

ANGUS COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 16 OCTOBER 2001
SCHOOL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND
JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY
SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report outlines the additional funding available for school improvements and contains proposals on how the funding should be utilised.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- i welcomes the additional resources being made available to improve school buildings;
- ii approves the use of the grant as outlined in this report;
- iii instructs the Director of Education to write to the Scottish Executive seeking assurances that information in respect of 2002/03 and 2003/04 be made available to Councils timeously.

2. BACKGROUND

On 22 August 2001 the Scottish Executive issued Circular 6/2001 in respect of the School Building Improvement Fund (see Appendix to this report). The circular outlines the shared commitment of local authorities and the Scottish Executive to tackling outstanding repairs and making significant improvements to school stock. Accordingly additional resources totalling £12m. have been made available to local authorities of which Angus Council's share is £276,000.

The Circular indicates that the resources should be spent quickly with priority given to improvement for this winter. Examples of the kind of work that Ministers expect to see the money applied to are the repair or replacement of roofs and windows which are in poor condition, the replacement of outside toilets and other external or temporary accommodation and the replacement of outdated heating systems.

3. PROPOSALS

While the additional resources are welcomed, an earlier indication of the availability of funding would have been appreciated. This would have allowed more opportunity to schedule and undertake the works at a time which would be of most benefit to schools, eg. it is preferable to undertake roofing works in the summer rather than winter. Nevertheless comprehensive information is available and potential projects are available through the Asset Management Plan (see report 449/00) and Property Maintenance procedures.

Taking into account the priorities identified through the process in the context of the Scottish Executive Circular, it is proposed to undertake the following projects:

School	Project Description	Expenditure £
Borrowfield PS	Upgrade heating to Gas (upper school)	70,000
Brechin High School	Re-roof Admin And C block	45,000
Carmyllie PS	Renew 16 windows in original building	14,000
Grange PS	Window replacement – Phase 2	15,000
Hayshead PS	Window replacement – Phase 1	34,000
Maisondieu PS	Provide BMS to complement work being undertaken as part of capital project	10,000
Northmuir PS	Window replacement	30,000
Northmuir PS	Upgrade heating to Gas (infant block)	30,000

St Thomas PS	Insulate and upgrade school walls	20,000
Airlie PS	Replace 5 zinc valleys to school roof	2,000
Eassie PS	Provide suspended ceilings and improve lighting in GP/Dining room	3,000
Lethnot PS	Provide suspended ceilings and improve lighting	3,000
	Total	276,000

It is expected that all the projects will be committed and in most cases completed by 31 March 2002. This situation is acceptable to the Scottish Executive in terms of payment of the grant.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The above expenditure proposals totalling £276,000 will be eligible for Scottish Executive Grant. To complete financial requirements additional S94 Consent, equivalent to the level of grant will be issued to the Council. The Circular also indicates that arrangements for 2002/03 and 2003/04 will be the subject of further consideration and discussion with CoSLA.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS

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

6. CONSULTATION

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

JIM ANDERSON
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

MIKE LUNNY
DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY SERVICES

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.