



School Building Development

The building work is in its third school session. We now have three additional classrooms, two refurbished classrooms, a new gym/ assembly/ lunch hall and newly opened on 20th October 2015- our lovely Nursery building.

We are very excited about current and potential use of our new facilities and, although the disruption to the establishment has, on a daily basis, been challenging at times, the outcomes are splendid!



The Dads, Lads and Daughters project ran two events, the first in January 2015 and the second in May. Each event was well attended with over 120 participants over both events.

January 2015- A number of fun learning activities were delivered including animation, cooking, baking and a build a bridge challenge. These activities had clear links to the curriculum through literacy and technologies. The activities were evaluated with many positive comments being received from pupils and the men attending the project.

May 2015-Activities reflected the evaluation of the first event and this time all activities took place outdoors. Activities included: Scavenge Hunt, Dodge ball, Team building and Barbeque.





Outcomes

- Increased input of fathers and other significant males to pupil education.
 The project has seen over 60 fathers engage with learning activities in the school.
 - All fathers participated in Team building, Literacy, Technologies and HWB demonstrating the importance of cooperation and education to their children.
- Increased input of fathers and other significant males to wider school life.
 Fathers are more visible around school and are now participating in many other activities including "Let's Cook" "World of Work" "P7 Barbeque and Activities Week".

Many of the men attending the project have made offers to help in other areas (landscaping, sports coaching organising future Dads, Lads and Daughters events.) This evidences building capacity within the school community and helps build stronger partnerships with parents.





Commonwealth Games Legacy



The legacy period of the Commonwealth Games has been and continues to be a particularly enriching time for the whole establishment. The school's programme was extensive and in no small way challenged by losing our gym hall. With pride for all in the community, the school completed everything on its plan, including:

- ✓ The launch of a Radio Station, 'Radio Anto'
- ✓ Strengthening of our existing link to Denham Town School in Kingston, Jamaica
- ✓ Visits to actual Commonwealth Venues
- ✓ A family Commonwealth Quiz
- ✓ Additional after school clubs
- √ Junior Journalists' notice board
- ✓ Legacy Pledge
- ✓ Fitness challenges
- ✓ Learning about smaller Commonwealth countries as well as our '2nd countries the Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago
- Inclusion in the Cluster Commonwealth Choir and subsequently the Commonwealth Games Festival

The school not only maintained its Gold status within Falkirk's Going for Glasgow programme, it:

- ✓ Secured Gold status
- ✓ Won the trophy for 'Clyde On Tour"
- ✓ Won the runner up trophy for 'Most Unique Sport Experience'
- ✓ Won the trophy for 'Over All Best School In Falkirk'

The heavy investment in skills development through 'The Games' paid tremendous dividend to the school in general and pupils in particular. We are grateful to all partners who helped the school towards the level of success that was achieved.

We also acknowledge tremendous partnership work between all schools in the Denny Cluster, in conjunction with our Active Schools Coordinator.







Global Citizenship

The school has a renewed vision for Global Citizenship, or, Sustainable Education. We have created a Community Hub which we are using to develop links to the local community and provide a space for parents to meet and learn.

Our children will have six sessions across the school calendar where they will work in multi-stage 'Community Groups', such as...Jet Setters (International Education), The Voice (Pupil Council), Traffic Troops (Transport), Web and Radio Broadcasters (Radio Station), Patch it up Pals (Peer Mediation) and Blooming Brilliant (Gardeners).

Our Eco groups continue to work hard towards the attainment of a fourth Green Flag later in the session.





Jamaica was our link country established through 'Going for Glasgow'. In June we had a visit from a Jamaican Reggae artist, Claudius England, who shared with us many similarities between Scotland and Jamaica as well as entertaining us. We continue to enjoy our link with Denham Town School in Kingston, Jamaica. Our older pupils have been learning about historic links to Jamaica and will be involved in a Caribbean art project with others in Denny Cluster.



Science Focus Week and Maths Focus Week

Antonine ran a special focus week for both subject areas, each of which provided great learning experiences. Parents whose employment requires skills in Science techniques, in Numeracy and in Maths processes were invited into classes to share with pupils some information about their daily jobs.















Returning from a visit to Glasgow University to receive awards for success in Science projects







Quiz Success

After seeing off some hot competition, our lads brought the Denny Cluster Quiz shield back to Antonine. This yearly event is always great fun; we are grateful to our friends from 'Rotary' who organise this for us.

Tough Mudder

Throughout our building project we have been challenged by....mud! What better way to embrace this whilst holding on to a sense of humour, than to engage in *Tough Mudder*. Great fun was had by children and adults alike!



Bankier Primary School News

Primary 6 and 7 have just returned from a week at Dounan's. They met Kinnaird and Darvel Primaries while they were there. They had a fantastic time despite the rainy weather at the start of the week as you can see from the pictures.













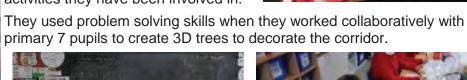
Bankier Primary School News

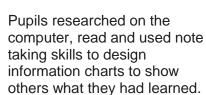
There was a coffee morning held with The Banknock Parent & Toddler group raised a total of £117.50 for Strathcarron Hospice. This was attended by staff and parents of Bankier Primary School working in partnership with Community Learning and Development.

Primary 6 at Bankier Primary have been involved in planning their Rainforest topic. They have been learning independently and in groups about the 4 layers, plants and animals of the Amazon

Rainforest. Here are some of the activities they have been involved in:











Pupils observed different orchids and showcased their wonderful art skills.





Pupils got messy and enjoyed using papiermâché to create a base for designing their Rainforest animal head.

Pupils applied there photography skills to take interesting photographs of our own forest.

Our topic will end with the pupils showcasing all their learning to invited parents and carers.

We have also been having some 'Bankier Come Dine with me' sessions with their parents/carers/ Grandparents. These are focussed around healthy eating, and wellbeing. So far we have had two events this session for Primary 2 and Primary 3.



Denny Primary School News

Denny Primary are Eco Warriors

Denny Primary School enjoyed a busy Eco Week at the end of April when pupils were involved in Eco related activities.

All classes, from Nursery – P7, took part in the Keep Scotland Beautiful National Spring Clean. The children worked very hard to collect litter in the school playground and surrounding areas. They particularly enjoyed the chocolate treats that had kindly been donated by Greggs – Yum!

On Yer Bike!

Pr5 pupils worked very hard during the Summer term on Bikeability Level 1. As well as becoming more confident when riding their bike they also learned about bike safety and how to look after and check their bike. The school have 5 teachers all trained In Bikeability Level 1 and 2 who all worked with the children. George Callaghan, Transport Planning Officer, worked very hard with the staff and pupils and we would like to thank him for his time and support.

Denny Primary Sports Stars

Throughout the year the pupils have taken part in many different sports. Denny Primary has been represented in Football, Tennis, Basketball and Running. We have held our own Ryder Cup Golf competition and during a very successful Health Week children got the opportunity to use the swimming pool at Denny High School for Water Polo.

BBC Ten Pieces Project at Denny Primary School

The aim of BBC Ten Pieces

- ★ Introduce a generation of children to 10 pieces of classical music
- ★ Act as a catalyst for creative activity
- ★ Help schools to deliver the music curriculum
- ★ Collaborate with partners to maximise the impact of music and arts education

P5 started off by learning about all the 10 composers with Susanne, our YMI tutor and Mrs Cybulska, their class teacher. We learned about rhythm and made our own Meredith grids for our own composition. We listened to the pieces and visualised what the story was about. We wrote an assembly to tell the whole school and parents all about Ten Pieces – we even practiced on Halloween, outside in our fancy dress. Displays

were made for the school corridors so all the pupils could learn about the composers and each class chose a composer to learn about. We then had to compose our piece for the Ten Pieces competition for the BBC. Next we had to write lyrics to go with the music. We did this cooperatively and worked

as a whole class till it was perfect.

Our composition was written and then choreographed and also a video was made to be sent to the BBC. As we have 10 classes each class chose a different composer and learned about his music. At the same time a bid was written to go into the BBC



to see if we could win a BBC and BBC SNO Take Over Day. There were only 4 Scottish schools places to be had and we won one of them!

The Take Over day was amazing and one we will never forget! On the day pupils were members of the orchestra, reporters, film crew and sound crew and part of a large choir. The whole day was filled with music from start to finish. The BBC staff could not have been more helpful or approachable. The staff were all so empathetic to the children who have specific difficulties and ensured that there was complete inclusion in the day. The producer was approachable, informative and ensured that the day progressed smoothly, communicating with the Primary School Staff at each stage in the proceedings. Throughout the day the BBC team kept the pupils totally engaged in the workshops and the 2 whole school assemblies. The pupils in my class wished they could do this day every day and did not want it to end.



Denny Primary School News Cont'd

Primary 5 Class Band Project at Denny Primary

At the end of 2014 P5 embarked on a new project, the class Band project. Funding had been secured to supply a violin for each P5 pupil and the teacher. Mr Atkinson, the violin specialist, started to teach us all. The class and the teacher all played together every Wednesday morning for half an hour and by the end of the year we were on stage at the Town Hall performing in the Falkirk Council concert playing with the other 2 Falkirk Schools who were



involved in this. They had learned brass instruments and woodwind instruments and so we were all able to perform together. Every child in the class took

part and every child enjoyed playing their violin. A great experience.

The Class band project has been shared by our French friends from Creteil, and they were very impressed with our progress.

The Class Band Project has proved so successful that we are doing it all again this year and this year's P5 are thoroughly enjoying the experience too.

Denny Nursery Outdoor Learning

Since opening in November 2011 the Nursery have been working to develop our school grounds and develop our interest in Outdoor learning.

All of our children spend each Monday in our nearby woods as part of Muddy Mondays. We have been working in partnership with some of the local voluntary groups to develop this site and to get others to take more of an interest in the outdoors and the learning that can take place here. Our

children love spending time here and staff plan a vast amount of activities that involve literacy, Numeracy



and health and wellbeing. Most of the time these activities take a completely different direction as the children often take their interest into a different area. (we love to roll down hills and get mucky). The children are developing their understanding of risk and are able to risk assess our area before we explore the woods. All our children have a buddy within the school and they have spent time in the woods developing friendships and working cooperatively with the children. This year the buddies will be working with our Nursery children to develop their own ideas and build on new friendships.

As part of our School and Nursery improvement plan the Nursery have been working with staff and children to develop the school grounds to make it a more natural and inviting place to play and learn. This year we have been very fortunate to develop our school Orchard with a grant for Grow your own future, which the Nursery will have responsibility for one of the planters that each class will have to grow our own fruit and vegetables.



We have developed part of the Nursery garden in consultation with the children. Our first part of our project has included a purpose

built mud kitchen. The mud kitchen was built by one of our ex- Nursery parents Paul Harris Joiners. The Mud kitchen has been a welcome addition to our outside area and the children (and staff) are loving playing here. The children's imaginations have gone wild and the school children are desperate to get in and have a turn too!

We love to be outside in all areas and have been building dens and stages to have our very own

shows outside. The next stage is a construction area, shelter and outside music area, so watch this space.



Nethermains News - P1 Literacy Learning

Primary 1 have been working so hard this term learning new skills within literacy. Our main focus has been on the six reading comprehension strategies, in particular: main

ideas, metalinguistics and visualisation.

We used a thinking reader approach to read the story 'Robot Rumpus' and our teachers covered the book in gold paper to allow us to visualise our own front cover based on what we heard.



We were able to transfer some of our reading skills to our IDL topic of Fairyland and we have been working together to sequence the main points of Goldilocks and the 3 bears and Jack and the beanstalk.

Upper Nurture Group at Nethermains Primary School

At Nethermains Primary school we value social and emotional wellbeing alongside curricular attainment. As such we are always looking for ways in which we can support our pupils in this respect.

This session we are running a nurture group for pupils in our upper school. Our focus for the group is to strengthen bonds between children and significant male adults within home and school, to create opportunities for adults to be positive role models to the children, and to broaden the types of experiences for children and adults.

Working with the teacher, the pupils created a list of different activities they would like to try. So far we have had a cooking session with the adults, where we made pizza and had a meal together; planted daffodil bulbs in the school grounds; visited the Boness and Kinneil Railway museum; and enjoyed an afternoon of den building and fire making in the local woods.

In the future we hope to visit museums in Glasgow and Edinburgh and go on fishing trips within the local area.







Pupil Council Fundraising Movie Night

On Wednesday the 3rd June 2015, Denny Primary School had a Movie Night which was organised and run by the Pupil Council. We had the idea back in February and spent a lot of time organising it. We got our ideas together to create a letter to tell everyone about it. When we finished it we got it printed and sent it out to parents. The Pupil Council also made up the tickets and sold them. The two films that were shown were Spongebob Squarepants the Movie for P1-3 and Mrs Doubtfire for P4-7. The Primary 1-3s film started at 3.15pm and finished at about 5.15pm. Half way through the film we had a break where everyone got a hot dog, a choc ice and a drink which was served by the Pupil Council members in

P4-7. The Primary 4-7s film started at 5.45pm and finished at around 8 o'clock. This time we all got our hot dog, choc ice and drink before the film started. The movie night was a great success! We made a total of £305 profit and split it between two charities, Strathcarron Hospice and the new Maggie's centre, each getting a grand total of £152.50. The whole school really enjoyed the event and we are looking forward to organising this event again soon!

By Luke Rankin and Euan Cameron

Chair and Vice Chair, Denny Primary Pupil Council

Keep Scotland Beautiful - Eco Schools News

Think About Food Waste

Transport isn't just about how we get to school and work, it's about how goods and services reach us and how we deal with waste. Where does our food come from? How is it transported? What happens to food waste and how is it collected? We are pleased to be accompanying young people from four Glasgow secondary schools to Milan to discuss a Food Waste Charter as part of Don't Waste Our Future the first European Youth & Local Authorities Forum against food waste and for the right to food. Young people and local authority representatives from seven European countries will agree a Food Waste Charter that will be brought home to each of the seven countries participating. We are excited about the opportunity to involve young people in an important conversation and look forward to seeing the results of their discussions with local authorities.

Walk to School

Living Streets Scotland want every pupil in Scotland to have the opportunity to walk to school safely and easily. They offer a number of resources for both <u>primary</u> and <u>secondary</u> schools to encourge low carbon travel.

Junior Climate Challenge Fund Projects

Many of the opportunities we offer through our activities at Keep Scotland Beautiful could help you develop skills and experience as well as tackling climate change. There are many projects funded by our <u>Junior Climate Challenge Fund</u> on transport, waste reduction and food to get involved with. If you'd like to learn some new skills that also help to reduce local carbon emissions <u>get in touch</u> with a group near you

A Recipe for Success

Take around 240 catering staff mix along with 334 cleaners add a generous handful of new P1 pupils, combine with an already established service model to produce an enthusiastic quality driven school meal and cleaning team.

As from August 2015 Catering & Building Cleaning are now part of Children Services, the move has been seen as a positive one, particularly for Catering Services, as this will allow closer joint working with the child at the centre in terms of food provision. The Catering Management Team are optimistic for the way ahead and welcome the opportunity for schools and kitchens to collectively review what has been achieved and to jointly agree what further improvements are needed to deliver the Better Eating, Better Learning (BEBL) key objectives:

- Ensuring that school food provides affordable access to good nutrition for all children and young people
- Optimising the uptake of school meals, in particular for those children and young people receiving free meals;
- Supporting children and young people, their parents, teaching and catering staff, to enjoy and value school food for its quality, provenance and appeal.

As cleaning employees are now part of Children's Services we anticipate this joint working will be beneficial in ensuring that essential cleaning standards are achieved.

We will use the Children Services newsletter over the following months to keep colleagues updated on any "good news" stories relevant to catering and building cleaning...... Watch this space.

Key Contacts: Leona Ferguson, Service Manager Catering & Building Cleaning
Judith Borg, Catering Coordinator





Learning Resource Service

Bookbug P1 packs

The Learning Resource Service will be distributing the Bookbug Primary 1 Family Bag to all primary schools in the next couple of weeks to allow each school to gift the bag to every Primary 1 child leading up to and during Book Week Scotland, 23rd - 27th November 2015.

The Bookbug P1 Family Bag is produced by Scottish Book Trust and will contain additional resources through a partnership with Education Scotland and the Scottish Government as part of Read, Write, Count, a new literacy and numeracy campaign aimed at children in P1 to P3.



New resources

We have added two new titles to the reading sets' collection – The Brilliant World of Tom Gates by Liz Pichon and You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum by Andy Stanton.

The Learning Resource Service participated in the Care Leavers' Festival at the FTH on 20/10/15 with a storytelling corner and gifting Bookbug packs to young mums.

Primary Schools Cross Country League 2015-16

The Primary Schools Cross Country League, run by volunteers from the local athletics club, Falkirk Victoria Harriers, got off to an amazing start on Tuesday 6 October, with Callendar Park once again turned into "a sea of pink!" There was great excitement from the 800+ pupils arriving, from 32 schools, as they were soon to meet **Lynsey Sharp**, current Commonwealth Games silver medallist (800m), and former European Champion.

A huge big thank you to Lynsey Sharp for coming along and supporting the event, inspiring the children to run their very best on the day, as well as encouraging everyone, from the winners of the races right through the field to the back markers, who are delighted with their own personal achievement of completing the 1 mile course. It was a pleasure to have the Provost Pat Reid join us again and we are grateful for the continued support from our partners Go Run For Fun Team. Thanks to all the club volunteers, Graeme High senior pupils, Active Schools Co-ordinators, British Red Cross and Bryan Burnett (Radio & TV Presenter), on the mic, who is a fantastic addition to ensuring the event runs smoothly on the day.

Congratulations also to Sophie, from Kinnaird Primary School, who was the 95,000th participant in the Go Run For Fun Campaign, thereby marking this superb milestone in Falkirk! It was an excellent morning of racing and thankfully the rain did not come on until the end of the last race.

Any school not already involved and who would like to take part in the next match at Callendar Park on Tuesday 17th November should contact **Caroline Lawless (caroline.lawless@falkirk.gov.uk)** for further details. Falkirk Victoria Harriers coaches are also available for taster sessions and training / coaching advice. Results from the first match:-

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2015

1	Summer	Christie	Ladeside	f	P7	6:46
2	Dana	McMillan	Deanburn	f	P7	6:46
3	Cara	Robertson	Maddiston	f	P7	6:46
1	Katie	Christie	Kinnaird	f	P6	6:46
2	Sophie	McLeod	St Francis	f	P6	6:59
3	Emma	Kinghorn	St Francis	f	P6	7:07
1	Carmen	Judge	Sacred Heart	f	P5	6:48
2	Ava	Judge	Sacred Heart	f	P5	6:55
3	Leah	Johnstone	Head of Muir	f	P5	7:07
1	Nathan	Campbell	Carronshore	m	P7	5:48
2	Jonathan	Faulks	Kinnaird	m	P7	5:50
3	Ivan	Ramsay	Victoria	m	P7	5:50
1	Thomas	Fulton	St Bernadette's	m	P6	6:04
2	Harry	McAinish	Laurieston	m	P6	6:07
3	Callum	Gray	Ladeside	m	P6	6:17
1	Scott	Robertson	Ladeside	m	P5	6:22
2	Mitchel	McCole	Bonnybridge	m	P5	6:27
3	Jamie	Wyllie	Bantaskin	m	P5	6:32



School Teams						
P5 Girls						
1st	Victoria PS					
2nd	Larbert Village PS					
3rd	Carronshore PS					
P6 Girls						
1st	St Francis RCPS					
2nd	Airth PS					
3rd	Ladeside PS					
P7 Girls	·					
1st	Ladeside PS					
2nd	Maddiston PS					
3rd	St Francis RCPS					
P5 Boys						
1st	Bo'ness Public					
2nd	Head of Muir PS					
3rd	Larbert Village PS					
P6 Boys						
1st	Carron PS					
2nd	Comely Park PS					
3rd	Carronshore PS					
P7 Boys						
1st	Larbert Village PS					
2nd	Head of Muir PS					
3rd	Comely Park PS					

Calendar of Events November 2015

NGT - Sealock House	05 Nov
Remembrance Sunday	08 Nov
Education Executive - 9.30am	10 Nov
Diwali - Hindu Festival of Lights	11 Nov
World Diabetes Day	14 Nov
Children's Services Meeting - 9.00am - Venue TBC	18 Nov
Universal Children's Day	20 Nov
Bo'ness Cluster HT Meeting - 1.30pm - Deanburn PS	24 Nov
St Andrews Day	30 Nov

East Stirling Galaxy Success

Young footballers from East Stirling Galaxy based in Grangemouth are celebrating after success at a prestigious European tournament. The boys, all aged under 14 became the first ever Scottish club to win the Euro Sporting Holland challenge Cup defeating teams from the host nation, Belgium and Denmark along the way.

The event, which took place over the Easter weekend was attended by almost two hundred clubs from all over Europe saw East Stirling Galaxy triumph 4-3 on



penalties after their final game ended in a 1-1 draw.

They were officially presented recently with the trophy by Minister of

Sport for the Scottish Government MSP Jamie Hepburn.

Coach Roddy MacPhee said he was 'thrilled proud and delighted' for the players saying the victory was reward for years of hard work. 'To win a competition that has never been won by a Scottish club is a tremendous achievement. It was also very pleasing that the organisers took time to compliment the boys for their attitude and behaviour, I don't think they will understand the extent of this achievement until years from now but I hope they feel as proud of themselves as we all do of them. They are an incredible group of boys". East Stirling Galaxy who play in the CSFA A division hope to return next spring and defend their title.

Children Matter Newsletter

I asked, You said, I did (or shortly will do!)

During September, a survey was conducted amongst the readership of the Children Matter Newsletter. Here's what respondents told us. 80% of respondents were school based.

75% of respondents read Children Matter every month and 60% have contributed an article to the newsletter in the last three years.

60% enjoyed reading the staff and school news the most but 30% didn't like when the newsletter linked to other information.

Almost 80% of respondents think the newsletter should continue for reasons including,

'Good information sharing resource to hear about events across Falkirk'

'It is a good way of bringing folk together, and can assist in understanding roles and ethos'

'An excellent source of information, another avenue to keep staff up to date and, if used, a key communication tool for all (especially Managers)'

Those who felt it shouldn't continue were concerned about cost, time used to write articles, whether the newsletter could reflect the diversity of the new service, and whether digital platforms were more appropriate.

The majority of respondents did not suggest an alternative name for the newsletter, so the Senior Leadership Team will be consulted on their preference.

What I will do -

- Children Matter newsletter will continue and will be re-launched in January 2016 with a new look.
- Staff and school news articles will continue to share good practice - each cluster and division will feature.
- All divisions of the new service will be invited to share their work in the newsletter - look out for next month's edition which will feature articles and who's who in Kathy McCarroll's teams.
- Printing costs will be further reduced by a third as the newsletter will be circulated electronically more widely. In 2004, 4,500 copies of the newsletter were printed. Now only 340 copies per month, soon will be reduced to 250 copies per month.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to Children Matter. Please feel free to submit articles that you think will be of interest to colleagues in Children's and other services. I will continue to monitor all aspects of the newsletter and make ongoing changes as the new service, and digital media, continues to evolve.

Diane Cherry, Communications Officer, Editor

Parent Council - meeting dates

Please find below Parent Council meeting dates that we currently know. If a time is not mentioned we have not been given the information. All meetings are taking place in the school unless otherwise stated.

School Name	Date of Meeting	Time of Meeting
Kinneil PS	1 st December 2015	6.30pm
Ladeside PS	23 rd November 2015 18 th January 2016 7 th March 2016 9 th May 2016 13 th June 2016	7pm
St Mungo's HS	3 rd December 2015 21 st January 2016 10 th March 2016 12 th May 2016	7pm
Whitecross PS	1 st December 2015 12 th January 2016 2 nd February 2016 1 st March 2016 10 th May 2016 7 th June 2016	7pm – 9pm

Communications, Quality Improvement Team, Sealock House, Grangemouth FK3 9XB

CS.Comms@falkirk.gov.uk – tel: 01324 506600

Last updated:- 13/11/15

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE - REPORT TO COUNCIL

Meeting: Information Bulletin
Date: 16 December 2015

Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Executive agreed, on 18 August 2015, the attendance of Councillor Black at the Institute of Healthcare Management Annul Conference and Exhibition in Glasgow on 8 and 9 October.
- 1.2 Previously the Executive agreed that those members who attend a conference should provide verbal or written feedback to Council. The Provost has confirmed this will be done by means of a report to the Council Information Bulletin.
- 1.3 Councillor Black's report is attached as an appendix.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Council is invited to note the report.

Director of Corporate & Housing Services

Date: 23 November 2015

Contact Officer: Brian Pirie