

POLICY &amp; RESOURCES COMMITTEE

8 September 1998

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Report No 896/98

**YOUTH STRATEGY**

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**ABSTRACT**

This report provides an update on the work of the Member/Officer Group, and seeks support in principle for the formation of an Angus Youth Congress.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Policy & Resources Committee:

- a notes the contents of this report
- b agrees in principle to support an Angus Youth Congress
- c requests further progress reports in due course from the Member/Officer Group on Youth Strategy

**2 BACKGROUND**

2.1 At its meeting on 18 March 1997 the Policy & Resources Committee supported proposals for taking forward the recommendations of various Member/Officer Groups, including the Youth Strategy Group.

2.2 Since then the group has continued to meet, and the following developments are worthy of note:

- local youth Action Groups are now active in some but not all burghs
- an Angus Youth Conference was held (in April 1997), with a report on the conference also being produced
- as part of national Youth Week, a follow-up to the above conference took place in Angus House when young people had the opportunity of raising issues with elected members and Chief Officers

- in response to representations from young people themselves three study visits have been undertaken to other parts of Scotland to help to inform further discussion; these study visits have been undertaken by a group of young people (representing all areas in Angus), accompanied by staff and by Councillor Helen Angus

### **3 PROPOSAL TO FORM A YOUTH CONGRESS**

- 3.1 Members are reminded that one of the early recommendations of the Member/Officer Group was that the theme of Youth Citizenship should permeate any emerging Youth Strategy.
- 3.2 Two obvious corollaries of this position are:
- young people themselves must be influential in developing the Youth Strategy
  - a central forum to enable young people from all parts of Angus to express their views would be desirable
- 3.3 Visits by young people to Dumfries & Galloway, Clackmannan and Stirling have been immensely helpful in providing some examples of current practice elsewhere in Scotland. It is important to record the gratitude of the Member/Officer Group to elected members, staff and young people in these three Council areas for the hospitality and assistance which they willingly accorded to our young ambassadors.
- 3.4 The last two meetings of the Member/Officer Group have been joint meetings involving the same young people who have been visiting other parts of Scotland. These joint discussions have resulted in a very strong recommendation that Angus Council should support its young people in establishing and developing an Angus Youth Congress.
- 3.5 The proposed Youth Congress would comprise at least sixteen young people in the age range 14 to 22 years (approximately).
- 3.6 The Youth Congress would be supported by the Council in the following ways:
- free use of premises for meetings
  - access to direct advice and support from a worker from the Community Education Service
  - financial assistance with travel and subsistence expenses in attending meetings

- joint meetings between the Youth Congress and members of the Council

3.7 The detailed remit of the Youth Congress would be developed by the Congress itself, with advice and support available from officers and members of the Council.

#### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The cost of the above proposals relates to:

- a travelling and subsistence expenses for young people; and
- b the possibility of additional dedicated staff time from the Community Education Service in order to ensure the Congress has support available

4.2 As part of the agreed Council procedures on "policy led budgeting" a bid for additional funding has been lodged.

4.3 If the bid for funding described above is successful in its entirety, then no other financial implications are foreseen; if it is unsuccessful further reports will be brought forward identifying the various financial issues which would have to be addressed.

#### **5 CONSULTATION**

In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council, this report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance and the Director of Law & Administration.

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

