

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

30 APRIL 2002

EDUCATION SERVICE PLAN 2001/2004: 2002-2003 UPDATE

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to advise the Education Committee of progress made in implementing the 2001/2004 Education Service Plan and to inform members of arrangements now being made for the finalisation of the 2002/2003 update of the Education Service Plan and the production of 2002-2003 school development plan returns.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- a notes the considerable progress made in relation to development priorities set out in the 2001/2004 Education Service Plan (a comprehensive report is contained within the draft 2002/2003 update of that Service Plan - available for perusal in the Members' Lounge)
- b notes the increasing impact of the National Priorities on service planning and school development planning
- c notes the intention to consult widely on the draft 2002/2003 update of the Education Service Plan, and instructs me to report back to the Committee on the outcomes of this consultative exercise

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In accordance with established procedures, the progress report on last year's service plan has been prepared and outline targets for the 2002/2003 update have been drawn up.
- 2.2 In recent months, consideration of progress made in relation to the specific development targets identified in the previous Plan has been a major priority of working groups within the Educational Development Service, supported by colleagues within other support services. A review of progress made has also been a major focus for the Educational Developments Advisory Group established to assist the efficient and effective planning of developments throughout the Education Service in Angus.

3 CONSTRUCTION OF THE DRAFT 2002/2005 EDUCATION SERVICE PLAN

- 3.1 The 2002/2005 Service Plan will seek to reflect:
 - progress in relation to previous specific development targets
 - priorities identified in the development plans of Angus schools and services
 - the outcomes of monitoring exercises in relation to current school and support services plans
 - **the five national priorities for the Education Service [see 3.3 below]**
 - the resources - human, material and financial - available to the Education Department
 - the strategic vision and themes outlined in the Council's Corporate Plan
 - recently updated corporate guidance in relation to service planning
 - **the recommendations made by HMIE following the inspection of the Authority; as Members will be aware, the inspection report was published on 11 April 2002**
- 3.2 Education Authorities are required by statute to produce **annual** development/improvement plans and **annual** progress reports in relation to the previous year's priorities. While the draft update provides detailed specific targets for 2002-2003, outline targets for 2003-2004 are provided – in accordance with corporate guidelines – in the fifth column of each priority

objectives table in Section C. Precise targets for each year clearly take account of progress made in the previous year in respect of each service area.

- 3.3** Definitive guidance on the five **National Priorities** is expected to be issued by the Scottish Executive by the end of April 2002. The guidance document will include a definitive set of tables indicating the performance measures (including twelve key HGIOS quality indicators), which schools and education authorities will be expected to use in charting progress made in implementing the five national priorities.

The guidance document will also clarify arrangements to be made nationally and in each EA (i) to acquire baseline data in relation to each National Priority performance measure (ii) to set related EA and school targets. In addition, two very important support mechanisms are being made available:

- the Executive will distribute to each Authority for distribution to schools **a comprehensive support package** which will include:
 - detailed advice on the nature of the national school improvement framework based on the five national priorities
 - specific advice about setting and recording targets against National Priority performance measures [school target setting will be done in liaison with the Authority]
 - an extensive range of examples of good practice in planning, reporting on and implementing school improvements
- a National Priorities website was launched on 26 April 2002; this in essence provides a comprehensive database which will be regularly updated. At the launch date the site contained at least the contents of the support package described above. It will be possible to download from the National Priorities website planning, target setting and reporting tools for use by schools and EAs

In the light of guidance received from SEED, arrangements will be made to work with schools to establish National Priorities baseline data and to agree school by school targets against definitive performance measures. Pupil Attainment targets will already, of course, have shaped the focus of the 2002-2003 development plan returns. Given the delay in issuing national guidance, it is not anticipated that this guidance will have any direct impact on the contents of 2002-2003 school development plan returns.

- 3.4** It remains important to ensure that the construction of the Education Service Plan is undertaken in a way which enables schools and support services to focus easily on the Department's priorities and to reflect these in their own development plans. To this end, schools will continue to receive support and assistance in all matters relating to the development planning process from designated members of the Directorate and the Educational Development Service.
- 3.5** In the light of feedback from schools, development planning software has been amended and revised software has been issued to schools to support the construction of 2002-2003 development plan returns.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The specific development priorities for session 2002/2003 identified in the draft Service Plan update can be undertaken within the cost envelope of the 2002/2003 Revenue Budget. In Section C of the plan priorities are being costed in line with recommendations made by HMIE in their report on the Authority.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct human rights implications arising from this report.

6 CONCLUSION

In order to continue to ensure effective articulation between the Education Service Plan and service and school plans, it is considered appropriate to seek the views of schools, individual services and School Boards about the proposed priorities identified in the draft 2002/2003 update. Amendments will be made in the light of consultation and the Committee's approval for the issue of a finalised Service Plan update will be sought at the meeting of the Education Committee on 11 June 2002. It is therefore recommended that the draft Service Plan be now issued to schools, services and School Boards for consultation.

7 CONSULTATION

This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance, and the Director of Law and Administration.

JIM ANDERSON
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

NL/AR