

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 JUNE 2005

**ST JOSEPH'S ACADEMY (CUMNOCK CAMPUS)
DECLARATION OF SURPLUS GROUND**

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the declaration of the Cumnock Campus of St Joseph's Academy surplus to Educational requirements and also to seek funding to demolish the existing school buildings on the campus.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** At its meeting of 22 June 2004 the Education Committee agreed to the accelerated merger of the twin campuses of St Joseph's Academy, at the Kilmarnock Campus. After referral to and detailed consideration by the Scottish Executive, support for this proposal was confirmed on 23 December 2004.
- 2.2** Since then the plans have been progressed to ensure the smooth transition of all pupils into the Kilmarnock Campus. This has seen transport contracts arranged and restructuring the Kilmarnock Campus accommodation to take account of the additional pupils attending.

3. DECLARATION OF SURPLUS GROUND AND DEMOLITION PROPOSALS

- 3.1** The transition has been successfully completed with all pupils now attending the Kilmarnock Campus. It is therefore reasonable for Council to declare the ground at the Cumnock Campus surplus to Educational requirements, as highlighted in Appendix 1.
- 3.2** In order to ensure on going costs are minimised and the capital value of the site maximised it is proposed to demolish the current school buildings sited on the Cumnock Campus.
- 3.3** The demolition will enhance the value of the site for any future purchaser and the value added is anticipated to be greater than the cost. The expenditure can legitimately be classified as capital therefore and one option may be to utilise the Capital Fund to effectively provide bridging finance given that the proceeds from any disposal will be credited to that fund.

4. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 It is proposed that the demolition costs be met from the Capital Fund given that the resulting enhanced receipt will be credited to the fund.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Council are asked to:

- (i) approve the utilisation of the Capital Fund to facilitate the demolition of the property,
- (ii) approve the funding to ensure demolition of the existing buildings can take place as soon as possible; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

EC/JBS
14 June 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Members wishing further information should contact Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support, Tel: (01563) 576090.