

ANGUS COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
25 AUGUST 2011
UPDATE ON SCHOOL ESTATE
REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

ABSTRACT

This report provides an update on the current pattern of school provision across Angus and on the condition and suitability of our school buildings.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee note the contents of this report.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Reference is made to report 428/10 in which the report asks the Committee to endorse the updated School Estate Strategy for submission to the Scottish Government.

Reference is also made to previous reports regarding the pattern of primary school provision which have been considered by the Education Committee, including:

- 11 August 2005 (Article 6): a number of strategic parameters were agreed as the basis on which the Primary School Estate should be kept under review including condition and fitness for purpose of buildings, school size and occupancy levels.
- 18 April 2006 (Article 3): a geographical classification of primary schools was adopted.
- 19 June 2007 (Article 9): an updated School Estate Strategy was approved.
- 24 April 2008 (Article 8): review of primary school provision.
- 3 June 2009 (Article 8): advised members about the current pattern of school provision across Angus and the condition and suitability of school buildings.

3 UPDATED INFORMATION

- 3.1 An update of the information on the strategic parameters adopted in August 2005 is attached ([Appendix 1](#)).
- 3.2 An update of information/commentary on the condition and suitability of each of our school buildings is also attached ([Appendix 2](#)).
- 3.3 A summary of investment in the school estate (projects since 1998 in excess of £200k) is attached ([Appendix 3](#)).

4 DEMOGRAPHY

- 4.1 From 1996 until 2003, the total primary pupil population in Angus fell from 9,420 primary pupils to 9,216 primary pupils – a fall of 2.1%. The position since September 2003 is outlined below:

Year	Primary Pupil Roll	Secondary Pupil Roll
2003	9,216	7,104
2004	9,136	7,082
2005	9,072	7,034
2006	8,957	7,131
2007	8,741	7,072
2008	8,722	6,892
2009	8,529	6,981
2010	8,441	6,877
2011 (projected)	8,445	6,721

- 4.2 Between September 2003 and September 2010, the primary rolls fell 8.4% from 9,216 to 8,441 pupils, over 7 years. While this reduction in the school roll has inevitably put pressure on the finite resources available, it is not expected that, overall, the primary pupil population will continue to reduce. Indeed, given birth rates over the past few years (and projected birth rates), it is expected that current pupil numbers will be sustained in the medium term.
- 4.3 Secondary school rolls are projected to fall slightly over the next 4 years, albeit, due to changes in staying on rates, the change may be marginal.

5 IMPROVEMENTS TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- 5.1 Members may recall from previous reports that the occupancy levels of burgh schools are generally much higher than those of our rural schools. The fabric of our primary schools is, on the whole, of a reasonably high quality but this situation can only be maintained if significant levels of investment are allocated to improving the School Estate on a continuous basis.
- 5.2 The Forfar/Carnoustie Schools Project has allowed Angus Council to address school estate issues for primary schools in the burghs of Forfar and Carnoustie. Since 1996, improvements have also taken place in a number of schools, as outlined in Appendix 3. More recently, a new school has been constructed in Monifieth (Seaview Primary School) and in the Angus Glens, Isla Primary School has replaced Glenisla, Kilry and Lintrathen Primary Schools.
- 5.3 Significant investment has taken place since 1996 outwith the main burgh schools including:
- Monikie Primary School (1998 and 2006)
 - Letham Primary School (1999)
 - Rosemount Primary School (2000)
 - Mattocks Primary School (2000)
 - Liff Primary School (2000)
 - Glamis Primary School (2000)
 - Murroes Primary School (2000)
 - Aberlemno Primary School (2001)
 - Birkhill Primary School (2001)
 - Inverkeilor Primary School (2003)
 - Cortachy Primary School (2004)
 - Edzell Primary School (2004)
 - Tealing Primary School (2004 and 2007)
 - Auchterhouse Primary School (2005)
 - Newtyle Primary School (2008)
 - Airlie Primary School (2009)
 - Isla Primary School (2010)
- 5.4 In addition to these major projects, there is a programme of planned maintenance/minor improvements to enhance/sustain the school estate. For example, in 2010/11, minor improvements took place at Lochside

Primary School, Hayshead Primary School, and Southesk Primary School, while in 2011/12 works are planned for Grange Primary School, Tannadice Primary School and Colliston Primary School.

- 5.5 A major programme of consultation has been undertaken in respect of primary school provision in Arbroath and the surrounding area. As outlined in report 466/11 approved by Angus Council on 22 June 2011, it is planned to build a new school at Hospitalfield in Arbroath (to replace Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools). It is hoped that this development will be the first phase of a project to enhance the entire primary school estate in Arbroath.

6 SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- 6.1 While there has been significant investment at Carnoustie High School, as part of the Forfar/Carnoustie schools project, further investment (albeit at a lower level) in most secondary schools includes:

- works recently completed at Monifieth High School to provide a Community Learning and Development facility, linked to the main school building, which will be used by the community within and outwith the school day and which will also be used by the school
- a recently completed extension to Webster's High School which will enable school capacity to be increased and ensure that the school can meet the demands of Curriculum for Excellence. In addition, improvements have been made in relation to sports facilities and building security

Provision has also been made within the Capital Budget to replace Brechin High School through the creation of a community campus. Report 294/11 approved by the Education Committee at its meeting of 21 April 2011 provided an update on the project including reaffirming the Council's contribution to the cost (estimated to be £24m) being £10m, the balance being funded through Scottish Government/Scottish Futures Trust.

- 6.2 Notwithstanding the relatively good condition of Angus secondary schools, continuing investment is essential to maintain this position and to ensure that schools can provide appropriate opportunities for pupils in the 21st century, in line with the demands of the new curriculum.

7 SCHOOL ESTATE STRATEGY

7.1 National Position:

In 2009 the Scottish Government and COSLA published 'Building Better Schools: Investing in Scotland's Future'. That document includes the following aspirations for the school estate:

- all children and young people will be educated in, and community users will use, schools that are 'fit for purpose' in terms of condition, suitability and sufficiency
- schools are well-designed, accessible, inclusive learning environments that inspire and drive new thinking and change and which support the delivery of high quality educational expertise through Curriculum for Excellence
- schools are integral parts of the communities they serve, with pupils making use of community facilities and communities accessing school facilities
- schools accommodate and provide a range of services, activities and facilities that make a difference to people's health and well being, to sustaining economic growth and to the strength and vibrancy of communities
- a sustainable school estate whose design, construction and operation is environmentally and energy efficient and contributes directly to delivering the year-on-year reductions in greenhouse gas emissions introduced by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, which is resilient to the impact of climate change and which leads by example in matters of environmental performance
- a school estate that is efficiently run and that delivers/maximises value for money
- a school estate which is flexible and responsive – both to changes in demand for school places and to learners' and teachers' requirements and wishes, and where the beneficial impact of change is maximised by thorough consultation and engagement with users and stakeholders

The document noted that the Strategy will be complemented in the 'Financial Strategy and Implementation Plan' and that there is a Concordat commitment on the part of local authorities and Scottish Government to work together to continue to improve the school estate and learners' experiences.

The document provides a framework for improving the School Estate across Scotland. This is particularly important at a time when Curriculum for Excellence is being embedded in schools. It is essential that the school estate is adapted and improved, where practicable and affordable, to take account of the ambitions and requirements of the new curriculum. The welcome approach promoted in the document has strongly influenced strategic commitments to improve the school estate in Angus.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The work of improving the Angus School Estate is a major ongoing commitment. Although we have a strong track record, it is essential that reasonable levels of investment in the School Estate be maintained. The Council will need to continue to be proactive in taking advantage of available funding and ensuring that the school estate is sustainable in the medium to longer term.
- 8.2 Investment levels in primary schools (within and outwith main burghs) in Angus have been high over the last 15 years. The closure or merger of some schools over that period has reduced the over-capacity which would otherwise have been unsustainable, and has allowed the more effective targeting of resources to a meaningful number of existing schools. Future changes in demography will almost certainly require further changes to the school estate. Proposed changes will need to be considered in the context of the legislative and economic environment in which the Council is operating.
- 8.3 In the medium term there is a requirement to invest in the entire primary school estate in Arbroath and in Brechin High School to ensure that not only condition but suitability issues are addressed in ways which meet the needs of pupils, families, staff and the wider community.

9. RISK

- 9.1 This report does not require any specific risk issues to be addressed.

10 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no financial implications arising directly as a result of the consideration of this report.

11 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

12 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

13 SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

- our children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens
- our communities are developed in a sustainable manner
- our carbon footprint is reduced

14 CONSULTATION

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

NEIL LOGUE
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

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.

Appendices 3