

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 8 JANUARY 2004

RESOURCES AND CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - 29 JANUARY 2004

SCHOOL ESTATE STRATEGY

JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION AND PROPERTY SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report seeks Committee approval for a School Estate Plan to be submitted to the Scottish Executive. It also outlines proposals to utilise funding available through the School Fund for financial year 2004/05.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee should approve the attached School Estate Plan (Appendix 1) for submission to the Scottish Executive and should approve also the proposed capital expenditure outlined in this report.

It is recommended that the Resources and Central Services Committee should approve the procurement of the work identified in this report.

2. BACKGROUND

At meetings of 29 May 2003 and 19 June 2003 the Education Committee and the Resources & Central Services Committee respectively approved Report 549/03 which outlined funding being made available by the Scottish Executive in respect of the School Fund. The funding available for Angus is set out as follows:-

YEAR	FUNDING £000
2003/04	788
2004/05	1647
2005/06	1647

Report 549/03 also outlined the requirement for the Council to submit a School Estate Strategy to the Scottish Executive. The Strategy is intended to outline the position of the school estate in Angus, and to inform national decisions on funding issues. It is expected that each local authority will update its plan on an annual basis, with a more fundamental review every 3-5 years.

As outlined in Report 549/03, Angus Council has an excellent record in investment in the School Estate and has for a number of years been developing Asset Management Plans which are generally consistent with the approach now being adopted nationally by the Scottish Executive.

Reference is also made to Report 1063/03 (approved by the Education Committee on 2 October 2003 and the Resources and Central Services Committee on 28 October 2003) which recommended the replacement of Curtain Walling at Arbroath Academy (B Block and link) at a total cost of £1,060,000.

3. CURRENT POSITION

Guidance has been provided on the format of School Estate Plans and the core facts which must be made available on each school building. Most of the required information is available from within individual school Asset Management Plans (which have been prepared for each of the 60 primary

and 8 secondary schools in Angus). It should be noted that officers are in the process of updating these plans (now being retitled School Estate Plans) to take account of suggestions from the Scottish Executive, and of the need to provide additional information on aspects such as accessibility, pre-school provision and school security.

An Angus Council School Estate Plan has now been prepared and is attached (Appendix 1). The plan outlines specific proposals for expenditure in 2004/05 (utilising the School Fund) and these are set out as follows:-

		COST	
		£000	
		2004/05	2005/06
Arbroath Academy	Replace curtain walling in Block B	832	50
Various Secondary Schools	Upgrade Science Laboratories and Home Economic Rooms	300	--
Hayshead Primary School	General improvements including dining/gymnasium and toilet provision.	250	200
Southesk Primary School	Replacement of existing gymnasium/dining hall and temporary toilets with a building linked to the main school.	265	235
TOTAL		<u>1,647</u>	<u>485</u>

Note 1 – Total cost of Arbroath Academy project is £1060k, the balance of costs being met from 2003/04 resources.

Note 2 – A further report will be prepared on how to utilise uncommitted resources in 2005/06 of £1162k

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost of the works detailed in Section 3 above can be met from within additional School Fund resources being made available by the Scottish Executive in the form of Capital Grant.

Additional separate Scottish Executive funding to assist in the preparation and update of School Estate and Council Plans is being utilised to augment staffing levels in the Physical Resources Section. A separate report on this matter is being submitted to the Education Committee.

The provisional 2003/2007 financial plan will be revised to include details of the projects outlined in Section 3 above and also to update the spend on 2003/2004 projects.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS

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

6. CONSULTATION

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

7. CONCLUSION

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DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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.

Appendix