

ANGUS COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 23 JANUARY 2001
PRE BUDGET STATEMENT – ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS
REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

ABSTRACT

This report describes additional resources of £398,715 which have been made available to the Council in the current financial year and outlines how these resources are to be utilised.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- a notes the contents of this report for information
- b approves the expenditure proposals outlined in the report.

2. BACKGROUND

On 8 December 2000 the Scottish Executive Education Department issued Circular 5/2000 – “Pre Budget Statement – Additional Financial Resources for Schools”.

The Circular outlines additional resources which are to be made available by payment of grant to Scottish education authorities for distribution to schools in their areas, following the Pre Budget Statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 8 November 2000. The total sum allocated to schools managed by Angus Council in the current financial year (ie. 2000/01) is £398,715, and the Circular indicates that this funding should be used “to deal with immediate repairs, maintenance and equipment problems within schools”.

Conditions of payment of the grant are that the resources must be clearly seen to be additional to existing planned education spending (and spending on individual schools), and that **every** primary and secondary school must derive some benefit from the use of the resources in this financial year. The terms of the Circular envisage all expenditure being incurred by 31 March 2001. Informal discussion with representatives of the Scottish Executive suggest that – provided the expenditure is committed in the current financial year, this may be acceptable. In any event by delegating the bulk of the resources to schools’ devolved budgets, current arrangements for carry-forwards into 2001/2002 will continue to apply, in terms of the Council’s scheme of Devolved School Management.

3. COMMENT

The additional resources are welcomed, although it would have been preferable for intimation of this funding to have been made prior to the commencement of the financial year (or at worst the academic year). This would have enabled more effective planning to have taken place to ensure the additional resources would be best utilised in the context of the departmental service plan, school development plans and the evolving Asset Management Plan.

Notwithstanding the exceptionally short time available a small number of projects additional to those already planned have been identified as worthy of priority treatment in the current financial year. It is proposed that these projects should be undertaken with immediate effect, and that the residual monies should be devolved to all primary and secondary schools (on the basis of a flat rate of £1,000 per school plus a per capita allowance).

4. PROPOSALS

It is proposed to utilise the available resources as follows:

£000s

• Kirkriggs Primary School – building alterations to create separate areas for Gaelic Medium Nursery and Support for Learning Base.	14
• Townhead Nursery – minor alterations to improve building.	3
• Property Maintenance Works at the following 18 schools:	
Auchterhouse PS Upgrade of windows	1,000
Careston PS Upgrade of windows	1,000
Chapelark PS Upgrade of windows	4,000
Cortachy PS Upgrade of windows	1,000
Eassie PS Upgrade of windows	1,000
Edzell PS Upgrade of windows	3,000
Ferryden PS Upgrade of windows	5,000
Glamis PS Landscape and re-point stonework	5,000
Glenisla PS Landscape and drainage	5,000
Langlands PS Roofing repairs	4,000
Lintrathen PS Upgrade of windows	1,000
Muirfield PS Replace flooring to hall	4,000
Newbigging PS Upgrade of windows	1,000
Panbride PS Upgrade of windows	1,000
Stracathro PS Upgrade of windows	1,000
Tarfside Upgrade of windows	1,000
Tealing PS Upgrade of windows	1,000
Wellbrae PS Upgrade of windows	1,000
	41
• BV Review Secondary Education – Undertake further analysis to prepare feedback report in respect of “Support for Pupils” survey.	1
• Purchase of Equipment for Deaf Pupils (Montrose Academy)	2
• Provision of ICT Equipment As part of the procurement exercise for primary schools ICT equipment, it is proposed to enhance the quantity of equipment provisionally planned.	50
• Maisondieu Primary School – contribution towards cost of proposed extension.	20
• Augment Devolved Budgets The balance of funding will be directly devolved to primary and secondary schools. The allocation for each school will be made up of a flat rate of £1,000 per school plus £11.97 per primary or secondary pupil (based on September 2000 census rolls).	268
 (Where appropriate, in conjunction with the Director of Property Services, advice will be provided to each individual school on any property maintenance projects which should be given priority using the additional resources now being devolved).	
Total	399

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The additional grant of £398,715 for financial year 2000/01 should be allocated as outlined in Section 4 above.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

7. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Directors of Finance, Law & Administration, Property Services and IT have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8. CONCLUSIONS

The additional resources provided are most welcome, as is the Executive's decision to give some discretion to Councils in terms of prioritising this additional source of funding. However, the exceptionally tight timescale within which spending decisions are having to be taken presents a significant challenge – particularly in the context of ensuring prudent spending decisions are taken. The proposals outlined in this Report are believed to represent good value for money for the Angus community as a whole and added value for all schools.

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.