

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

10 OCTOBER 2000
14 NOVEMBER 2000

NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK

ABSTRACT

This report draws the attention of elected members to the possibility of an extension to the New Community Schools project in Arbroath. This government initiative is aimed at raising standards of educational attainment and tackling social exclusion by providing integrated services including education, social work, family support, health education and health promotion services in schools designated as New Community Schools.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education and Social Work Committees, each for its respective interests:

- 1.1. notes the terms of this report;
- 1.2. homologates the attached multi-agency bid for a New Community School project centred on Arbroath High School, Inverbrothock Primary School, Ladyloan Primary School, Muirfield Primary School and Timmergreens Primary School (Appendix);
- 1.3. notes the intention of the Directors of Education and Social Work to bring forward further reports in due course detailing progress with this application;
- 1.4. notes the annual report describing the progress of the first New Community School project is available in the Members' Lounge.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 As part of the government's commitment to raising standards and tackling social exclusion the Secretary of State launched his proposals for the development of New Community Schools across Scotland on 4 November 1998.
- 2.2 At the heart of the proposals is a determination to ensure that Scotland has a world class education system which ensures opportunity for all. To achieve this end the First Minister wishes Councils to promote developments which will bring together under one roof a single team of professionals from a range of services including school education, health, social work and family learning. The intention is to have expert advice directly at hand and not at the end of a referral chain to other agencies. Co-ordination is not viewed as being sufficient in itself - the aim is to achieve integration.
- 2.3 It is believed that this approach will make a significant change to the attainment of children particularly those who face serious barriers to learning outside the school. It is also recognised that this will become one of the most fundamental changes in Scottish education. International evidence, particularly from "Full Service Schools" in the USA, has demonstrated that a great deal can be achieved in terms of improved attendance and attainment, reduced drug abuse, fewer teenage pregnancies and increased employment opportunities.
- 2.4 This present bid is a submission under phase 3 of the programme. A previous submission under phase 1, and centred on Arbroath Academy, was endorsed by the Education and

Social Work Committees at their respective meetings in January 1999 and subsequently approved by the SEED. This first development has been gradually built up since August 1999 and early indications point to a number of successes in dealing with the challenges of social exclusion in the Hayshead and Warddykes areas of Arbroath. A report on the work of the existing New Community Schools project is available for perusal in the Members' Lounge.

- 2.5 The potential benefits of designating all schools in the burgh of Arbroath as New Community Schools are enormous and it is in that context that a new bid document (Appendix) has been developed. If granted, the additional central government funds can be used to promote social inclusion across the entire burgh allowing highly focussed multi-agency service delivery.
- 2.6 Proposals for additional funding have been prepared on a corporate basis involving the Chief Executive, the Directors of Education and Social Work and the General Manager of Tayside Health Board. The timescale afforded for this submission is particularly tight as finalised proposals have to be produced, agreed and submitted to the Scottish Executive for consideration by 30 September 2000. The New Community School Prospectus detailed the Scottish Executive's expectations that, initially at least, two community school projects would be established in each local authority and, in that context, it is anticipated that the bid will be successful.

3 PROPOSALS

- 3.1 It is proposed that the following schools are included in a submission for funding under the terms of the New Community Schools' prospectus (phase 3):
 - Arbroath High School
 - Inverbrothock Primary School
 - Ladyloan Primary School
 - Muirfield Primary School
 - Timmergreens Primary School
- 3.2 Further details of the project will be reported to future meetings of the Education and Social Work Committees once the outcome of the application is known.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Any proposals with cost implications consequent upon the establishment of a New Community School development will be the subject of further reports to the Social Work and Education Committees.

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, the Director of Law & Administration.

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.

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