

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 6 MARCH 2018

PETITION –TO DEMAND THAT ANGUS COUNCIL INSTALL WI-FI IN MONIKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL AS A MATTER OF UTMOST URGENCY

REPORT BY SHEONA C HUNTER, HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This Report advises members of a petition with 107 valid signatures which was received in connection with a request to install Wi-Fi and internet at Monikie Primary School.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

In terms of Standing Order 14, it is open to the Committee to EITHER:

- (i) note receipt of the petition and take no further action;
- (ii) determine that appropriate action has already been taken or is planned and no further action is necessary;
- (iii) request a fuller report from the relevant officer;
- (iv) undertake a detailed scrutiny review, gather evidence and make recommendations to the relevant committee; or
- (v) refer the matter to Angus Council where in the view of the Committee, its significance requires a debate.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

1. *We have a sustainable economy and good employment opportunities*
2. *Angus is a good place to live in, work in and visit*
3. *Our children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens*

3. CURRENT POSITION

Members are advised that a petition of 107 valid names has been submitted by interested parties requesting the installation of Wi-Fi at Monikie Primary School. The signatories intimate that the children at Monikie Primary School, through no fault of their own, are being put at an educational disadvantage in comparison with all but a handful of the other 63 schools in Angus, due to the lack of Wi-Fi in their school. The petition goes on to state that “In this digital age, it is unacceptable that the children are unable to access relevant and additional educational resources, or make use of Glow, Scotland’s digital environment for learning, throughout the school.”

The petition was received by the Chief Executive on 12 January 2018 and in accordance with Standing Orders, it is presented to the Scrutiny and Audit Committee for its further consideration.

Members are advised that providing this connectivity is part of a wider programme to enable the roll-out of digital connectivity throughout Angus
It is intended that Monikie Primary School will be connected to the Council main network via Panmure Monument and Carnoustie High School. Progress on implementation includes the following works:-

- Surveys have been undertaken to confirm that the connection is viable (completed January 2018)
- Radio equipment has been ordered and is stored with the contractor
- Landowner of Panmure Monument has been contacted and is amenable in principle to the radio mast being installed on the monument
- SSE have been contacted and a quote has been obtained for installing electricity to site Legal agreements on use of Panmure Monument to be completed before proceeding.
- In discussions with Planning Service regarding an application for listed building consent. Receipt of the required consent may take approximately 8 weeks from submission of a valid application.
- Quotes are being obtained for Network connectivity equipment (items scheduled to be delivered Middle March)
- Installation of Wireless Access Points and Network cabinet being organised by Property (work to be complete by End of March)

The project is scheduled to be complete this school session depending on approval from planning authority, Historic Scotland and conclusion of legal agreement with landowner.

Members are asked to determine that appropriate action is being proposed which will ensure Wi-Fi connectivity to Monikie Primary School and no further action is necessary.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The spend on this project is circa £21,000 and is covered within existing budgets.

NOTE: The following background reports in connection with roll-out of corporate connectivity are relevant.

Digital Strategy 2017-2020 Report 187/17

[report no 18717 digital strategy 2017 2020](#)

Digital Strategy for a better, stronger, sustainable and smaller council

[digital strategy for a better stronger sustainable and smaller council](#)

REPORT AUTHOR: SHEONA C HUNTER

EMAIL DETAILS: LEGDEM@angus.gov.uk