

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
14 APRIL 2010**

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME: SELECTION OF PRIORITY
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with additional information relating to the prioritisation of schools for the Scottish Government's School Building Programme.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section (D) 14 of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the consideration of capital and revenue budgets and long term financial plans.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That Committee notes the additional information provided and recommends to The Moray Council that they endorse Milne's Primary School as this authority's priority for School Building Programme funding.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the meeting of The Moray Council on 17 March 2010, members considered which primary school to prioritise for the Scottish Government's School Building Programme. Report attached as **Appendix 1**. Members deferred their decision pending additional information being provided on the guidance issued by the Scottish Government and further explanation of the factors influencing Mosstodloch Primary School's change in condition status relative to other schools. This information is provided below.
- 3.2 A copy of the programme guidance received is attached as **Appendix 2**. This identifies that the purpose of the programme is to "lift as many pupils as possible out of being educated in poor accommodation." 6 criteria are listed against which schools are to be considered. These are: National distribution of needs; condition rating; suitability rating; additionality; authority's priorities and readiness.
- 3.3 As very few Moray primary schools were categorised as poor for suitability, the focus of attention was on condition and additionality (ie the value of external funding that could potentially be drawn down to enable the authority to undertake projects it otherwise couldn't afford).
- 3.4 Kinloss and Mosstodloch fitted the criteria as both had significant condition issues and both had formerly been considered for inclusion within a PPP proposal. As a consequence, these were the two schools submitted for inclusion within the School Building Programme. As members will be aware,

Kinloss Primary School was ultimately selected by the Scottish Government for inclusion within the programme.

- 3.5 In terms of Mosstodloch Primary School's changed condition ranking, the following information can be provided:-

Full condition surveys of schools are carried out on a 5 year rolling programme. In between these surveys, the information is refreshed by the maintenance team using their knowledge of buildings and any improvements or changes to them. Such a refresh took place in 2007 when the 2005 survey results were amended to take account of new guidance from the Scottish Executive. In essence, this guidance shifted the categorisation of schools away from an average condition based on floor area to a focus upon the most critical elements of a building such as roofs, heating, ventilation and electrics.

- 3.6 In 2009/10, full condition surveys were completed using the new guidance. The combination of this process together with the four year gap between surveys resulted in substantial changes to the position of some schools. Mosstodloch Primary is a good example of this.

- 3.7 In 2007, Mosstodloch received a score of 56. This made it a low C (bad) for condition and it was in 45th place.

In 2010, Mosstodloch received a score of 58.25. It remains a low C but is now in 34th place.

- 3.8 As can be seen, whilst Mosstodloch's categorisation and score have remained relatively static, its position relative to other schools has changed substantially. This is accounted for by 2 things. Firstly, some small improvements (painting of timber linings and renewal of deep plywood fascias) have been undertaken which will have slightly raised its score. More significantly, however, in the period between surveys, the condition of other schools has deteriorated and, where this deterioration involves elements that now receive a high weighting (for instance mechanical/ventilation represents 19% of a buildings score), these schools have overtaken Mosstodloch. Examples of schools affected in this way are Milne's, Applegrove and Kinloss.

- 3.9 The new elemental system of measuring condition is generally regarded by the industry as a more accurate method of assessing a building's overall condition than systems based on floor area. It is also the system authorities are required to use for the provision of condition information to the Scottish Government. As a consequence, as detailed in the report of 17 March 2010, it is proposed that the 2009/10 condition results together with the potential value of works required are used to select this authority's priority school for inclusion within the School Building Programme. As detailed in the report of 17 March 2010, using these criteria, this authority's priority school would be Milne's Primary.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

This report supports the objectives within the Single Outcome Agreement and Service Improvement Plan for improving the attainment of learners and sound governance of the Council's assets.

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no policy or legal issues arising directly from this report.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The financial implications are as detailed in the body of this report.

(d) Consultations

Consultations have been undertaken with Mark Palmer, Chief Financial Officer, Ron Phillips, Property Services Manager and Educational Services SMT. Where appropriate, their comments have been included within the report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 This report asks Committee to note additional information relating to prioritisation of premises for the School Investment Programme and to endorse the Council's priority primary school for this source of funding.

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Background Papers:

Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Children and Young People's Services
Committee/14 April 2010/School Investment Programme:
Selection of Priority Primary School