Edinburgh Schools Structural Issues & Aberdeenshire Council Response

Following the issues affecting the Edinburgh Schools constructed under PPP contracts, Aberdeenshire Council instructed inspections and investigations of the nine schools within our estate, listed below, which were procured under PPP contracts. This Briefing Note summarises the actions undertaken by Aberdeenshire Council since then and outlines those actions now planned.

- Banff Primary
- Hill of Banchory Primary
- Kintore Primary
- Longside Primary
- Meldrum Academy
- Oldmeldrum Primary
- Portlethen Academy
- Rosehearty Primary
- Rothienorman Primary

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Inspections were undertaken at nine Aberdeenshire schools in partnership between Aberdeenshire Council, the PPP Project Company and their contractor;
- The subsequent reports identified that some more detailed inspections would be “good maintenance practice” following risk assessment of the building type;
- Some requirements for remedial works were identified and have now been agreed with the PPP Project Company; and
- The identified works represent no immediate risk to structural safety or building integrity.

**Intrusive Investigations:**

As previously advised, the intrusive investigations undertaken at the nine schools constructed under PPP contracts on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council identified the following:

- A potential requirement for head restraint to the inner leaf where it meets the structural frame at some locations;
- The outer leaf of blockwork is not tied in where it extends above the inner leaf, although the detailing of the roof cladding does provide restraint; and
- Some localised inadequate embedment of wall ties.

**Proposed Remediation Works:**

Following extensive review and analysis of the original design information and the as built construction as found during our investigations, we have now approved a programme of remediation works to be undertaken by the original contractor over the course of the forthcoming summer holiday period.
The works will commence on Monday 03 July at Kintore and Longside Schools and continue across the PPP estate throughout the summer holiday, principally including the following:

- Internal head restraint to be installed where required; and
- Installation of remedial wall ties where required.

These works will be undertaken at no cost to Aberdeenshire Council.

The programme for completion of these remediation works has been added to the following page on the Aberdeenshire Council website:

http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/building-improvements/condition-assessment/

While there may be localised restrictions during the course of the works each of the buildings will remain operational throughout.

In the meantime, Aberdeenshire Council would reiterate the assurance previously provided in respect of the safety of the buildings by our consultant chartered engineers who advised as below:

- While the intrusive investigations have found some non-compliances with the exact requirements of the Design Codes of Practice, a thorough appraisal by Chartered Structural Engineers has concluded that whilst some measured and carefully planned remedial works are recommended, there is no emergency requirement for these works and there are currently no immediate risks to structural safety or building integrity; and
- As a result of the inspections, the majority of schools were found to be in good structural condition. A small number of schools have been investigated further as a matter of prudence and none of these has been found to be structurally unsafe or require any kind of emergency response.
- In summary, whilst it is evident that some remediation works will be required to the schools, we would stress that our engineers have advised that there is no immediate safety risk.

John Macleod
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