

## ANGUS COUNCIL

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

24 APRIL 2001

NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: PROGRESS REPORT ON  
BID FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING 2001-2004

## REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

**ABSTRACT**

This report advises Committee of the successful outcome of a bid to extend 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 which are designated as New Community Schools.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Education Committee

- a) notes the terms of this report;
- b) notes the intention of the Directors of Education and Social Work to bring forward further reports in due course detailing proposals for the development of services in line with the bid document.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The bid for additional funding under the New Community Schools initiative for the period April 2001 – March 2004 was considered by the Committee on 10 October 2000 (Item 3 refers). This bid centred on Arbroath High School and its associated primary schools in the burgh of Arbroath.
- 2.2 Confirmation has been received from the Scottish Executive Education Department that this bid for additional funding has been successful and the grant payable to the Council will be:

£194,500	2001-02
£181,500	2002-03
£182,500	2003-04
- 2.3 Discussions have already been held to flesh out the details of the bid into specific service development proposals and these detailed plans, when finalised, will be brought to the Education and Social Work Committees for information.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 As part of the government's commitment to raising standards and tackling social exclusion the government launched its proposals for the development of New Community Schools across Scotland on 4 November 1998.
- 3.2 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 government 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.

- 3.3 The government believes that this approach will make a significant change to the attainment of children particularly those who face serious barriers to learning outside the school.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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 this extension has been proposed. The additional central government funds can be used to promote social inclusion across the entire burgh allowing highly focussed multi-agency service delivery

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. All costs will be contained within the grant paid by the Scottish Executive.

#### **5. HUMAN RIGHTS**

By developing a multi-agency support team to serve all of the burgh schools in Arbroath it is anticipated that the Education Committee will be endorsing a model of good practice relating to all aspects of human rights relevant to pupils and parents.

#### **6. 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. The Director of Social Work has also been consulted.

**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.