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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 10th September 2007 providing an update of activities that were taking place during the Construction stage of the project. This report provides an update since the 10th September.

Management Arrangements

3. On 3rd July 2007, following an interview and selection process, the Local Authority appointed a Headteacher for the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). The successful candidate is currently Headteacher of the PRU in Northumberland.
4. Work has been on-going since July to arrange a release date for the Headteacher from her current employment. An arrangement has now been made which will allow her to work in Darlington for two days a week from 1st November, with confirmation that she can take up her post from 1st January 2008.
5. A second Deputy Headteacher has also been appointed. He is currently a senior teacher at a Pupil Referral Unit in South Tyneside. It is anticipated that he will be taking up his post from 1st January 2008.

Construction

6. The appointed Contractors, Newton Moor Construction, started on site week commencing 9th July 2007.
7. To date there have been a number of site meetings at which it has been reported that progress on the scheme is satisfactory and in line with the programme for completion.
8. Work to date is now concentrating on the main building and renovation work involved in the scheme. Room layouts are being arranged and work has begun for the new extension that will exist between the buildings.
9. 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

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

Start on site	9th July 2007 (36 week programme)
Completion of work and handover of building	March 2008
School opens to pupils and staff	March 2008

## Financial Implications

11. 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>

12. As reported previously, costs remain variable due to the fact that the building is a 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 difficult to predict whether any additional costs will arise.

## Consultation

13. Contractors on site have reported that there has been no vandalism to date and continue to engage with the community as and when required.
14. A visit by members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee was organised and took place on Monday, 29th October 2007. The visit included a tour around the site with an overview of the work undertaken to date.
15. Upon her arrival in Darlington at the beginning of November, the Headteacher is keen to meet with representatives of the local community to begin discussions around community use arrangements for the new facility. The Headteacher will be making these arrangements during November and December.

## **Legal Implications**

16. 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**

17. 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**

18. Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

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

Rachel Jones: Extension 2026