

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 22 JANUARY 2009
CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 29 JANUARY 2009

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS 2008/2009

JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the Service Level Agreements currently in place between the Education Department and third party providers in 2008/2009

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committees note the contents of this report for their respective interests and also note the ongoing commitment by the Education Department to partnership working with voluntary sector service providers.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Angus Council, in common with other local authorities, provides funding to external parties to provide services. In order to assist in the performance of the functions assigned to it, Angus Council Education Department regularly enters into a range of Service Level Agreements with a range of providers including a number of voluntary sector service providers.
- 2.2 These Service Level Agreements facilitate the provision of a number of key services through partnership working with the service providers involved. Working in partnership with the voluntary sector is essential to the provision of effective and efficient services. Two major contracts in place within the Education Department are the provision of cleaning and catering in schools both of which are operated through a Service Level Agreement with Tayside Contracts. Working in partnership in this manner is a major factor in helping to ensure that services are provided in an effective and efficient manner.
- 2.3 The Department also has a significant number of Service Level Agreements with voluntary sector providers. It has been found that partnership working with the voluntary sector has many benefits in terms of sharing skills and experience, identifying solutions and in certain cases attracting additional sources of funding. The areas within the Education Department where Service Level Agreements have been widely used are in the pre school sector and also with community groups.
- 2.4 It should be noted that where the Council provides funding to external parties to provide services, such funding requires to be subject to the same level of control and accountability as other public funding utilised directly by the Council. The Council follows the Code of Guidance on Funding External Bodies and Following the Public Pound issued by the Accounts Commission in cooperation with COSLA. Additional guidance has been published by the Law and Administration division of the Corporate Services Department to be followed for all funding arrangements falling within the scope of the Code.
- 2.5 A summary of the Service Level Agreements currently in place are summarised in [Appendix 1](#)

3 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The use of Service Level Agreements within the Education Department ensures the provision of a range of essential education services in Angus. Partnership working and the use of service level agreements is an essential aspect of the education department's delivery of best value services across the community.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The total value of Service Level Agreements entered into for 2008/09 is some £4.4m which will be met from either specific funding streams or contained within the Education Department Revenue Budget.

5 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An equalities impact assessment is not required.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no Human Rights implications arising from the consideration of this report.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council, this report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law & Administration.

JIM ANDERSON DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION	COLIN MCMAHON DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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.