

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of FIRST MEETING of the **EDUCATION COMMITTEE** held in The Town and County Hall, Forfar on Wednesday 23 August 1995 at 5.30 pm.

Present: Councillors BRIAN M C MILNE, WALLIE B LEASK, RICHARD B SPEIRS, HELEN ANGUS, SHEENA WELSH, Mrs RENATE LAMONT, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, Mrs FRANCES E DUNCAN, SANDY WEST, KATHLEEN RITCHIE and GEORGE ALLAN.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor GEORGE NORRIE.
Councillor MILNE, Convener, in the Chair.

Before starting the business of the Committee, the Convener welcomed members to this first meeting of the Angus Council Education Committee and introduced the Director of Education and the four Heads of Service who had recently been appointed.

1. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

There was submitted and noted a list of the members of the Council who had been appointed to the Education Committee.

2. TAYSIDE EDUCATION SERVICE (A) A GUIDE TO SERVICE PROVISION (B) POLICY REVIEW DOCUMENT

There was submitted Report No AC49/95 by the Director of Education with which were enclosed two documents (A) "A Guide to Service Provision" and (B) "Policy Review". These had been prepared by Tayside Regional Council in advance of Local Government Reorganisation.

The Guide to Service Provision had been written in order to help inform the successor education authorities to Tayside Regional Council and the Policy Review Document set out a comprehensive list of education policies currently being operated by the Regional Council.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) that members should use the documents as background sources of information as detailed consideration was given to specific educational issues in the coming months; and
- (2) that the Director of Education should maintain in place the educational policies of Tayside Regional Council, with effect from April 1996, but should review the policies regularly.

3. ZONING OF SCHOOLS

With reference to Article 1(1)(a) of the minute of meeting of Interim Executive Committee of 6 June 1995, there was submitted Report No AC47/95 by the Director of Education setting out options for the zoning of schools for administrative purposes and allocating geographic responsibility to members of the Education Department Senior Management Team.

The Committee approved the terms of the Report and agreed that the education administrative zones should be established and responsibility allocated to officers as follows:

East Zone - Arbroath, Montrose

Responsible officer - Neil Logue, Head of East Angus Education Provision (and Human Resources Section).

West Zone - Forfar, Kirriemuir and Brechin

Responsible Officer - Jan Nowak, Head of West Angus Education Provision (and General Services Section).

South Zone - Newtyle, Monifieth and Carnoustie

Responsible Officer - Mary Ray, Head of South Angus Education Provision (and Services to Learners Section).

4. SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION FOR ANGUS PUPILS CURRENTLY PROVIDED OUTWITH THE BOUNDARIES OF ANGUS COUNCIL

There was submitted Report No AC48/95 by the Director of Education indicating that Angus Council would be responsible for certain geographical areas currently administered by the City of Dundee District Council. In addition, current schooling arrangements for secondary pupils in the Newtyle area relied on provision in schools which in future would be administered by the new Dundee City Council.

The current arrangements for schooling in the various areas involved were as set out below and possible options for the future were explained in the Report.

Monifieth High School and Associated Primary Schools

Parents of secondary school pupils normally resident within the delineated area of Barnhill Primary School were currently entitled, under Tayside Regional Council's arrangements, to enrol their children in either Monifieth High School or Grove Academy without having to make a placing request. Monifieth High School had sufficient capacity to accommodate pupils from Barnhill Primary and it was therefore proposed that Angus Council continue to accept pupils from the delineated area of Barnhill Primary School without expecting parents to make a formal placing request.

Tealing Primary School

The delineated area of Tealing Primary School lay entirely within the boundaries of Angus Council. Parents of pupils completing P7 in Tealing Primary School could currently choose under Tayside Regional Council's arrangements, to send their children to Linlathen High School, Dundee or to Forfar Academy but children resident within the delineated area of Tealing Primary School were likely to have a statutory right to have transport provided for them by the Education Authority, were they to attend Linlathen High School.

Strathmartine Primary School

The delineated area of Strathmartine Primary lay entirely within the boundaries of Angus Council although currently 28 of the 49 pupils enrolled in the school attended as a direct result of parental placing requests. At present, parents of secondary pupils, normally resident when the delineated area of Strathmartine Primary School, were expected to send their children to Kirkton High School, Dundee unless they made a placing request for some other school.

Auchterhouse, Birkhill and Liff Primary Schools and Newtyle Secondary School

The delineated areas of each of these four schools lay entirely within the boundaries of Angus Council. At present, under Tayside Regional Council arrangements, parents of pupils of S1 and S2, normally resident within the delineated areas of each of the schools, could choose, without making a placing request, to enrol their children in Newtyle Secondary School, Harris Academy, Dundee or Menzieshill High School, Dundee.

It was suggested that there would be merit in retaining the status quo in each of the cases for pupils transferring to new secondary schools in August 1996 and that the period from the present until December 1996 could be used to consult widely on the available options and to reach a measured set of decisions based on the results of that consultation.

The Committee approved the terms of the Report and agreed:-

- (1) to authorise the Director of Education to consult with individuals and bodies referred to in the Report with a view to obtaining comments from them on the options for future action as described in the Report which were relevant to them; and
- (2) to instruct the Director of Education to report back on the result of these consultations as soon as possible.