

REPORT TO: THE MORAY COUNCIL ON 17 MARCH 2010

SUBJECT: SCHOOL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME: SELECTION OF PRIORITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of this authority's priority primary school for funding from the Scottish Government's School Investment Programme.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D14 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 and endorses Milne's Primary School as this authority's priority for School Investment Programme funding.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In September 2009, this authority was asked to identify two primary schools to be considered for funding from the Scottish Government's School Investment Programme. This programme is designed to support projects with the potential to improve schools from condition category C [Poor] to condition category B [Satisfactory]. The programme could fund up to 50% of approved expenditure.
- 3.2 Based on condition survey reports from 2008 and cost estimates for addressing highlighted issues, the two schools identified were Kinloss and Mosstodloch Primary Schools.
- 3.3 Outline proposals for these schools were submitted to the Scottish Government and, in November 2009, it was announced that Kinloss Primary School had been selected for inclusion within the programme. No indication of the level of funding was provided as the next stage in the process was detailed assessment and evaluation of the project by Scottish Futures Trust.
- 3.4 Shortly after the announcement regarding Kinloss Primary, the Ministry of Defence [MOD] announced an early out of service date for the Nimrod MR2 together with a delay in the introduction of replacement aircraft. This meant a significant reduction in activity and personnel at RAF Kinloss for a period of potentially 18 months. This, combined with the ongoing Strategic Defence Review, meant there was a significant degree of uncertainty as to the future of the RAF Base and consequently the school roll.

- 3.5 In view of this, officers approached civil servants within the Scottish Government in order to ascertain the possibility of submitting an alternative project to Kinloss Primary and, if this was the case, whether an alternative project could involve more than one school. The rationale behind the second question was that the benefits to the area would be increased if smaller projects were undertaken across a number of schools (all of which would be raised to category B) rather than limiting investment to a single school.
- 3.6 Disappointingly, the response to this enquiry is that whilst the Kinloss Project may be replaced it can only be replaced with another Single School Project. The reason given for this is that this is the criteria that were set out at the outset of the programme and all other authorities have been similarly limited.
- 3.7 In order to determine an alternative priority school, officers have been able to use updated condition surveys completed and assessed in February which have been based upon the Scottish Government's latest guidance. The six lowest scoring Category C primary schools according to analysis of these surveys are Portgordon, Applegrove, Milne's, Anderson's, Dallas and Kinloss. Mosstodloch now appears as the 12 lowest scoring primary school.

The estimated value of works required to raise each of the 6 lowest scoring schools from a C to a B is as follows:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Key Issues</u>
Milne's Primary	£1,200,000	Upgrade/replacement of hatted accommodation
Applegrove Primary	£400,000	Heating, asbestos & wall repairs
Anderson's Primary	£300,000	General external repairs
Kinloss Primary	£300,000	Roof coverings, heating & electrics
Portgordon Primary	£200,000	Water pipes, electrics & lighting
Dallas Primary	£100,000	Urgent roof repairs

- 3.8 Whilst further detailed work is required to finalise the necessary works and associated costs, it is officers view that the single school project which would maximise the external investment for this authority would be Milne's Primary School.
- 3.9 As identified in paragraph 3.1 above, School Investment Programme funding requires to be matched. Match funding for this project would need to come from this authority's Capital Programme. Budget allocations for improvements to primary schools have been made within the five year programme as follows:

	<u>Council Contribution</u>	<u>Scottish Government Grant</u>
2010-11	Nil	
2011-12	£300,000	£200,000
2012-13	£300,000	£200,000
2013-14	£400,000	£400,000
2014-15	£800,000	

- 3.10 As agreed at the special meeting of council on 12 February 2010 only the capital programme for 2010/11 has been determined and figures for 2011/12 onwards are indicative. This means that the earliest improvement works could begin at both the selected and other schools is 2011/12 and will be dependant upon the levels of funding approved.

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 Philips, Property Services Manager. Where appropriate, their comments have been included within the report.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This report asks members to note and endorse the Council's priority primary school for inclusion within the Scottish Governments School Investment Programme.

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Background Papers:

Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Full Council/17 March 2010/School Investment Programme: Selection of Priority Primary School