

REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 20 MAY 2002
REPORT ON: THE NATIONAL DEBATE ON EDUCATION
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
REPORT NO: 455-2002

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report brings to the attention of the Education Committee details of the arrangements for The National Debate on Education in Dundee City.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Education Committee is recommended to:

- i) approve the arrangements for the National Debate in Dundee;
- ii) note the opportunity for members of the Education Committee to contribute to the National Debate,
and
- iii) require the Director of Education to provide a future report on the key points arising from the National Debate.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 nil

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The National Debate is intended to provide the widest opportunity for discussion about the future provision of Education which is a key local service.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Arrangements for the National Debate should give the widest access for stakeholders and participants in the education system.

REPORT/

6.0 REPORT

- 6.1 The Scottish Executive and the Education Culture and Sport Committee of the Scottish Parliament are joint sponsors of the National Debate on Education. The debate is intended to stimulate wide ranging discussion about the purpose and format of education provision which will help to inform future national strategy in this area.
- 6.2 Briefing packs about the National Debate have been supplied to the Education Department. The Briefing Pack includes a video, background information and a response form. It is intended that the Debate should encourage discussion among staff, parents, pupils and all with an interest in education. The outcomes of such discussions should be returned to the Scottish Executive no later than 12 July 2002. Full copies of the Information Pack are available in the Councillors' Lounge and with group secretaries.
- 6.3 It is the intention of the Director of Education to encourage the widest response to the National Debate through schools, services and the consultative mechanisms of the Education Department. Copies of the Information Pack will be distributed to all schools and establishments. Head Teachers and heads of Establishments will be asked to make arrangements for a meeting or meetings for staff, School Boards and parents and also to involve Pupil Councils where they exist. Comments from discussions will be summarised on the feedback form provided. Copies of responses will be sent direct from schools and establishments to the Scottish Executive.
- 6.4 It is also proposed to canvas the views of pupils directly through the Dundee City Council Pupils Council and to encourage responses from Education Department Staff Consultative Groups.
- 6.5 Copies of responses to the Scottish Executive will also be sent to the Education Department to inform a collated response from Dundee City Council. The Director of Education would wish to include the Education Committee in developing this response and would be pleased to have any completed Feedback Forms by 31 May 2002.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The National Debate provides a valuable opportunity for all those involved in education to contribute to the shaping of future policies and strategies. The widest participation in this debate is to be encouraged.
- 7.2 It is the intention of the Director of Education to provide to the Education Committee a summary of the key issues arising from the debate before these are submitted to the Scottish Executive.

CONSULTATION/

9.0 CONSULTATION

9.1 The 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

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