

ANGUS COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
25 APRIL 2000
EDUCATION SERVICE PLAN 2000/2001
REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to advise the Education Committee of progress made in implementing the 1999/2000 Education Service Plan and to inform members of arrangements now being made for the finalisation of the Education Service Plan for 2000/2001.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- a notes the considerable progress made in relation to development priorities set out in the 1999/2000 Education Service Plan (a comprehensive report is contained within the draft 2000/2001 Education Service Plan - available for perusal in the Members' Lounge)
- b notes the intention to consult widely on the draft 2000/2001 Education Service Plan, and instructs me to report back to the Committee on the outcomes of this consultative exercise

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In accordance with established procedures, the progress report on last year's service plan has been prepared and outline targets for the 2000/2001 Service Plan have been drawn up.
- 2.2 In recent months, consideration of progress made in relation to the specific development targets identified in last year's Plan has been a major priority of working groups within the Educational Development Service, supported by colleagues within other support services. A review of progress made has also been a major focus for the Educational Developments Advisory Group which is a cross sectoral working group established to assist the efficient and effective planning of developments throughout the Education Service in Angus.
- 2.3 The views of Head Teachers and Secondary Curriculum Advisory groups have also been sought and feedback from this consultation exercise has informed the contents of the draft plan.

3 CONSTRUCTION OF THE DRAFT 2000/2001 EDUCATION SERVICE PLAN

- 3.1 As with the previous Service Plan, the 2000/2001 Service Plan will seek to reflect:
 - progress in relation to last session's specific development targets
 - priorities identified in the development plans of Angus schools and services
 - the outcomes of monitoring exercises in relation to current school and support services plans
 - key national priorities for the Education Service
 - the resources - human, material and financial - available to the Education Department
 - the strategic priorities and themes outlined in the Council's Corporate Strategy
 - the Improvement Plans of Best Value Reviews conducted to date

3.2 It remains important to ensure that the construction of the Education Service Plan is undertaken in a way which enables schools and support services to focus easily on the Department's priorities and to reflect these in their own development plans. To this end, schools will continue to receive support and assistance in all matters relating to the development planning process from designated members of the Directorate and the Educational Development Service.

3.3 Guidelines on the construction of school development plans, which take account of national and Council quality improvement initiatives, were issued to all schools last year. These have been well received and have proved helpful in enhancing the school planning process in Angus.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The development priorities for session 2000/2001 identified in the draft Education Service Plan can be undertaken within the cost envelope of the 2000/2001 Revenue Budget.

5 CONCLUSION

In order to continue to ensure effective articulation between the Education Service Plan and service and school plans, it is considered appropriate to seek the views of schools, individual services and School Boards about the proposed priorities identified in the draft 2000/2001 Service Plan. Amendments will be made in the light of consultation and the Committee's approval for the issue of a finalised Service Plan will be sought at a future meeting of the Education Committee. It is therefore recommended that the draft Service Plan be now issued to schools, services and School Boards for consultation.

6 CONSULTATION

This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance, and the Director of Law and Administration.

JIM ANDERSON
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 any material extent in preparing the above report.

NL/AR