

REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE 21 MAY 2001

REPORT ON: RETAINING RESERVED PLACES IN SCHOOLS – REPORT ON FORMAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 309-2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This Report details the representations made during the formal publication and consultation exercise on proposed changes to current procedures for placing requests with respect to children who are waiting to gain a place in their local school (Article 5 of the Education Committee of 19 February 2001 refers) and seeks approval to implement the proposals.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Education Committee is recommended to:

- i) note the representations made during the formal publication and consultation exercise on proposed changes to current procedures for placing requests with respect to children who are waiting to gain a place in their local school;
- ii) note that having regard to these representations the Director of Education recommends that the proposals be implemented;

and
- iii) resolve as follows:

that the procedures for the allocation of places in schools be amended (as set out in Appendix I) to allow the names of children in Priority 1 (living in the catchment area or attending an associated Primary School) to be placed on a waiting list for a place in their local school until such a place exists.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications from these proposals.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The proposals are designed to ensure that places are available in local schools for children in the local area avoiding the need to travel to more distant schools.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The proposals seek to ensure that all children in a local area have the opportunity to attend the local school.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 At its meeting on 19 February 2001 the Committee agreed to make, publish and consult on proposals to change the current procedures for placing requests with respect to Priority 1 children who are waiting to gain a place in their local school in terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation Etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981.

6.2 The formal consultation procedures were carried out during the period 20 February to 30 March 2001

7.0 PRESENT POSITION

7.1 All School Boards affected by the proposals received copies of relevant consultation documents by post.

7.2 Copies of the consultation documents were made available to the Roman Catholic Church.

7.3 The existence of the consultation documents was publicised in the press and copies were made available at the reception desk on Floor 8 Tayside House and in schools.

8.0 OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

8.1 Some 8 responses were received. All supported the proposals in principle. A number of responses asked for clarification on minor points of detail and this has now been provided.

8.2 Copies of letters received in response to the consultation document are available in the Councillor's lounge

9.0 CONCLUSION

9.1 The proposals to alter the procedures for placing requests with respect to Priority 1 children who are waiting to gain a place in their local school are designed to minimise disruption to parents and families and to ensure that places are allocated on a basis which is seen to be fair and equitable by all concerned.

9.2 The Director of Education has given careful consideration to the representations made and now considers that it would be appropriate for the Council to implement the proposals as set out in Appendix 1.

10.0 CONSULTATION

10.1 The Director of Support Services and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

11.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 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

..... Date

NOTE 3

When it is necessary to refuse some placing requests for a school the following procedures will apply.

Priority 1 Children

The names of Priority 1 children whose placing requests have been refused will be put on a waiting list in order of the date on which their placing request was refused. For example, a child whose placing request was refused on 1 May will have a higher priority than a child whose placing request was refused on 1 June. If a place subsequently becomes available at the school it will be allocated to the child on the waiting list who has the highest priority. In the event of there having been two or more placing requests refused on the same day the child whose normal place of residence is closest to the school will have priority over the other children.

Priority 2, 3 and 4 Children

The names of Priority 2, 3 and 4 children whose placing requests have been refused will be put on a separate waiting list in order of the distance of their normal place of residence from the requested school. For example, a child who lives one mile from the school will have a higher priority than a child who lives two miles from the school. If a place subsequently becomes available at the school and there are no children on the Priority 1 waiting list it will be allocated to the child on the Priority 2 waiting list who has the highest priority. If there are no children on the Priority 2 waiting list it will be allocated to the child on the Priority 3 waiting list who has the highest priority. If there are no children on the Priority 3 waiting list it will be allocated to the child on the Priority 4 waiting list who has the highest priority. The waiting list will continue in force until 30 September of each school session.

Incoming Children

Where children are to move into the catchment area of a school they will be treated as being Priority 1 from a date 4 weeks before they move. So, if a child is due to move into the catchment area of a school on 1 June, they will be entitled to make a placing request on 1 March but will only be Priority 3. As at 1 May however they will be Priority 1.

