

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 8 NOVEMBER 2016

UPDATE ON SCHOOL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the School Investment Strategy commissioned by Committee on 10 November 2015. In that report we identified the guiding principles for the review:

- the child is at the centre of our strategy;
- our strategy will be predicated on educational gain; and
- schools are fit to deliver the curriculum for excellence or the prevailing educational drivers at the time.

2. PROGRESS UPDATE

2.1 We have established a number of working groups and a governance structure to develop the investment strategy. These groups are considering learning contexts and ethos; demand and location; building standards; and consultation and engagement. They report into a governance, monitoring and compliance group, and follow the Transforming Angus methodology. The working groups are made up of representatives from across the Council, partner agencies, and representatives of parent groups.

2.2 A project plan has been developed and the achievements to date include: -

From Committee Report 436/15	Update
Identify future demands on the school estate taking account of demographics, the impact of policy developments e.g. 600 hours pre-school education, and planned housing developments	We have developed a new method of projecting school rolls which includes projected birth rates, and takes account of the impact of new housing developments. We have also included projections for nursery age children.
Develop standards for the Directorate including how we respond to curriculum needs, community campuses, possibility of 3–18 schools, ASN provision, vocational education, planned maintenance standards etc. In developing these standards we will take account of relevant legislation and government guidance, as well as seeking out areas of best practice.	A number of standards including community schools and all through schools have been developed. We have undertaken a number of visits across the country to learn from best practice, and have attended seminars delivered by Architecture and Design Scotland.

From Committee Report 436/15	Update
Identify our key aspirations including school replacement strategy; whether schools should always be community resources, whether school design should always enable ready expansion etc.	We are developing standards in relation to school design and replacement.
Develop outline plans for each school.	This will be undertaken during the next phase of the project.

3 Next Steps

- 3.1 There is still much to do and the timescales are tight. We are currently on schedule for completion in summer 2017 and we are keeping the project under review.

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