

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 9 MARCH 2009

REPORT ON: INSPECTION OF THE EDUCATION FUNCTIONS OF DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL: HMIE FOLLOW THROUGH REPORT

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 159-2009

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report draws the attention of the Education Committee to the report by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education on the education functions of the Council, following a visit by a team of Inspectors in November 2008. Copies of the HMIE report have been passed to group leaders and the Depute Lord Provost.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Education Committee is recommended to:

- i note the content of this report and its very positive conclusion; and
- ii instruct the Director of Education to continue to develop and refine the Education Department's quality improvement strategies, with a view to continuing to improve performance.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 As part of a national cycle of inspection of the education functions of local authorities, HMIE visited Dundee City Council in 2006. Following that visit, the Education Department prepared an action plan which addressed four main points for action identified by HMIE:

- Building on the start made, provide more strategic drive in focusing approaches towards improving pupils' learning experiences, increasing motivation and reducing exclusions.
- Strengthen the challenge to schools to improve performance, to make more effective use of statistical data and to develop creative approaches to meeting pupils' needs.
- Extend partnership working at all levels.
- Monitor and evaluate the actual impact of strategies designed to improve attainment and demonstrate their effectiveness through improved outcomes.

4.2 HMIE revisited the Council in November 2008 to evaluate and report on progress. Overall, they have concluded that the authority has made **significant progress** since the original inspection.

- 4.3 In commenting on the Council's response to the four points for action, HMle have concluded that the Council has made **very good** progress in meeting the first point, **good** progress with the second, **very good** progress with the third, and **good** progress in meeting the last point.
- 4.4 HMle have commended the Council for the significant progress overall made since the original inspection, including:
- "a more focused approach to strategic management and quality assurance";
 - "a positive impact on learners increasing their confidence and improving wider achievement";
 - "the new, strengthened support and challenge system ... designed to assist schools to make more significant progress in improving achievement";
 - "positive action to address the challenge of improving outcomes for secondary-aged learners";
 - "improvements in opportunities for continuing professional development"; and
 - "a thorough self-evaluation" which had been used "to influence the new Education Department Service Plan".
- 4.5 HMle have in addition identified three areas, which they believe are evidence of good practice, worthy of being shared nationally through the HMle website. These areas are: **the performing arts; parental involvement;** and the initiative known as **the learning journey** for young people in S2.
- 4.6 As a result of their findings from this follow through inspection, HMle have decided that they do not require to make any further visits to the authority in relation to this report.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environment Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Head of Finance and Director of Leisure & Communities.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

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Director of Education

26th February 2009

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