

ANGUS COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
21 APRIL 2011

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT: MURTON WILDLIFE TRUST
REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

ABSTRACT

This report outlines the development of a Service Level Agreement with Murton Wildlife Trust to provide educational opportunities for small groups of pupils, particularly in respect of rural skills. This will now be formalised in a Service Level Agreement.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee approves the establishment of a Service Level Agreement with Murton Wildlife Trust for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Murton Wildlife Trust is located at Murton Farm, Forfar, and is a non-profit making organisation which provides a range of services for young people and the wider community. The organisation is funded through a combination of income generation, a grant from Inspiring Scotland, and fund raising.
- 2.2 In the last three years a number of young people from Angus Secondary Schools have been attending Murton, usually for ½ days per week for around 10 weeks, in order to develop their skills and knowledge, particularly in a rural environment.
- 2.3 This approach is consistent with Curriculum for Excellence which aims to achieve a transformation in education in Scotland by providing a more flexible curriculum focused on the needs of the young person. This aspiration reflects observations in the 2007 OECD report, *Quality and Equity of Schooling in Scotland*, which highlighted the need to raise achievement and broaden opportunities while maintaining rigour and challenge.
- 2.4 Meeting the ambitions of this curriculum involves schools working in learning partnerships with other organisations to provide a coherent package of learning and support based around the individual learner.
- 2.5 In so doing, young people should experience a curriculum that encompasses learning within four different contexts: the ethos and life of the school as a community; curriculum areas and subjects; interdisciplinary learning and opportunities for personal achievement
- 2.6 This flexible curriculum should be designed around the principles of: challenge and enjoyment; breadth; progression; depth; personalisation and choice; coherence and relevance.
- 2.7 It is undoubtedly the case that Murton provides opportunities for young people that are not always available in school. The developing partnership will allow young people to have personalised learning in a supportive environment that can lead to recognised work-related qualifications. That experience will also help young people prepare for employment.
- 2.8 It is expected around 100 pupils will benefit from attending Murton in any school session.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Based on the experience to date, and in order to provide stability for Murton Wildlife Trust for planning, operation and budgets, it is proposed to enter a Service level Agreement for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014.
- 3.2 The level of payment will be determined by the number of pupils using the facility. Appropriate arrangements will also be made for quality assurance and there will be ongoing discussions with Murton to ensure the service is as effective as possible. There will continue to be discussions regarding transport arrangements.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of the service will be detailed in the SLA. The basis of the charge will be determined by the number of pupils attending. The SLA has been compiled on the basis of a maximum of 1,000 half day sessions which equates to a maximum of £20,000 per annum.
- 4.2 There is provision for this expenditure within the 2011/12 Determined to Succeed Revenue Budget (formerly ring-fenced funding).
- 4.3 It is considered that there is only one provider in Angus which can provide this service. In recognition of this, an exemption from normal tendering arrangements has been sought in accordance with Section 16.24.10 (a) of the Financial Regulations (“the supply can only be provided by one supplier for reasons connected with exclusive intellectual property rights or technical compatibility with existing council assets or infrastructure”). This has been approved by the Exemption Co-ordinator under the delegated authority afforded through the Financial Regulations.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no Human Rights implications arising from consideration of this report.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An [equalities impact assessment](#) is not required.

7. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

- 7.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Single Outcome Agreement:
- young people and adults in Angus maximise their potential through learning opportunities (National Outcome 3)
 - children and young people in Angus will have access to positive learning environments and opportunities to develop their skills, confidence and self-esteem to the fullest potential (National Outcome 4)
 - children and young people in Angus will live within a supportive family setting with additional assistance if required, or where this is not possible, within another care setting ensuring a positive and rewarding experience (National Outcome 5)
 - a good quality of life is enjoyed by all in Angus (National Outcome 15)

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Head of Finance and Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**NEIL LOGUE
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

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 a material extent in preparing the above report.