

**REPORT TO: EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
13 FEBRUARY 2008**

SUBJECT: INTEGRATED PUBLIC AND SCHOOL LIBRARY PROVISION

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 Committee is asked to approve the proposed programme for the integration of public and school library provision at Findochty and Fochabers.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D(20) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the statutory duty of the Council to ensure the adequate provision of libraries.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Committee approves the proposed programme for the integration of public and school library provision at Findochty and Fochabers as follows:**

**2008 August Findochty
2010 October Fochabers**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the meeting of this Committee held on 28 November 2007 (para 11 of the minute refers) Committee approved a programme for the integration of public and school libraries at Portknockie, Rothes, Burghead, Dufftown and Hopeman and that a decision on Findochty and Fochabers be deferred to allow for more information to be given to local Members on what is being proposed in their Wards.
- 3.2 **Findochty**
 - 3.2.1 A meeting was arranged by the Libraries and Museums Manager with local Members, members of Findochty Community Council and the Acting Head Teacher on 22 January 2008 to discuss possible arrangements in respect of using a ground floor classroom within Findochty Primary School as the community library, the safety issues which precluded public access during school hours, the access and security arrangements to and within the building and the potential for wider community use.
 - 3.2.2 Members of the community council accepted, in principle, the joint arrangement at the primary school, agreed that the summer holidays for 2008 would be an appropriate time for the transfer of the library at least disruption to the school, agreed the need to reconsider opening hours and to contribute

to discussions regarding these, and agreed to identify potential wider community use of the facility.

- 3.2.3 It is anticipated that the detailed planning and consultation will commence following the Easter holidays.

3.3 Fochabers

- 3.3.1 An informative meeting was held with local Members, the Principal Architect, Educational Resources Manager and Libraries and Museums Manager on 17 December 2007 when the Principal Architect was able to set out the complexities of the project at the Milne's High complex and hence the longer timescale than that initially envisaged, with the completion date now being October 2010.

- 3.3.2 The meeting also agreed that given this revised timescale it would be appropriate for officers to arrange a public presentation of the proposed plan and timescales at the earliest opportunity to keep the community informed.

- 3.4 Given the outcomes of these meetings the anticipated programme for the integration of public and school library provision which is planned to take place in 7 communities during the years 2009-2010 is as follows:

2008	c.April August	Portknockie Findochty Rothes
2009	July/August	Burghead Dufftown
2010	July/August October	Hopeman Fochabers (Milne's High School)

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) **Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan**

The provision of adequate library facilities meets Community Planning priorities in respect of Achieving a Healthy and Caring Community, Building Stronger Communities, Investing in Children and Young People and Working for Increased Prosperity. It also meets priorities within the Educational Services Improvement Plan.

(b) **Policy and Legal**

Section 163(2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 places a duty on local authorities to make adequate provision of library facilities in their area.

The policy of integrated libraries ensures this duty and will be developed within the framework of the Public Library Quality Improvement Matrix for Scotland (PLQIM).

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

i) Financial Resources

As reported to Committee on 22 August 2007 the achieving of this enhanced provision can be met within the capital plan and there would be future annual revenue savings, elimination of significant future building maintenance and a reduction in future anticipated annual ICT costs.

ii) Risks

Should the Council not ensure buildings fit for purpose on an ongoing basis then it would be construed as not to be meeting its statutory obligations.

iii) Staffing

The staffing implications were considered by Committee at its meeting of 22 August 2007 and the necessary processes will be put in place in consultation with Personnel Service and the relevant unions.

iv) Property

The property implications were considered by Committee at its meeting of 22 August 2007 and involve the disposal of existing library premises as an outcome of the programme's implementation.

(d) Consultations

Consultations have been carried out with the Head Teachers or Acting Head Teachers at Burghead, Findochty, Hopeman, Mortlach (Dufftown), Portknockie and Rothes Primary Schools and at Milne's High (Fochabers) to agree the proposed timescales.

As agreed at the previous meeting of this Committee meetings have been held with the local Members of the Buckie and Fochabers Lhanbryde Wards respectively in respect of Findochty and Fochabers.

The Educational Services Senior Management Team has been consulted and supports the recommendations within the report.

Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant, has been consulted and agrees with the financial implications within the report.

The Educational Resources Manager has been consulted and would confirm that the proposals complement the School Estate Management Plan.

The Principal Architect has been consulted in respect of the Milne's High project and would confirm the anticipated completion date.

The Head of Estates Services has been consulted and supports the recommendations of the report.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 That the Committee agrees to the proposed programme for the integration of public and school library provision at Findochty and Fochabers as set out in Section 2 of this report.**

Author of Report: Alistair Campbell, Libraries and Museums Manager
Background Papers: Report to Educational & Social Services Committee on 22 August 2007 "Libraries Best Value Review Consultation Feedback".
School Estate Management Plan
Minute of meeting of Education & Social Services Committee 28 November 2007
Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Education and Social Services Committee/
13 February 2008/Integrated Public and School Library Provision