

**REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 23 AUGUST 2010**

**REPORT ON: PROGRESS ON REVIEW OF GROVE OFFICE AND EASTERN  
PRIMARY ACCOMMODATION**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**REPORT NO.: 420-2010**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee as to progress on the review of Grove office and Eastern Primary accommodation.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The Education Committee is asked to:

- i. note and approve the contents of this report;
- ii. note the Director of Education will bring a final consultation report back to the Education Committee at its meeting on 22 November; and
- iii. note the Director of Education will apply to Scottish Ministers for dispensation from the standards set out in the School Premises (General Requirements and Standards) (Scotland) Regulations 1967, as amended.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

4.1 The Education and Policy & Resources Committees, at their meetings on 28 June 2010, approved Report 384-2010. This included their approval, in principle, of the option to re-locate permanently Eastern Primary School into the old Grove Academy building, and their instruction to the Director of Education to consult formally on that option, in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

4.2 This report gives elected members updated information on the consultation process, and on the comparative dimensions of both buildings.

### **4.3 Consultation**

4.3.1 Formal consultation began on 29 June 2010. A corrected Proposal Paper has been issued which gives details of the extent of the accommodation available at Grove and the consultation period will now end on 28 September 2010, thereby spanning a period of 30 school working days.

4.3.2 Formal consultation includes:

- the preparation of a Proposal Paper and corrected Proposal Paper 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 proposal in the local press;
  - an invitation to any person to make written representation to the Director of Education;
  - public meetings in Broughty Ferry, to be held on 30 and 31 August;
  - meetings with the Parent Councils of Eastern Primary and Grove Academy;
  - meetings with the staff of the two schools;
  - meetings with the Pupil Councils of the two schools;
  - consultation with representatives of the teacher and support staff trade unions; and
  - meetings with other interested bodies, such as Broughty Ferry Community Council, Broughty Ferry Education & Recreation Association (BERA), the Local Community Planning Partnership, and Dundee Leisure.
- 4.3.3 At the end of the consultation period the Director of Education will submit the proposal, copies of written representations and a summary of oral representations to HMle for their consideration, therefore enabling them to raise any issues. A maximum of three weeks will need to be set aside for this part of the process.
- 4.3.4 Thereafter, the Director of Education will prepare and publish a consultation report, containing the views of HMle and an explanation of how the Council proposes to deal with any issues raised. After a period of no less than three weeks, the Education Committee can consider the consultation report and decide whether or not to approve the proposal.
- 4.3.5 The implication of the timescale as set out above is that the Education Committee's final decision is unlikely to be taken before the meeting of the Education Committee on 22 November, and not on 27 September as originally envisaged in report no. 384-2010.
- 4.4 Accommodation dimensions**
- 4.4.1 The attached appendix details the site size of the Grove site, and also offers comparisons with the present Eastern site. Members will recall that one of the major advantages cited for the proposed re-location is the greater space available at Grove, and this is borne out by the figures in the appendix.
- 4.4.2 Specifically, the overall site size of Grove is 7500m<sup>2</sup>, compared to that of Eastern at 4740m<sup>2</sup>. The various accommodation facilities are also generally bigger at Grove, as shown in the appendix. Playground space available at Grove, with three distinct areas in which pupils can play – infant, middle and upper – amounts to 2927m<sup>2</sup>, greater than that enjoyed at Eastern, 2708m<sup>2</sup>. There is more space available for nursery provision, including outdoor play area, viz. 418m<sup>2</sup> against the Eastern figure of 305m<sup>2</sup>. Finally, the area available for vehicle access and parking is greater, 780m<sup>2</sup> against 218m<sup>2</sup>.
- 4.4.3 Current use of Orchar Park for outdoor playing field activities is infrequent, the more so since the installation of the Astroturf facility. Eastern Primary would still have access to this park, or Dawson Park, if necessary, although the greater distance would necessitate the provision of transport. The Head Teacher is quite clear that

use would continue to be infrequent: indeed the availability of the large Games Hall will alleviate any difficulties caused by the continuing lack of an outdoor playing field on the school's doorstep.

4.4.4 Nevertheless, the proposal is to re-locate to another site, which, though clearly bigger, does not satisfy the terms of the School Premises (General Requirements and Standards) (Scotland) Regulations 1967, as amended. It will therefore be necessary to apply to Scottish Ministers for dispensation from these standards and regulations.

4.5 So as not to spend money needlessly, the office conversion contract has now been halted, except for essential repairs to the roof, partially completed electrical circuits and boiler repairs. These works would always have been required, either for the office conversion or for the primary school. No works that are required exclusively for the primary school will be commenced until the Education Committee has received the consultation report and taken a final decision.

## **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:  
<http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

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

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 Equality Impact Assessment

Jim Collins  
Director of Education

11 August 2010

JC/MM

**Eastern Primary School - Old Grove Academy  
Survey of Accommodation**

|   | Eastern<br>m <sup>2</sup> | Grove<br>m <sup>2</sup> | School<br>Premises<br>Regs. 1967<br>m <sup>2</sup> | Excess/<br>Shortfall<br>m <sup>2</sup> |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| <b>INDOOR TOTAL FLOOR AREA</b>                          | <b>3249</b>               | <b>5960</b>             | -  | -                                      |
| <b>SPECIFIC INDOOR FLOOR AREAS<br/>(for comparison)</b> |                           |                         |  |  |
| Basic Classrooms (no. of rooms)                         | 792 (14 rooms)            | 827 (14 rooms)          |  |  |
| IT Suite  | 45 (1 room)               | 81 (1 room)             |  |  |
| Resource Library  | 55 (1 room)               | 63 (1 room)             |  |  |
| Art   | 0                         | 59 (1 room)             |  |  |
| Music/Assembly  | 90                        | 41 (Music only)         |  |  |
| Support for Learning                                    | 40                        | 40                      |  |  |
| Enhanced Provision                                      | 40                        | 87                      |  |  |
| Music Tutorial  | 19                        | 0                       |  |  |
| Dining Room/Assembly                                    | 70 (Dining only)          | 224                     |  |  |
| Hall/Breakout area                                      | 141                       | 128                     |  |  |
| Medical Room/Sickbay                                    | 36                        | 34                      |  |  |
| RCT   | 0                         | 28                      |  |  |
| Stores  | 62                        | 87                      |  |  |
| Cloaks  | 72                        | 116                     |  |  |
| Offices   | 68                        | 74                      |  |  |
| Staffroom   | 47                        | 96                      |  |  |
| Games Hall  | 0                         | 784                     |  |  |
| Nursery   | 101                       | 139                     |  |  |
| -----   |                           |                         |  |  |
| <b>OVERALL SITE AREA</b>                                | <b>4740</b>               | <b>7500</b>             | <b>9000</b>  | <b>(1500)</b>                          |
| <b>SPECIFIC OUTDOOR AREAS<br/>(for comparison)</b>      |                           |                         |  |  |
| Playground Space  | 2708                      | 2927                    | -  | -                                      |
| Vehicle Access  | 218                       | 780                     |  |  |