

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF 22 APRIL 2002**

**REPORT ON: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE AL-MAKTOUM INSTITUTE AND DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**REPORT NO: 308-2002**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report brings to the attention of the Education Committee a Memorandum of Understanding between Dundee City Council Education Department and the Al-Maktoum Institute of Islamic Studies which will be based in the University of Abertay.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The Education Committee is recommended to:

i) note the contents of this report and the establishment of the Institute for Islamic Studies

and

ii) approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Dundee City Council Education Department and the Institute for Islamic Studies contained in Appendix I.

**3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Nil

**4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Nil

**5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Nil

**6.0 REPORT**

6.1 The Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies will be officially opened In May 2002. The Institute will be a division of the School of Social and Health Sciences within the University of Abertay. The Institute will be

the first academic institution of its kind in Scotland and it is hoped will enhance both the academic and international reputation of Dundee City. It is anticipated that establishment of the Institute will also signal the beginning of a wider relationship between the city of Dundee and Dubai, home of the Institute's sponsor, His Highness Shaikh Handan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum.

6.2 One of the aims of the Institute is to serve the local community. It is hoped that, in addition to its other work, the Institute will provide a range of educational opportunities for teachers and pupils in Dundee to gain a wider knowledge of Islam and Arabic culture. This will build on Dundee's already strong multicultural tradition.

**7.0 CONCLUSIONS**

7.1 The official opening of the Institute will be a significant development for the University of Abertay and for the City of Dundee. In recognition of this event it is proposed that a Memorandum of Understanding be signed by representatives of Dundee City Council Education Department and of the Institute. The Memorandum recognises The Education Department's commitment to working in partnership with all higher education institutions in the City and looks forward to developing educational links between the Institute and Dundee schools. The text of proposed memorandum is attached at Appendix I

**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 ..... Date .....

Director of Education

## **Memorandum of Understanding between the Al-Maktoum Institute and Dundee City Council Education Department**

Dundee City Council Education Department welcomes the establishment of the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies. The Institute is a new and exciting development in teaching and research in Arabic and Islamic Studies in Scotland. It has been established, and generously endowed, by His Highness Shaikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and the United Arab Emirates Minister of Finance and Industry. The Institute is formally constituted as a division of the University of Abertay Dundee's School of Social and Health Sciences. The Education Department already enjoys an active and thriving working relationship with the University of Abertay. The establishment of the Al Maktoum Institute provides a significant opportunity to enhance and develop this relationship.

The Education Department recognises the unique and important role of the Institute as Scotland's first Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies. The works and activities of the Institute will establish Dundee as a centre of national importance in helping to develop an awareness and understanding of matters related to Islam and Muslims in the context of Scotland and the wider world.

The Institute is committed to serving the local communities. The Education Department recognises that the presence of the Institute within the city holds in potential many significant benefits for the people of Dundee. In particular, the Institute and the Education Department look forward to building on the early initiatives to establish and develop links with schools. The access to a wide range of information, materials, facilities and events that will enrich various aspects of teaching and learning related to Islam and Muslim cultures will bring valuable opportunities for teachers and pupils of primary and secondary schools.

The Education Department is committed to building partnerships with all Higher and Further Education Institutions in Dundee. Within this, the Department wishes to establish a partnership with the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies and looks forward to a fruitful and mutually beneficial working partnership.