

ANGUS COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 27 AUGUST 2002
SCHOOL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND
JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report outlines additional funding which has been made available for school improvements and contains proposals on how that funding should be utilised.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee approves the use of additional funding as outlined in this report.

2. BACKGROUND

In August 2001 the Scottish Executive issued Circular 6/2001 in respect of the School Building Improvement Fund. The circular outlined the establishment of a Fund and that additional resources totalling £12m. had been made available to local authorities, of which Angus Council's share was £276,000 in financial year 2001/2002.

In a letter dated 27 June 2002, Council were informed that £26.7m. is available from the School Building Improvement Fund for financial year 2002/03. Angus Council's allocation for 2002/03 is £614,000. The letter indicates that resources are to be used for general capital work on school buildings and it is for each authority to determine its own priorities. While information on projects needs to be submitted, there is no requirement for Ministers to approve plans.

3. PROPOSALS

While the additional resources are welcomed, an earlier indication of the availability of funding would have been appreciated. Although comprehensive information on potential projects is available through the Asset Management Plan and Property Maintenance procedures, earlier notification would have allowed more opportunity to schedule and undertake the works at a time which would be of most benefit to schools, eg. it is preferable to undertake roofing works in the summer rather than winter.

Taking into account identified priorities in the context of the Scottish Executive Circular, it is proposed to undertake the following projects:

School	Works	Cost £000s
Arbroath Academy	Improve circulation areas, relocate Physics Laboratories, general upgrade of specific classrooms.	180
Inverarity Primary School	Upgrade hutted accommodation	65
Secondary Schools	Upgrade Science Labs/Technical Rooms	100
Forfar Academy	Provide improved Reception Area	40
Tealing Primary School	Replace hutted accommodation (phase 1 – dining hall/nursery)	100
Grange Primary School	Upgrade heating (phase 1)	50
Hayshead Primary School	Window replacement (phase 2)	35
Professional Fees		44
	Total	614

It is expected that all the projects will be committed and in most cases completed by 31 March 2003. This situation is acceptable to the Scottish Executive in terms of payment of the grant.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The above expenditure proposals totalling £614,000 will be eligible for Scottish Executive Grant. To complete financial requirements additional S94 Consent, equivalent to the level of grant will be issued to the Council.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS

There are no Human Rights implications arising directly from consideration of this report.

6. CONSULTATION

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

JIM ANDERSON
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

MIKE LUNNY
DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY SERVICES

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.