

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE -
16 DECEMBER 2002**

**REPORT ON: PROVISION OF CHILLED DRINKING WATER
IN PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOLS**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 847-2002

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report advises of the benefits of providing free access to chilled drinking water for children throughout the school day and describes arrangements for the implementation of a pilot scheme with a view to installing chiller units at all primary and nursery schools.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- (i) note and approve the content of this report
- (ii) agree in principle to the provision of chilled drinking water in primary and nursery schools

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full costs of these proposals including an allowance for additional pipe work which may be required will be met from the Reallocation of Scottish Budget Resources 2002/2003 (£2.9M).

3.2 The estimated cost of the provision is:

	2002/3	2003/4	Total
Trial 4 schools (12 units)	£11,000	-	£11,000
Installation Primary Schools and Nursery Schools	£130,000	-	£130,000
Sundries and sports bottles etc	£12,000	-	£12,000
Pipe work	£10,000	-	£10,000
Maintenance (first year)	-	£12,000	£12,000
Total	<u>£163,000</u>	<u>£12,000</u>	<u>£175,000</u>

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Promoting the concept of good health will directly influence the contributions made by young people to society.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Good health is a fundamental right for everyone. This proposal will assist in achieving a healthy lifestyle for the primary and nursery school population.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The White Paper 'Towards a Healthier Scotland' (1999) stresses the importance of health and advocates the concept of the health promoting school as having a key role in future health improvements nationally.
- 6.2 Further to this, the H.M. Inspectors of Schools report 'Health Promotion Issues for Councils and Schools' (1999) emphasises the Government's commitment to health promotion and identifies certain main issues for schools and Local Authorities to take forward. Indeed the provision of chilled drinking water is a key element in the Education Department's Health Promoting School Strategy.
- 6.3 Recent research has established that drinking adequate levels of water aids and supports concentration and assimilation of information in young people.
- 6.4 It is also now recognised that regularly drinking water significantly improves the health of the individual.
- 6.5 There are clear links between good health and higher attainment and achievement in children.

7.0 PROPOSAL

- 7.1 A preferred supplier for the chiller units has been identified and installations and pipe works will be undertaken by Dundee Contract Services beginning in January 2003.
- 7.2 A total of 12 of these units will be trialled and assessed at four primary schools prior to all primary and nursery schools acquiring these chiller units. The selection of the schools for the trial was made on the basis of different types and ages of building. The schools to be used are Rosebank, Powrie, Ardler and Eastern. It is anticipated that the trial will last 4-6 weeks.
- 7.3 The Corporate Working Group on Water, comprising staff from the departments of Education, Environmental and Consumer Protection, Architectural Division of Support Services, along with Head Teacher representatives and the Council's Health and Safety Officer, will oversee the trials, undertake assessments and devise a maintenance protocol for the chillers.
- 7.4 All primary and nursery children will be provided with a plastic sports style water bottle to mark the launch of the project. This bottle will be labelled in Dundee City Council livery.

8.0 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Director of Finance, Support Services, Social Work and Head Teachers have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

9.0 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/LW/EAG

26 November 2002