

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

4 June 1996

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Report No 400/96

**SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION FOR PUPILS LIVING IN  
AUCHTERHOUSE, BIRKHILL, LIFF, STRATHMARTINE AND NEWTYLE**

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**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this Report is to inform the Committee of the responses to the consultation exercise undertaken recently, and to recommend extension of parental choice of secondary schools in the above areas.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) It is recommended that the Education Committee approves the undernoted extension of parental choice. Parents of pupils normally resident in the current delineated areas of Auchterhouse, Birkhill, Liff, Newtyle, Strathmartine and Tealing\* Schools will continue to be able to send their children to the same secondary schools as at present, but **in addition**, with immediate effect:
  - (i) parents of pupils completing P7, and residing within the delineated areas of Auchterhouse, Birkhill, Liff and Strathmartine Primary Schools, and of Newtyle Secondary School (Primary Department) should be able to choose, without making a placing request, to send their children to Forfar Academy; and
  - (ii) parents of pupils completing S2 and residing within the delineated area of Newtyle Secondary School (Secondary Department) should be able to choose, without making a placing request, to send their children to Forfar Academy.
- 2) It is further recommended that I be instructed to bring forward a Report on possible options for the future of the secondary department of Newtyle School.

*\*[Members should note that pupils living in Tealing already have the facility to attend Forfar Academy without their parents having to make a placing request.]*

## COMMITTEE REFERENCE

Reference is made to the meeting of the Education Committee on 31 January 1996 (Article 2 refers) when I was instructed to consult formally on the above proposal.

## RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

I have received the following responses as part of the consultation exercise:

### Forfar Academy School Board

"had no objections to the proposal."

### Liff Primary School

"were in agreement with the proposal."

### Newtyle School Board

"having taken a straw poll of other School Boards locally, ----- indicated an overwhelming desire ----- to upgrade Newtyle to a six-year secondary," and their response is attached in full (Appendix).

### Harris Academy School Board

"had no objection to the proposal but were uncertain as to how Angus Council would address any substantial increase in the Forfar Academy school roll."

### Menziesshill High School

were in favour of the proposal."

Since no pupil would be required to attend a different school as a result of the proposal, individual parents were not involved in the consultation exercise. In addition to the Newtyle response which is appended in full, copies of all other responses are available for inspection by members of the Committee.

## COMMENTS

The current roll of Forfar Academy is 1,130 pupils, and of Newtyle Secondary Department 49 pupils. The combined total of 1,179 is well within Forfar Academy's notional capacity of 1,260 pupils, although it is not anticipated that **all** pupils currently attending one of the other schools available will in fact attend Forfar Academy. No major difficulty is therefore envisaged for Forfar Academy in coping with an increased roll.

Given the response from the School Board of Newtyle, there would be merit in the Committee giving separate consideration to future options for this school, and in particular for its secondary department.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

In the light of the views expressed by Schools Boards, it is recommended that the proposal which formed the basis of the consultation exercise should be implemented forthwith.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

By extending parental choice in the manner recommended, parents in the areas described will become entitled to have school transport provided for their children who attend Forfar Academy. The cost of this transport will depend on the number of children in this situation, and early indications are that very few parents will wish to take advantage of this opportunity, at least for session 1996/97. In undertaking any detailed costing, however, additional pupils on the roll of Forfar Academy, whilst resulting in the Council incurring additional transport costs, and possibly additional staffing costs, would also result in additional Grant Aided Expenditure for the Council, and it is anticipated that the long-term financial implications will therefore be broadly neutral. Any additional school transport costs in 1996/97 will be met from the Education Department's Revenue Budget allocation for 1996/97.

## **CONSULTATION**

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

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.

## **APPENDIX**

JAA/RB

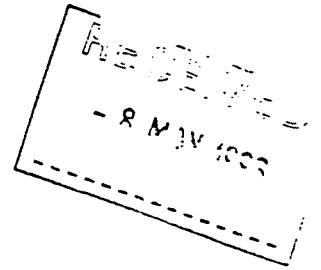


# NEWTYLE SCHOOL BOARD

DUNARN STREET,  
NEWTYLE.

Appendix to  
Report No 400/90

Mr. J. Anderson,  
Director of Education,  
Tayside Regional Council,  
Tayside House,  
Crighton Street,  
DUNDEE.



Dear Mr. Anderson,

Thank you for your letter of 4th April regarding the secondary school provision for pupils outwith council boundaries.

The Board as a whole feel the question of secondary schooling in this western part of Angus is still very much up in the air and that the uncertainty about where to send their children at P7 and S2 is likely to remain for some time and as a result is causing difficulties especially for our secondary pupil role which has fallen for the last few years.

Having taken a straw poll of other school boards locally ie., Birkhill, Auchterhouse and Liff, the proposal to include Forfar as a choice is not favourable, as this would be also true for Newtyle.

The overwhelming desire from ourselves and the others is to upgrade Newtyle to a six year secondary, as the journey times for pupils in this sector of Angus going to Forfar are prohibitive as are the difficulties with transport in bad weather.

Participation in after-school activities would also be very difficult for these pupils.

We all think that a comprehensive review of this option versus the long term cost of paying for pupils to be educated in Dundee needs to be given serious consideration.

Yours sincerely,

MRS. OLIVIA McGUINNESS (Chairperson)  
p.p. Mrs. Grace Robertson (Clerk)

c.c. Mrs. Mary Ray  
Mrs. Frances Duncan  
Education Conveynor

