

**ANGUS COUNCIL**  
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**3 JUNE 2009**  
**UPDATE ON SCHOOL ESTATE**  
**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**ABSTRACT**

This report draws the Committee's attention to the current pattern of school provision across Angus and to the condition and suitability of our school buildings.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee note the contents of this report.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Reference is made to various occasions in the past when discussions about the pattern of primary school provision have taken place within the Education Committee, including:
- 11 August 2005 (Article 6): a number of strategic parameters were agreed as the basis on which the Primary School Estate should be kept under review including conditions of buildings, buildings' fitness for purpose, school size and occupancy levels.
  - 18 April 2006 (Article 3): a geographical classification of primary schools was adopted.
  - 19 June 2007 (Article 9): an updated School Estate Strategy was approved.
  - 24 April 2008 (Article 8): review of primary school provision

**3 UPDATED INFORMATION**

- 3.1 An update of the information on the strategic parameters adopted in August 2005 is attached ([Appendix 1](#)).
- 3.2 An update of information/commentary on the condition and suitability of each of our school buildings is also attached ([Appendix 2](#)).
- 3.3 A summary of investment in the school estate (projects since 1998 in excess of £200k) is attached ([Appendix 3](#))

**4 DEMOGRAPHY**

- 4.1 As noted in report no 229/05, considered by the Education Committee on 24 February 2005, pupil rolls in our primary schools are projected to fall. From 1996 until 2003, the total primary pupil population in Angus fell from 9,420 primary pupils to 9,216 primary pupils – a fall of 2.1%. The position since September 2003 is outlined below:

Year	Primary Pupil
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**Roll**

2003	9,216
2004	9,136
2005	9,072
2006	8,957
2007	8,741
2008	8,722
2009 (projected)	8,537

- 4.2 Between September 2003 and September 2008, the primary rolls fell more steeply – to 8,722 pupils, a further fall of 5.4% over 5 years. Although the rather gloomy predictions of a few years ago do not look likely to apply to Angus to the extent earlier projected, nonetheless we are experiencing a continuing fall in pupil rolls, and this inevitably puts more pressure on the finite resources which are available to us.

**5 IMPROVEMENTS TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

- 5.1 Members of the Committee may recall from previous reports that the occupancy levels of burgh schools are generally much higher than those of our rural schools. The fabric of our primary schools is, on the whole, of a reasonably high quality but this situation can only be maintained if significant levels of investment are allocated to improving the School Estate on a continuous basis.
- 5.2 The Forfar/Carnoustie Schools Project has allowed Angus Council to address school estate issues for primary schools in the burghs of Forfar and Carnoustie. Since 1996 improvements have also taken place in a number of schools, as outlined in Appendix 3. Currently, a new school is in the process of construction in Monifieth (Seaview Primary School). A number of improvements have been made to primary schools in Arbroath but these schools could possibly benefit at some point in the future from a major investment of the type undertaken through the Forfar/Carnoustie Schools Project. Some preliminary work is being undertaken on this possibility, in anticipation of a Scottish Government announcement at some point on the proposed Scottish Futures Trust. (Education Committee 5 March 2009, Article 9 of the minute of meeting refers).
- 5.3 Significant investment has taken place since 1996 on our rural schools, including:
- Monikie Primary School (1998 and 2006)
  - Letham Primary School (1999)
  - Rosemount Primary School (2000)
  - Mattocks Primary School (2000)
  - Liff Primary School (2000)
  - Glamis Primary School (2000)
  - Murroes Primary School (2000)
  - Aberlemno Primary School (2001)
  - Birkhill Primary School (2001)
  - Inverkeilor Primary School (2003)
  - Cortachy Primary School (2004)
  - Edzell Primary School (2004)
  - Tealing Primary School (2004 and 2007)
  - Auchterhouse Primary School (2005)
  - Newtyle Primary School (2008)
  - Airlie Primary School (2009)
- 5.4 A major project is planned to replace Glenisla, Kilry and Lintrathen primary schools by a single school on a site adjacent to Peel Farm (Education Committee – October 2007).
- 5.5 A major programme of consultation has commenced in respect of primary school provision in Arbroath and the surrounding area. (Education Committee – March 2009)

**6 SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

- 6.1 There has been significant investment at Carnoustie High School. In recent years there has been investment (albeit at a lower level) in most secondary schools, and further improvements are planned to

Monifieth High School and Webster's High School. Provision has also been made within the Capital Budget to commence improvements at Brechin High School (being phase 1 of a larger project).

- 6.2 Notwithstanding the relatively good condition of Angus secondary schools, further investment is essential to maintain this position and to ensure that schools can provide appropriate opportunities for pupils in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## **7 SCHOOL ESTATE STRATEGY**

- 7.1 The Scottish Government, in consultation with COSLA, are currently developing a School Estate Strategy and it is expected this will be available over the summer period. Building on the many successes across Scotland this will set the national context for future development (including resource implications). This document will enable the Council to update our own strategy and it is intended to bring this to committee for consideration later in 2009.

## **8 CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 The work of improving the Angus School Estate must be seen as an ongoing task. Although we have a strong track record, it is essential that reasonable levels of investment in the School Estate should continue. It is important that the Council is proactive in taking advantage of available funding and ensuring the school estate is sustainable for the medium to longer term.
- 8.2 Investment levels in rural primary schools in Angus have been high over the last 13 years. The closure or merger of some schools over that period has reduced the over-capacity which would otherwise have been unsustainable and has also allowed more effective targeting of resources to a meaningful number of existing schools. This process is an ongoing one.
- 8.3 In the medium term there will be a particular requirement to invest in primary schools in Arbroath, and in the Secondary School Estate to ensure not only condition but suitability issues are addressed in meeting long term needs.

## **9 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no financial implications arising directly as a result of the consideration of this report.

## **10 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 None.

## **11 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 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.

## **12 CONSULTATION**

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

JIM ANDERSON  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

## **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.

Appendices 3