

ANGUS COUNCIL

At a MEETING of the **EDUCATION COMMITTEE** held in The Town and County Hall, Forfar on Wednesday 31 January 1996 at 6.15 pm.

Present: Councillors WALLIE B LEASK, GEORGE ALLAN, HELEN ANGUS, JOHN GIBB, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, Mrs KATHLEEN RITCHIE, RICHARD B SPEIRS, Mrs SHEENA WELSH and SANDY WEST; Rev Dr R MACKENZIE, Fr M MILTON and Mrs E HOWSON, Mr P ANDREWS and Miss A BEGG.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors BRIAN M C MILNE, Mrs FRANCES DUNCAN, Mrs RENATE LAMONT and GEORGE NORRIE.

Councillor LEASK, Vice-Convener, in the Chair.

Prior to the commencement of business, Councillor Leask welcomed Mr Peter Andrews and Miss Ann Begg to their first meeting of the Committee as teacher representatives.

1. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 December 1995 was accepted as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

2. SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION FOR PUPILS OUTWITH COUNCIL BOUNDARIES

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 23 August 1995, there was submitted Report No AC47/96 by the Director of Education, advising the Committee of the views expressed by parents and by School Boards on specific options put to them and seeking approval to enter into formal consultation, in April 1996, on a proposal to extend further, parental choice of secondary school to parents in Auchterhouse, Birkhill, Liff, Newtyle and Strathmartine.

The Report outlined the responses received and, taking these into consideration, proposed that as little alteration as possible be made to the current arrangements but that the options available to Angus parents in allowing them to send their children to an Angus secondary school be extended.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the responses to the consultation exercise;
- (ii) to confirm that places would continue to be available in Monifieth High School for secondary school pupils normally resident within the current delineated area of that school without the parents of these pupils having to make a formal placing request (this would include pupils normally resident within that part of the area to be administered by Dundee City Council which compromised the current delineated area of Barnhill Primary School, Dundee);
- (iii) to authorise the Director of Education to consult formally, in terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation Etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 on a proposal that, for pupils resident in the current delineated areas of Auchterhouse, Birkhill, Liff, Newtyle, Strathmartine and Tealing schools, parents would continue to be able to send their children to the same secondary school as at present, but that in addition:
 - (a) parents of pupils completing P7, and residing within the delineated areas of Auchterhouse, Birkhill, Liff and Strathmartine Primary Schools, and of Newtyle Secondary School (Primary Department), would be able to choose, without making a placing request, to send their children to Forfar Academy; and
 - (b) parents of pupils completing S2 and residing within the delineated area of Newtyle Secondary School (Secondary Department), would be able to choose, without making a placing request, to send their children to Forfar Academy;

- (iv) to instruct the Director of Education to notify Dundee City Council of this Council's proposals; and
- (v) to instruct the Director of Education to submit a further report on the outcome of the consultation in due course.

3. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Councillor Mrs S Welsh declared an interest in Appendix 5 to this Report.

There was submitted Report No AC42/96 by the Director of Education detailing some of the key aspects in relation to young people with special educational needs for whom the education authority had a statutory duty to ensure provision.

Having noted the current position and the establishment of a Working Group to identify issues about Support for Learning which the Council would require to consider, the Committee agreed that the Director of Education be instructed to:-

- (i) give a high priority to maintaining, and where possible improving, the educational provision for children and young people in Angus with special educational needs; and
- (ii) report back on specific proposals arising from discussions within the Working Group and from discussions with neighbouring Councils.

4. EDUCATION BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

There was submitted Report No AC49/96 by the Director of Education which provided a description of the existing Tayside Education Business Partnership approach and recommended that Angus Council should establish its own approach based on current achievements, including the possibility of co-operation with neighbouring Councils for a small number of appropriate developments.

The Report outlined the developments as of 1 April 1996, and proposed that Angus Council support initiatives relating to a comprehensive approach to work experience for pupils, work shadowing, including teacher placement in industry, along with the future development of the successful aspects of the Enterprise Education Programme.

The Committee approved the recommendations detailed in the Report.

5. CAREERS SERVICE

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 27 September 1995, there was submitted Report No AC48/96 by the Director of Education on the Careers Service in Tayside.

The joint bid to provide a careers service in Tayside from 1996-2001, made to the Scottish Office by Tayside Regional Council, Scottish Enterprise Tayside, Dundee Council, Angus Council, Perth Council and the Chambers of Commerce, had been successful. In order to progress this matter, Tayside Regional Council had approved arrangements to complete the transition from the Regional Council's Careers Service to the new Careers Service Provider, which included the formation of a company and a Board of Directors, the transfer of staff and property to the company, and the signing of a contract by the company with the Scottish Office.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the decision of the Education Committee of Tayside Regional Council to delegate authority to officers, in consultation with the Education Conveners of Tayside, Angus, Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Councils to make the necessary arrangements to complete the process of transition from the Regional Council's Careers Service to the new Careers Service Company;
- (ii) to note the current involvement of Councillor Brian Milne in the discussions which were taking place to make the aforementioned arrangements; and

- (iii) to approve the nomination of Councillor Milne as representative of Angus Council on the Board of Directors of the Careers Service Company which was about to be formed in partnership with other bodies.

6. EDUCATION COMMITTEE SEMINAR - HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS

The Committee noted that a seminar had been arranged for Wednesday 14 February in the Town and County Hall, Forfar at 6.15 pm or following the meeting of the Council, to hear Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools on various matters.

7. SPONSORSHIP OFFER

There was submitted Report No AC50/96 by the Director of Education on an offer of sponsorship recently received from Don & Low, Forfar of £2,000 to assist with the purchase of overcoats for School Crossing Patrollers in Forfar and Kirriemuir as part of their "Promoting Safety in the Community" initiative.

The Report sought approval for negotiations with other local companies for similar funding in other areas of Angus.

The Committee agreed to accept the offer from Don & Low and authorised officers to negotiate with local Angus companies to enable the purchase of overcoats for School Crossing Patrollers.