

ANGUS COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

11 JUNE 2002

EDUCATION SERVICE PLAN (2001-2004): 2002-2003 UPDATE

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

ABSTRACT

This report describes the arrangements which have been made to finalise the 2002-2003 Education Service Plan Update and advises the Education Committee of the arrangements being made for the submission of school development plans for 2002-2003.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- (a) notes the terms of this report
- (b) authorises me to issue the finalised 2002-2003 Update of the Education Service Plan to schools and services (this is available for perusal in the Members' Lounge)
- (c) notes the arrangements which have been made for the submission of 2002-2003 school development plan returns

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 At the meeting of the Education Committee of 30 April 2002 (Article 4 refers) I was authorised to issue the draft Education Service Plan Update to schools, services and School Boards.

2.2 Copies of the draft update were issued on 1 May 2002 and comments sought by 20 May 2002.

2.3 The draft update has been well received and is described by some respondents to be appropriately comprehensive and well structured. The overview of the service's priorities on page 21 of the draft document is seen to be helpful by Head Teachers and School Boards alike.

2.4 Head Teachers have welcomed:

- (a) the revised jigsaw summary of key areas of work of the Angus Education Service and the resultant reduction in service plan/school development plan headings
- (b) the continuing use of "all schools" references within Section C of the draft plan
- (c) the steps taken to align each service priority objective in Section C to the relevant national priority
- (d) the nature of the success criteria provided in Section C which are seen to be helpful in assisting Head Teachers to construct the success criteria for priority objectives framed in their school development plans

2.5 Arrangements were made to make minor amendments to the draft in light of observations received and these have been incorporated in the final version of the Service Plan Update.

3 2002-2003 SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN RETURNS

- 3.1 Schools have been asked to submit their development plan returns by 27 June 2002.
- 3.2 Guidance in relation to school development planning issued in April 1998 remains in force; this guidance has been complemented this year by advice in relation to the five national priorities for education.
- 3.3 School development plans incorporate annually a number of standards and quality statements in relation to identified quality indicators from "How Good is Our School?". These statements summarise the outcomes of audits carried out in relation to specified indicators. As a result of Scottish Executive guidance about measuring progress made by schools and education authorities in implementing the five national priorities, standards and quality statements within 2002-2003 school development plan returns will include statements in relation to 12 key quality indicators drawn from the revised version of "How Good is Our School?" issued in February 2002. Specific advice and guidance in relation to this aspect of 2002-2003 school development plan returns was the subject of advice to Head Teachers in the course of plenary meetings held in May 2002.
- 3.4 In preparing their development plan returns, schools and services have been asked to take due account of the key priorities for the Angus Education Service highlighted in Section C of the draft Service Plan Update and of the overall priorities for action and development referred to in 2.3 above.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

6 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

JIM ANDERSON
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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