

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 22 MAY 2018

SCHEDULE 1 – ONLINE SCHOOL PAYMENTS

**1. BACKGROUND**

Following the approval of the business case submitted to the Channel Shift board in early 2017, an online school payments system for all Angus schools was procured through a national Scotland Excel framework. The selected system, iPay, from an established Council supplier, CRB, was implemented as a pilot at Monifieth High School and associated cluster primaries in June 2017. After a successful pilot, the system was rolled out to all schools in August 2017. The principal motivation for implementing the system was to reduce the substantial amount of staff time being spent on the collecting, counting, receipting, banking and reconciliation of the large quantity of cash and cheque payments received in schools for both Council and local school revenues. Removing this burden allows that staff time to be redeployed into other, more valuable activity around the school community. The implementation of an online payments system also has the additional benefit of increased convenience for parents who no longer have to arrange for cash or cheques to be made available to the school to cover daily costs such as school meals and events. The system also removes the uncertainty from a parent's perspective of whether money had been safely conveyed to school and paid toward the right cause.

**2. PROGRESS TO DATE**

iPay is now in operation across all schools in Angus and is becoming embedded as a standard part of a school's financial management. Since the introduction of the system in Angus we have seen:

- 9,753\* parental registrations for the system showing significant system usage and acting as a key driver for the uptake of the 'mygovscot' MyAccount authentication now used across all Angus online services.
- 66,801\* online payment transactions made this school year so far.
- Revenue collected through the platform of £983,202\* to date which has not had to be collected, counted, receipted, banked or reconciled by school staff. (\* as at 19/3/18)

The system has bedded in quickly and the constructive and helpful feedback received both from parents and school staff has contributed to ensuring the platform has been configured to operate as efficiently as possible whilst delivering the staff time savings and parental convenience that was desired.

**3. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

Plans for the imminent future include the following further developments:

- Technical changes in the feature set procured to reflect feedback received from schools and central teams since the system went live.
- A migration from the current standalone payment gateway procured as part of the system purchase to an integration with the Council's broader payment handling agreement with Capita in order to deliver further savings on the ongoing transaction fees associated with the platform by benefitting from the Council's 'economies of scale'.
- Proposed closer integration with other existing finance systems to deliver improved reporting opportunities and further automation of income recording and coding from a central perspective to further reduce the staff time associated with handling school-based revenue.

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