

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE - 01 JUNE 2023**

**PROCEDURES FOR LETTING OF EDUCATION PREMISES**

**REPORT BY KELLY MCINTOSH, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING**

**ABSTRACT**

This report provides the Children and Learning Committee with an update on procedures for the letting of education premises and brings forward proposals for a review of the current procedures.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) Agrees that the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning undertakes consultation with stakeholders with regards to the charges and procedures associated with education lets;
- (ii) Requests that the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning reverts to the Children and Learning Committee with any proposals for revised procedures by February 2024.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/COUNCIL PLAN**

This report supports the following priorities:

**Angus Community Plan 2022-2030**

- Improve mental and physical health and wellbeing
- Make our local services accessible

**Angus Council Plan 2023-28**

- Angus Council is efficient and effective

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 At its meeting of 18 April 2006, the Education Committee approved Report 452/06 and its associated appendices. The report provided details of the proposed increase in charges for the letting of education premises. School lets support a wide range of community-led activities, some of which are specifically targeted to address child poverty, provide employability support and access to services for those on low incomes. The usage of school premises varies across localities depending on the local requirements.

3.2 Prices have been increased in line with inflation since the Education Committee approved Report 452/06. There has been no substantive review of procedures or charges associated with education lets since the approval of this report.

3.3 Individuals or groups wishing to book education premises complete a digital form and are invoiced for payment where required. A project is underway to develop an integrated online booking and payment system.

**4. CURRENT POSITION**

4.1 The current pricing structure for the letting of educational premises was established historically. Charges are dependent on day of the week of the hire, category of facility hired, the legal status of organisation hiring, the geographical area of the community the hiring organisation supports, the length of the hire, and the quantity of facilities hired. Details of the current scheme and charges are available on the Angus Council website:

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/schools\\_and\\_young\\_people/school\\_buildings/hiring\\_education\\_premises](https://www.angus.gov.uk/schools_and_young_people/school_buildings/hiring_education_premises)

- 4.2 In addition to the published charging framework, there are various legacy arrangements whereby some stakeholders are not charged for lets.
- 4.3 The current charging framework requires simplification and a clearer rationale for charges. Angus Council is committed to supporting groups to use educational premises but has a duty to ensure any use is in line with Best Value, as outlined in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

## 5. PROPOSALS

It is proposed that the Children and Learning Committee:

- 5.1 Agrees that the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning undertakes consultation with internal and external stakeholders regarding the charging structure and procedures for education lets. This activity will be carried out in accordance with Angus Council's Communication, Engagement and Consultation Policy, which was approved by Policy & Resources Committee in November 2022 ([Report 407/22](#) refers).
- 5.2 Requests that the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning reverts to the committee with any proposals for revised procedures and charging frameworks by February 2024. Any proposals brought forward should be informed by the outcome of the stakeholder engagement detailed in 5.1.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of this report. It is noted that future proposals may have financial implications, such as an increase or decrease in charges for users compared to the current arrangements. Details will be provided in a future report.

## 7. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

## 8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Directors of Finance, HR, IT and Business Support, and Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**NOTE:** The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Report 452/06
- Report 407/22

**REPORT AUTHOR: Beth Reader, Manager – Support Services**

**EMAIL DETAILS: [childrenandlearning@angus.gov.uk](mailto:childrenandlearning@angus.gov.uk)**