cabins be on site?
- What do you mean by operational – does that mean we will not get the cabins before the end of the summer session?
- Will there be additional time to prepare, if so when and how long?
- Who is responsible for clearing rooms in Douglas for Powrie and when will this happen?
- Can the process for sifting and sorting resources start now?
- Am I correct in thinking that the school will be for 0-12?
- If there is a 0-5 provision it will have staffing implications – will that mean present staff will stay – will Social Work be needed?
- Is there nursery accommodation for 30 (0-5) places?
- Will a pram park be provided?
- Clarification sought on days allowed to pack up – would this be for both schools? Does this include INSET day at start of term?
- Is there any way we can have additional parking eg make use of the old garden?
- The meetings held in school to discuss PPP – can these be counted towards CPD – would it be permissible to use INSET time for PPP?
- While LIG meetings involve identified staff other staff are concerned that they are expected to do curriculum development – take the development plan forward etc and still devote time and effort to PPP related work.
- When can we start talking about uniform, school name etc?
- How will temporary member of staff covering secondment be affected?

DUNDEE SCHOOLS PPP PROJECT
POWRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL DECANT ARRANGEMENTS
PUBLIC CONSULATION MEETING
HELD AT DOUGLAS PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON THURSDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2005 AT 7.00PM

In Attendance

Gillian Ross Pond, Project Director
John Don, Education Adviser, PPP Team
David Mann, Education Adviser, PPP Team
Councillor Kevin Keenan, Education Convener
Councillor George Regan
Edith Maude, Head Teacher, Douglas Primary School
Members of the Public 6

Questions/Topics raised

- Will there be a new school uniform, ties, school name etc?
- Have the plans been drawn up for the new school?
- Are there penalties against the builders if they do not deliver what has been promised on time?
- Think it is good that the children get the opportunity to merge before moving to the new school.
- How will it work after August – how will pupils and teachers be merged – will Douglas pupils have Powrie teachers?
- Are the teaching methods the same in both schools?
- When will the building work start?
- Who will be the Head Teacher?
- When will this be decided?
- Will the Head Teacher appointment be between the Head Teachers of Powrie Primary School and Douglas Primary School?
- Who makes this decision?
- There will be a lot of children coming to the Douglas Primary School site and the new school – there are changes proposed for the bus services – concerned about safety of the children crossing roads.
- How are people in the community feeling about the proposals?

- With the increased numbers, how is the school going to cope with lunchtimes?
- Will lunchtimes start early?