

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10am, Thursday, 20 August 2020

Update on Liberton Primary School

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

Executive

1. Recommendations

1.1 The Policy and Sustainability Committee is asked to:

- 1.1.1 Note the City of Edinburgh Council Motion on the 30 June to agree an update report to the Policy and Sustainability Committee in three cycles setting out the timescale and progress made to date on the rebuilding and refurbishing of Liberton Primary School

Alistair Gaw

Executive Director of Communities and Families

Contact: Crawford McGhie, Senior Manager – Estates and Operational Support

E-mail: crawford.mcghie@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3149

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 On 30 June 2020 a motion to the Policy and Sustainability Committee requested an update report in three cycles setting out the timescale and progress made to date on the rebuilding and refurbishing of Liberton Primary School to a quality and Standard which meets 2020 guidelines for class sizes and communal areas; and which also creates the necessary additional space to accommodate continually rising school rolls.
- 2.2 This report provides the requested update.

3. Background

- 3.1 On Wednesday 5 February 2020 a fire at Liberton Primary school caused significant damage to one wing of the building which contained 12 classrooms. The school had to be closed immediately and an emergency decant was implemented.
- 3.2 Following detailed assessment of the damage it was concluded it would be possible to repair the damaged wing through a large-scale renewal and refurbishment project. In the meantime, the remainder of the school would be suitable for use once it was cleaned. As a temporary replacement, until the classrooms that required to be refurbished are available, a modular classroom village is being provided in the grounds to the rear of the school.
- 3.3 The initial intention was that these modular classrooms would be available as soon as possible after the Easter holidays. However, as part of the COVID-19 lockdown all activity ceased on construction sites in March 2020. While schools remained closed until 12 August 2020, the delays caused by lockdown meant that the modular village was not able to be completed for this return to school date. Some temporary units have therefore been located at the front of the school in order that the school can reopen on 12 August 2020.
- 3.4 This means that all the school is back in one place for the start of the new term. The out of school care provider who were accommodated in the fire damaged part of the school have been very flexible and are currently and temporary located in Inch House Community Centre. They will return to the school as soon as possible on completion of the modular classroom village.

4. Main report

- 4.1 An update on the current situation at Liberton Primary School is provided below.
- 4.2 The temporary units at the front of the school are in place and ready to be used from the beginning of term.

- 4.3 The modular classroom village at the rear of the school is expected to be completed by the end of August 2020. At this point the school will begin to use this new accommodation and the temporary units at the front of the school will be removed.
- 4.4 The immediate focus for refurbishment of the fire damaged building was to make sure it was wind and watertight. The new roof is near completion and replacement windows are soon to be installed. This will address all the wind and watertight issues.
- 4.5 The scope of the proposed internal refurbishment is due to be finalised soon. As the budget for the project is to be covered by insurance, the overriding premise is that the refurbishment will be on a like for like basis. Where changes can be made to the learning environment to support modern learning practices without having an impact on the overall cost these will be introduced. The accommodation being provided is sufficient to meet the current projected roll of the school.
- 4.6 In terms of the delivery timescale for the refurbishment project it is currently difficult to predict the COVID-19 factor, which is affecting Building control, tender periods and site works. However, the current estimate is that the works will take approximately 12 months from the point the final project is instructed.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The scope of the refurbishment project will be finalised, and the detailed design and delivery phase will commence.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The full cost of the project will not be known until the refurbishment element of the project has been fully scoped and tendered.
- 6.2 Where possible costs will be met through insurance. However, it is likely there will be costs incurred that will not be able to be met by insurance which require to be met through the capital investment programme. An update on the full costs of the project will be provided to Committee as soon as they are available.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 Regular update meetings have been held with the school community including the school senior management team and Parent Council representatives.

8. Background reading/external references

N/A

9. Appendices

N/A