

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE –
17 MARCH 2003**

**REPORT ON: CHANGES TO THE PROCEDURES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF
PLACES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 155-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report sets out recommendations on changes to the procedures for allocating school places in secondary schools resulting from a review of the situation arising as a result of changes to the catchment area of Monifieth High School.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- i) make and agree to publish and consult on the proposal to change the procedures for allocating school places in secondary schools as set out in paragraph 7.1 in terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation Etc.) (Scotland) Regulations 1981;

and

- ii) note that the Director of Education will report back on the results of the publication and consultation exercise in due course, detailing any representations made, so that final decisions can then be taken on the proposal.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The costs of undertaking the publication and consultation exercise can be met from the current revenue budget.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The proposals are intended to improve the equality of access for all pupils in this area.

6.0 PROCEDURES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF PLACES IN SCHOOLS

6.1 Background

6.2 The procedures for the allocation of places in secondary schools have been in operation for a number of years. They allocate pupils to priority categories. Full details of the Priorities and their criteria are included in Appendix A

6.3 The above procedures were put in place by Dundee City Council in 1997 to take account of current educational developments, and in particular the 5-14 Development Programme, designed to develop an integrated and coherent curriculum from Primary 1 to Secondary 2. This should mean improved continuity for pupils moving from primary to secondary school and depends upon close working relationships between a secondary school and its associated primary schools in order to provide that continuity.

6.4 Current Position

6.5 When Dundee City Council revised its procedures for allocating places in secondary school in 1997 Barnhill Primary School was an associated Primary School for Grove Academy. It was also part of the catchment area for Monifieth High School in Angus. Parents thus had the right to send pupils either to Grove Academy or Monifieth High School as Priority 1 placing requests. A number of Dundee residents also placed pupils in Angus primary schools close to the City boundary. These included Liff, Birkhill, Strathmartine and Murroes Primary Schools.

6.6 Since 1997 Angus Council has revised the catchment area of Monifieth High School on two occasions. In 2000 the area lying North of Balgillo Road and including the area of new housing development along the North East of the Dundee City Council boundary was removed from the catchment area of Monifieth High School. In 2002 the remainder of the area lying within Dundee was removed from Monifieth High School's catchment area.

6.7 The effect of these changes to the catchment area of Monifieth High School is that parents living in the North East of the Barnhill Primary School catchment area who chose to send their children to Grange and Seaview Primary Schools in Angus do not have Priority 1 places for Monifieth High School and find it increasingly difficult to obtain places in that school as the roll rises. Angus Council procedures also give Angus residents priority over non-residents in any given category. Similarly because parents did not choose to send their children to an associated primary school of a Dundee secondary school (eg Barnhill PS) they will not be Priority 1 for a Dundee secondary school. A similar situation obtains for Dundee pupils in other Angus primary schools.

7.0 REVIEW OF CATCHMENT AREA OF GROVE ACADEMY

7.1 At present approximately 60 pupils (from P1 – P7) attend Grange and Seaview Primary Schools while residing within the boundary of Dundee City Council. Smaller numbers of Dundee pupils are enrolled at other Angus primary schools (Liff, Birkhill, Strathmartine and Murroes Primary Schools) near the City boundary. Dundee City Council wish to ensure that changes to the catchment area of Monifieth High School

do not leave Dundee pupils without a Priority 1 place in a Dundee secondary school.

7.2 It is proposed that pupils currently attending primary schools in Angus as at 31 August 2003, residing in Dundee and not having Priority 1 status for a Dundee secondary school be designated as Priority 1 pupils for the secondary school in Dundee within whose catchment area they reside.

7.3 This proposal is seen as a temporary measure to secure the placement of the pupils from Dundee currently attending Angus primary schools. It will be made clear to parents making placing requests from August 2003 that if they wish to secure a Priority 1 place in a Dundee secondary school they should enrol their child in an associated Primary School of that Secondary School.

8.0 PROPOSAL

8.1 In the event that the recommendations are approved the Council will require to publish and consult on the proposals in accordance with the Education (Publication and Consultation Etc.) (Scotland) Regulations 1981.

8.2 It is proposed that the publication and consultation exercise will take place between 21 March 2003 and 30 April 2003.

8.3 The revised procedures for the allocation of places in secondary schools would be used to allocate places for Session 2004 / 2005 and thereafter.

9.0 CONSULTATION

9.1 The Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Planning, Director of Finance and the Director of Support Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Anne Wilson
Director of Education

AW/CDGT

Criteria for Admission to Secondary School

While parents/carers' wishes will be met whenever possible, if the number of places in any particular school is limited, priority for admission will be determined on the following basis:

The priorities for admission to Secondary Schools from Session 2003/2004 up to and including Session 2004/2005:-

- Priority 1** Children attending a school designated as an associated Primary School of the specified school or a school outside Dundee the catchment area of which is within the catchment area of the specified school. Children who become normally resident within the catchment area of the specified school during or after P7.
- Children normally permanently resident within the catchment area of the specified school but who have been unable to obtain a place at the primary school into whose catchment area they have moved following an unsuccessful application for enrolment or placing request.
- Priority 2** Children **not** normally resident within the catchment area of the specified school, but having a brother or sister (or relative permanently living at the same address as part of an extended family) **Note 1** in attendance at that school. Children normally resident within the catchment area of the specified school not attending a school designated as an associated primary school of the specified school but having a brother or sister (or relative permanently living at the same address as part of an extended family). **Note 1** in attendance at that school.
- Priority 3** Children normally resident within the catchment area of the specified school not attending a school designated as an associated primary school and having no brother or sister (or relative permanently living at the same address as part of an extended family) **Note 1** in attendance at that school.
- Priority 4** Children **not** normally resident within the catchment area of the specified school and having no brother or sister (or relative permanently living at the same address as part of an extended family) **Note 1** in attendance at that school.
- Note 1** Provided that the member of the extended family for whom the placing request has been made has lived within that extended family for a period of at least 2 years. Please note that for Secondary 1 entrance the following August a sibling must be in the present S1 to S5.
- Note 2** Within denominational schools places in each priority category will be allocated first to children who have been baptised into the Roman Catholic Church and thereafter to other children within that category.
- Note 3** When it is necessary to refuse some placing requests for a school the following procedures will apply. For Secondary 1 August admissions, placing requests received up to the date given in the advertisement are dealt with on distance from school. All other placing requests are held in chronological order.