

## AGENDA ITEM NO 6

REPORT NO 43/22

### ANGUS COUNCIL

#### CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 24 FEBRUARY 2022

#### REVISED DEVOLVED SCHOOL MANAGEMENT SCHEME

#### KELLY MCINTOSH, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

### ABSTRACT

This report advises Committee of the proposed changes to Angus Council's Devolved School Management (DSM) Scheme as a result of the new Scottish Government National Framework and Guidelines. These new guidelines require Councils to undertake a review of their current scheme and produce a revised DSM Scheme by April 2022.

### 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- i approve the revised DSM Schemes for implementation from April 2022;
- ii instructs the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning to undertake a three-year review of the DSM Scheme as detailed in the National Framework and Guidelines and ensure the scheme and associated documents reflect current policy and practice.

### 2. ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLANS

This report contributes to the following outcomes in the:

#### Angus Community Plan, 2017-30:

- Reducing child poverty
- The best start in life for children

#### Angus Council Plan, 2019-24:

- We want to maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities

#### Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families, 2021-23

- Our children and young people growing up healthy, confident and resilient with improving physical and mental health and strengthened emotional wellbeing
- Our children, young people and families at risk, who face significant inequalities and disadvantage, having improved life chances

### 3. BACKGROUND

#### National Context

- 3.1. Devolved School Management (DSM) was introduced in 1993 to enhance and improve the management of resources at school level. The DSM guidance was reviewed nationally in 2006, and again in 2012, taking account of the changing economic and financial climate for both Local Authorities and the Scottish Government. In June 2017 the Scottish Government consulted on changes to DSM as part of the wider "Fair Funding to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education" consultation.

3.2 As part of this consultation, it was agreed to consult on changes to the scheme to support the empowerment of headteachers and closing the attainment gap. This consultation work was concluded in 2019.

3.3 The updated DSM guidelines, published in 2019, sought to build and improve on the DSM Guidelines of 2012. These updated guidelines can be found here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/devolved-school-management-guidelines/>

3.4 One of the main changes in the new guidelines is that it identifies which areas are defined as expected, or as recommended, for inclusion within Local Authority schemes.

3.5 The Scottish Government initially stated that all local authorities should review their DSM Scheme by April 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this date was extended to April 2022. This means new schemes will be used for budget and resource allocations to schools from April 2022.

## **4 UPDATED DSM GUIDANCE**

4.1.1 The updated DSM principles, agreed by the Fair Funding Reference Group and building on and enhancing the foundations and principles of the 2012 guidance, are:

- Subsidiarity and Empowerment
- Collaboration
- Accountability and Responsibility
- Clarity and Equity

4.1.2 These principles reflect the National Framework aims of excellence through raising attainment and achieving equity. The principles also fully endorse those proposed in the Fair Funding consultation:

- support excellence and equity
- be fair
- be simple, transparent and predictable
- deliver value for money

4.1.3 The guidance provided a framework to allow Local Authorities to populate a standard format which will introduce a level of consistency in how schemes are presented and support benchmarking. They also clarified what is expected and recommended in a local scheme and provided practical examples from Local Authorities.

4.1.4 This guidance and framework were reviewed and compared to the current Angus Council DSM scheme and revisions were made as appropriate and agreed through the stakeholder review group.

### **4.2 Review**

4.2.1 A short life working group (the stakeholder review group) was established to review the current DSM scheme and to recommend and agree changes in accordance with the Scottish Government National Framework and Guidance. This group consisted of representatives from all key stakeholder groups. The members of this group consulted and informed their colleagues of the proposals throughout the process. This ensured that all necessary consultation was carried out during the review.

4.2.2 Sub-groups were established and formed to determine the changes to the scheme, these subgroups prepared the recommendations for changes and presented this to the wider stakeholder group.

4.2.3 The existing Angus Council DSM Scheme was found to be comprehensive and robust and therefore, only minimal changes to the revised scheme were required. The minimal changes are detailed below.

- Create separate primary and secondary DSM schemes to accurately reflect sectoral differences in the way budgets are devolved
- Remove budget headings currently from devolved budgets that schools cannot control or influence and therefore are better aligned to non-devolved budgets. These budgets heading include rates, water meter and sewerage, ground maintenance and facilities management.
- DSM carry forward percentage reduced from 10% to 3%

4.2.4 The DSM schemes were updated and has been agreed by the working group. Appendices 1 and 2 detail the full schemes.

4.2.5 The National Framework and Guidance document also states that the DSM scheme will be reviewed every three years. The working group have agreed to form a DSM Review Group. This group will meet on an annual basis to update documentation to reflect any changes due to Council budget decisions and will meet to carry out the wider three yearly review.

## **5.0 PROPOSALS**

5.1 It is proposed that the Children and Learning Committee approves the revised Devolved School Management Schemes for Primary and Secondary Schools.

5.2 It is proposed that the Children and Learning Committee requests the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning present an evaluation report on progress of the DSM Scheme in April 2025.

5.3 It is intended that the revised DSM Scheme will be implemented from 1 April 2022.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the proposed changes to the Devolved School Management (DSM) Scheme.

## **7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

8.1 The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, Service Leaders Education and Lifelong Learning, Head Teachers and Finance colleagues have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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