

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 19 AUGUST 2004

RESOURCES & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2004

ACCESSIBILITY IN ANGUS SCHOOLS

**JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
AND THE DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY SERVICES**

ABSTRACT

This report outlines proposals to utilise resources provided by the Scottish Executive to improve the accessibility of schools for pupils, staff and wider community.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee should approve the projects outlined in this report.

It is recommended that the Resources and Central Services committee should:

- (i) note the content of this report
- (ii) instruct the Director of Property Services to procure the necessary works.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Educational (Disability Strategies and Pupils' Educational Records) Act 2002 requires responsible bodies to prepare and implement accessibility strategies to improve, over time, access to education for pupils (and prospective pupils) with disabilities. The aim is through long-term strategic planning to improve access for all pupils with disabilities. The Act outlines three particular areas to consider:

- improving access to the curriculum
- improving access to the physical environment
- improving communication to pupils with disabilities

There are two key duties involved in ensuring that education providers do not discriminate against disabled pupils:

- they must not treat disabled pupils less favourably;
- they must take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage (this is known as the “reasonable adjustments duty”).

Accordingly, a multi-agency team was established within Angus, which developed a strategy submitted to the Scottish Executive in March 2003.

The Council also has responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Parts 2 and 3 of the Act have applied to education authorities in stages from 1996 in terms of employing staff and also providing non-educational services to the public. The duties in Part IV of the Disability Discrimination Act are designed to dovetail with existing duties under the SEN legislative framework, while the recently published Code of Practice supporting Part IV provides guidance on the disability discrimination duties in education for pupils with special educational needs. Part of the approved Angus Council Accessibility Strategy outlined the requirement to undertake an accessibility audit in each school building, initially concentrating on primary 'resourced' schools (i.e. schools which have currently facilities and resources to support pupils with special educational needs) and all secondary schools.

The audit takes account of the following physical features of the school:

- Approach to the building
- Car parking and drop off points
- Entrance
- Reception
- Circulation Routes
- Facilities during breaks and lunch e.g. access to snack shop
- Access to Facilities which fall outwith the school curriculum e.g. after school activities
- School Sports Facilities
- Dining Facilities
- Sanitary Facilities
- Changing Facilities
- Classroom Facilities

The Audit assessed the building in terms of its suitability for pupils with special needs and also for teachers and members of the public.

Funding available to undertake improvements is outlined as follows:

	2004/05	2005/06
	£000	£000
Education Budget	370	350
Renewal & Repair Fund *		100*
	<u>370</u>	<u>450</u>

* Resources for 2005/06 have yet to be finalised.

3. PROPOSALS

The Council has a number of 'resourced' schools throughout the area which helps to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs. Accordingly, the focus for undertaking audits and utilising resources has in the main been directed at these schools. Based on priorities identified through audits, it is proposed to undertake improvements to a number of schools and these are outlined in Appendix A to this report.

It should be noted that a further report will be prepared on how to utilise the balance of funding available.

It should also be noted cognisance of accessibility requirements will be taken into consideration when improvements/extension are being undertaken to school buildings using other funding sources.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of proposals outlined in Appendix to this report are £279,700 in 2004/05 and £450,000 in 2005/06. As outlined above there is provision for this expenditure in the Education Department Revenue Budget and Renewal and Repair Fund. A further report will be prepared detailing how the balance of funding will be utilised.

5. CONSULTATION

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

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

JIM ANDERSON
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

MIKE LUNNY
DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY SERVICES

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 this report.

ACCESSIBILITY IN ANGUS SCHOOLS

**SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS
PROPOSED ACCESS WORKS AND PRIORITIES 2004/05 and 2005/06**

Primary Schools	Brief Descriptions of Works	Current Estimated Costs (including professional fees)		
		2004/5	2005/6	Total
Andover Primary School	Resettable alarm system to accessible toilets	1,500	-	£1,500
Birkhill Primary School (Main School Only)	Extend accessible changing facilities and undertake minor improvements to ramps, handrails and doors. Additional improvements for visually impaired users.	15,000	25,000	£40,000
Grange Primary School, Monifieth	Improve access road and provide accessible parking bays with ramp to main door. Provide Power Access Door to classrooms used by pupils with special needs. Provide accessible toilet (Central area) and install an indication Loop System to reception area.	10,000	36,000	£46,000
Hayshead Primary School	Provide automatic door opening and ramp access to main entrance. In addition improve hand rails/nosings to step areas (both internal/external): improvements to upper playground area and provision of accessible parking bay.	-	33,600	£33,600
Inverarity Primary School,	Provide accessible toilets and ramp access to main school building.	20,000	-	£20,000
Inverbrothock Primary School	Provide accessible toilet and changing facilities. Create accessible parking bay and power access to entrance to school. Alteration to some internal doors.	5,000	36,500	£41,500
Lochside Primary School, Montrose	Install new automatic external doors to classroom area used by non-ambulant pupils. Create an Accessible toilet in Central/Nursery area of the school. Provide accessible parking bay/drop off point adjacent to classes and provide ramped access to main entrance.	10,000	41,800	£51,800
Muirfield Primary School, Arbroath	Door improvements including power access to SEN nursery. Install Induction Loop system to main reception area. Create accessible toilet, shower and changing area within central area of school.	15,000	20,400	£35,400
Seaview Primary School, Monifieth (Pre-School facility)	Provide ramped access to building used for pre-school pupils and provide suitable accessible toilet/changing facilities within nursery building.	22,000	-	£22,000
Southesk Primary School, Montrose	A major extension is proposed at Southesk Primary School which will significantly improve accessibility is proposed to utilise £50,000 of accessibility funding towards the overall cost of the project.	-	50,000	£50,000
Southmuir Primary School, Kirriemuir	Provide pedestrian access path to main entrance and a resettable alarm system with visitor/pupil accessible toilets.	3,900	-	£3,900
Various Resourced Schools	Provide specialist height adjustable furniture	9,000	-	£9,000
	Balance carried forward:	111,400	£243,300	£354,700

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SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED ACCESS WORKS AND PRIORITIES 2004/05 and 2005/06

Secondary Schools	Brief Descriptions of Works	Estimated Costs (including professional fees)		
		2004/5	2005/6	Total
	Balance brought forward	111,400	243,300	354,700
Arbroath Academy	More detailed consideration of options to improve school are required (this will be outlined in a future report to committee)	-		
Arbroath High School	Upgrading of Corridor Door access integrated with fire alarm system	£24,000		£24,000
Brechin High School	More detailed consideration of options to improve school are required (this will be outlined in a future report to committee)	-		
Forfar Academy	A major extension to Forfar Academy is proposed to create a facility for pupils with ASN and improve office accommodation/security to the schools. In addition, it is proposed to refurbish/upgrade lift within the school and provide additional and improved accessible toilets and changing areas. It is proposed to allocate £178,000 from the accessibility budget to this project	£30,000	£128,000	£158,000
Monifieth High School	Improved access to PE department and pool area Main entrance door improvements Automatic door holders linked to fire alarm system External ramp improvements Accessible changing area, PE Department	£40,000	£35,000	£75,000
Montrose Academy	The works identified in the Accessibility Audit undertaken at Montrose Academy will be considered in more detail analysis as part of improvements/alterations required to the school. It is proposed to allocate £30,000 from the accessibility budget towards this project.	-	£30,000	£30,000
Webster's High School, Kirriemuir	Provide ground floor accessible toilet/changing area and ramped access to external doors	£28,000	-	£28,000
Various Schools	Undertake alterations and specialist furniture to individual classrooms. This will cover classrooms in a number of departments. Additionally a small number of classrooms used by subjects such as Science, Technology, Computer studies etc will require modifications to make them accessible.	£46,300	£13,700	£60,000
	Total Estimated Costs:	£279,700	£450,000	£729,700

