

**DALINTOBER PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report sets out the current position in respect of Dalintober Primary School, in response to concerns that have been raised in respect of the condition and safety of the building.
- 1.2 Members are asked to:-
- 1.2.1 Note the contents of the report; and
  - 1.2.2 Agree that the condition survey, currently scheduled for 2021/22, is brought forward to this year.

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This report sets out the current position in respect of Dalintober Primary School, in response to concerns that have been raised in respect of the condition and safety of the building.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to:-

- 3.1 Note the contents of the report; and
- 3.2 Agree that the condition survey, currently scheduled for 2021/22, is brought forward to this year.

**4.0 DETAIL**

- 4.1 Dalintober Primary School is situated in the former royal burgh of Campbeltown. The oldest part of the building was built in 1889. Dalintober currently has a primary school roll of 255 and provides Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) for 54 children.
- 4.2 In recent weeks there has been public comment in the local press in respect of the condition of the building. This has been in response to two separate incidents, which took place during the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> January, and on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020, where internal ceiling plaster/wall plaster have failed. There were no injuries associated with either incident. Initial assessments indicate that both incidents were considered to be caused by water ingress.
- 4.3 In respect of the initial incident at the end of January 2020, a decision was taken to relocate P5-7 pupils to Campbeltown Grammar School from 29<sup>th</sup> January until 7<sup>th</sup> February, and to move ELC – P4 to the senior end of the school during this period to ensure the safety of all pupils and to allow assessment/remedial works to be undertaken as quickly as possible. The management of this, with clear and

timely communications to parents/carers, ensured that this was a smooth process for all involved. The second incident at the end of February 2020 was not related to the initial incident or any repair works undertaken. Immediate action was taken by Property Services to make safe and arrange the necessary repair. There was no pupil displacement required due to the second incident.

4.4 Since 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 inspections have been undertaken by the Council Property Officers and the Council's Term Contractor, both at the time of the initial incident and follow up at the second incident, with circa £50K having been spent on ceiling remedial works. The following works are also planned:-

- Quotes currently being obtained for an upgrade of roof leadwork.
- 12 new windows will be installed at Easter, subject to delivery periods
- £20k programmed and budgeted for internal upgrade in 2020/21
- A new condition survey was planned for 20/21 which will be carried out using the updated Scottish Government core facts template.
- In order to minimise any potential disruption to the School, the service will now bring forward the scheduled condition survey to this year with anticipated completion by Easter 2020
- In the event that there are deemed to be any structural issues identified in the condition survey a structural engineer will be used to undertake a structural survey of the areas of concern.

4.5 The Policy Lead for Education and the Executive Director with responsibility for Education visited the premises on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020, as part of a wider programme of Kintyre School visits, and found the school to be thriving with a committed Head Teacher and staff group. No major concerns were raised by staff during this visit and the support put in place to date has been valued by the school.

4.6 Despite assurances from Council Officers that the school is safe, the following motion was agreed at the Mid Argyll Kintyre and the Islands (MAKI) Area Committee on 4 March:-

*In light of the recent unfortunate incident at Dalintober Primary School Campbeltown where a ceiling collapsed within the school building resulting in emergency repairs being carried out to 10 classrooms.*

*The Area Committee agreed to recommend to the Community Services Committee that a full up to date structural and condition survey report relating to Dalintober Primary School is brought before the full Council by the Executive Director with responsibility for Education as a matter of urgency. This will help to provide the necessary reassurance to pupils, parents, staff and the wider community of Campbeltown that the building is currently fit for purpose and also aid the Council as it continues to look to the future in terms of providing fit for purpose primary education facilities for the community of South Kintyre.*

4.7 As detailed at paragraph 4.4 above, a new condition survey is to commence this month and a structural survey will be carried out if any structural issues are

identified. Any issues which may arise from the structural survey will be dealt with in terms of the Council's capital expenditure processes.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

5.1 Following recent property issues at Dalintober Primary School, this report sets out details of the remedial works and measures that have been put in place to ensure the continued safety of pupils and staff within the building.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Policy – none at this time

6.2 Financial – none at this time

6.3 Legal – none at this time

6.4 HR – none at this time

6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: none

6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics - none

6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty - none

6.5.3 Islands - none

6.6. Risk - appropriate measures put in place to ensure the learning and teaching environment remains safe

6.7 Customer Service – none

**Douglas Hendry**  
**Executive Director with responsibility for Education**

**Policy Lead – Councillor Yvonne Mcneilly**

3 March 2020

### **For further information contact:**

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