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**RELOCATION OF THE PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT AND EDUCATION OTHER THAN  
AT SCHOOL SERVICES TO THE FORMER RISE CARR PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To update Members of progress on the development of an integrated Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) services through the refurbishment of the former Rise Carr Primary School.

**Information and Analysis**

2. A report was provided to members on 18th June providing an update of activities that took place during the Design Development and Tender stages of the project. This report provides an update since the 18th June.

Management Arrangements

3. On the 3rd July, following an interview and selection process, the Authority appointed Maxine Hepple as Headteacher for the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). Maxine is currently Headteacher of the PRU in Northumberland. A release date has not yet been agreed with Maxine's previous employers but it is hoped that arrangements can be put in place swiftly to ensure Maxine can take up her post as soon as possible.
4. A second Deputy Headteacher has also been appointed. Alistair Ormand is currently a senior teacher at a Pupil Referral Unit in South Tyneside. Both Alistair and Maxine are looking forward to engaging with the local community.

Construction

5. The appointed Contractors, Newton Moor Construction, started on site week commencing 9th July.
6. To date there has been one site meeting at which it was reported that progress on the scheme was satisfactory and in line with the programme for completion.
7. Work to date has included the initial site set up, stripping out of rooms, preparing for building work and initial preparation for the new extension that will exist between the buildings.
8. Monthly site meetings will continue to monitor the overall progress of the scheme, in addition a Clerk of Works has been appointed from within Development and Environment who attends site on a daily basis to monitor the work of the Contractor.

Programme

9. The programme remains on track and is as follows:

Contractor to start on site	July 2007 (36 week programme)
Completion of work and handover of building	March 2008
School opens to pupils and staff	March 2008

### Financial Implications

10. The following table shows the approved budget for the project.

	Approved Budget
Construction	£1,800,000
Fees	£200,000
Furniture, Equipment and ICT	£400,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,400,000</b>

11. At the pre-start contract meeting the Contract sum for construction was agreed as £1,728,634 which represents a potential saving of £71,366. This is an informed estimate at this stage as the contractor is still waiting for a revised price from the steel fabricator following the structural changes that were made to the roof of the new extension. It is envisaged that a verbal update will be available for the committee meeting on 10th September.
12. Costs also remain somewhat variable due to the fact that the building is an old Grade II listed building that has been subject to some level of vandalism over the past two years. As with any project involving such a delicate structure it is comforting to have some level of support in the budget to cover any additional unforeseen costs that may arise. Early indications are that the final cost figures will remain in line with the pre-tender estimate of £1.8m.
13. The current level of funding for the project should be sufficient to deliver high quality accommodation. However, there is still not enough certainty in the budget to confirm whether the addition of a path could be accommodated providing direct access to North Park, a key request put forward during community consultation. This issue will remain open for further consideration until such time as a decision can be taken.

### Consultation

14. Officers were invited to attend the North Road Partnership meeting on 9th August, at which they presented the current plans for the new development and discussed the management arrangements for the new facility. Community Use and access to the building was discussed and it was reported that Community Engagement was a key theme for the new management of the Pupil Referral Unit and further discussion would be welcomed once the new Headteacher was in position.

### **Legal Implications**

15. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

### **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

16. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

### **Recommendation**

17. That Members note the contents of this report.

**Murray Rose**  
**Director of Children's Services**

### **Background Papers**

Planning Applications Committee – minutes of meeting held on 4th April 2007  
(Ref 07/00012/DC)

Rachel Jones: Extension 2026