

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

31 January 1996

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Report No AC/49/96

EDUCATION BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

ABSTRACT

This report provides a general description of the existing Tayside Education Business Partnership approach and recommends that Angus Council should establish its own approach based on current achievements, including the possibility of co-operation with neighbouring Councils for a small number of appropriate developments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- a acknowledges the achievements to date in building effective education/business partnerships and confirms its intention to build on these achievements
- b instructs me to ensure that specific initiatives which have become well established (eg, Work Experience, Work Shadowing - including the Teacher Placement in Industry Scheme - and Enterprise Education) are maintained, subject to the Council being able to make adequate financial provision available
- c recognises the key role which a number of other agencies can play as equal partners with Angus Council
- d instructs me to seek to establish an effective Angus Education Business Partnership, based on the education and business communities established in Angus, and to report to the Committee on progress with this task as and when it is appropriate to do so
- e agrees in principle to co-operation with neighbouring Councils and other agencies in order to deliver the small number of initiatives which can best be undertaken in this way.

BACKGROUND

Within Tayside there has been over the years a substantial development in important aspects of Education Industry Liaison, a focussed partnership between Education and the world of Business, and other key developments related to Enterprise Education and Economic Development. Developments have included the establishment of a comprehensive Education Industry Liaison database, support for various aspects of Enterprise Education, work experience for pupils and reciprocal arrangements for work shadowing involving representatives from Education and Industry/Commerce.

The formal establishment in 1993 of an Education Business Partnership, jointly funded and supported by Scottish Enterprise Tayside, Tayside Regional Council and the private sector offered a further opportunity to develop key aspects of a joint approach to planning and provision which was complementary to projects and activities already well established.

DEVELOPMENTS AS OF 1 APRIL 1996

Angus Council will wish to identify the most important developments to date and continue to provide support for such developments, in partnership as appropriate with other providers and agencies. In the first instance it is proposed that the Council will establish a model for an Education Business Partnership development within Angus, and thereafter identify further opportunities for Tayside-wide joint developments involving, where appropriate, Scottish Enterprise Tayside and the new Careers Service company.

It is hoped that support from SET can be responsive to specific projects as developed in partnership between SET, Angus Council and other agencies operating within Angus (eg Angus College, local business), and also to agreed Tayside-wide initiatives.

With regard to the continuation of developments to date, it is proposed that Angus Council supports initiatives relating to:

- i a comprehensive approach to work experience for pupils
- ii the opportunity for work shadowing, including teacher placement in industry; and
- iii further development of successful aspects of the Enterprise Education programme

In addition to partners already identified there is also the opportunity for the Council to access and make use of other national developments, eg those promoted by organisations such as UBI and the Industrial Society, initiatives led by Chambers of Commerce, and initiatives led by national and multi-national companies.

It is proposed that within the Educational Development Service there will be a dedication of time and resource from within the allocated revenue budgets to promote and develop the above. It is also proposed that in the interests of economies of scale and the avoidance of unnecessary duplication a small number of developments be supported by joint arrangements on a Tayside-wide basis (eg the Education Industry Liaison database). In addition to joint arrangements with neighbouring Councils, there is also the opportunity both within Angus and across Tayside of joint developments with Scottish Enterprise Tayside, involving possibly other agencies, including Angus College, Angus and Tayside private companies, and the new Tayside Careers Company.

CONCLUSIONS

- Much has been achieved across Tayside in building effective education/business partnerships, and it is anticipated that Angus Council will wish to build on current achievements.
- Continued efforts to ensure understanding by pupils and teachers of the world of business are worthwhile, as are endeavours aimed at promoting understanding of the educational process for those from the world of business. Specific initiatives in this area which have proved their worth should be further nurtured and encouraged, specifically Work Experience, Work Shadowing (including Teacher Placements in Industry) and Enterprise Education.
- The key role of Scottish Enterprise Tayside, Angus College and local Angus businesses is acknowledged, along with the need for all these agencies to be seen as equal partners in a range of developments for the benefit of the whole Angus community.
- The most appropriate basis for establishing and maintaining effective partnerships is one whose geographical spread is reasonably small. It is proposed therefore that Angus Council concentrate its efforts on establishing an effective Angus Education Business Partnership, both in terms of informal partnerships and, if appropriate, in terms of more formal agreements.
- A small number of developments may still be desirable on a Tayside basis, and it is hoped that co-operation with neighbouring Councils and other appropriate agencies can be established to enable these developments to take place.

CONSULTATION

The Director of Law and Administration has been consulted in the compilation 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.

JAA/CJ