

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

21 AUGUST 2001

BUDGET 2001 – ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- a notes the terms of SEED Circular 4/2001 (Appendix 1);
- b approves the allocation of funding to the devolved budgets of individual schools in accordance with the table set out in Appendix 2

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In his March Budget Speech, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced additional funding for all UK schools over a three-year period.
- 2.2 On 7 August 2001, the Scottish Executive issued the attached Circular (Appendix 1) confirming details of the allocation to education authorities of additional funding for financial year 2001/2002 only.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The inevitable press release which preceded the issue of the SEED Circular makes reference to a total sum of £10 million being allocated to schools across Scotland. The Angus Council allocation is estimated to be some £213,000.
- 3.2 Notwithstanding the Executive's stated commitment to three-year budgeting and the clearly expressed intention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the additional funds announced would be spread over a three-year period, the attached circular appears to refer to 2001/2002 and only to 2001/2002.
- 3.3 The additional funds are most welcome and will be put to good use by schools in Angus. However, in common with several previous similar announcements, it would have been preferable had this announcement been made earlier in the financial year to enable schools to undertake budgeting for the year as a whole on a planned basis. On the assumption that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has indeed made provision for additional funding for school education in 2002/2003 and 2003/2004, it would be most helpful if the Executive could decide how it is to distribute these additional funds in the very near future so that adequate forward planning which takes account of the needs of pupils over a longer period can take place.
- 3.4 The Executive's approach to distribution of this year's tranche of funding via local Councils is wholly supported. The Education Committee is recommended to adhere precisely to the basis of distribution set out by the Scottish Executive (and reproduced in Appendix 2).
- 3.5 In allocating these additional funds to the devolved budgets of individual schools, it is also recommended that the Education Committee endorse the priority objective of

raising standards in schools in the context of the national improvement framework and also in the context of the Council's Education Service Plan.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 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 and the Director of Law & Administration.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS

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

Jim Anderson
Director of Education

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.

APPENDICES

JAA/CJ