

**REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 14 FEBRUARY 2013**

**REPORT ON: SECONDARY CLASS SIZES IN S1 AND S2 FOR ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**REPORT NO: 62-2013**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out changes to the existing staffing level arrangements in English and Mathematics for pupils in S1 and S2 across our secondary schools with effect from the academic year in 2013-14.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 At present, all secondary schools are staffed to deliver average class sizes of 20 in English and Mathematics. The recommendation is to continue to maintain average class sizes in the four secondary schools with significantly identifiable needs but to move to regulation class sizes in the remaining five secondary schools. This will take effect from the start of academic year in 2013-14.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There would be a staff saving of approximately 9 FTE equivalent subject teachers in taking this proposal forward.
- 3.2 The implementation of this proposal would result in estimated savings amounting to £197,000 in financial year 2013-14 and £315,000 in a full financial year.

## **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

- 4.1 The proposal reflects the different needs of secondary schools across the city. It will allow schools greater flexibility in determining class sizes and, due to the devolution of the school based staffing budget, introduced in session 2012/13, schools will be able to staff subject departments according to identified need.
- 4.2 The implementation of this proposal will protect the staffing levels in four schools. The remaining five secondary schools would retain the flexibility to deploy staff such as subject specialists and Support for Learning teachers to support classes and meet the needs of pupils in the most effective ways.
- 4.3 The schools with the identified need have been selected using on going baseline assessment data (see Appendix 1).
- 4.4 The average class size of 20 in English and Mathematics was based on a 2007 Scottish Government Circular the vast majority of education authorities have now withdrawn from the delivery of these average class sizes. Although class sizes vary from school to school and by subject, the agreed maximum class sizes in secondary

schools as determined by the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT) are:

S1 - S2                    - 33 pupils  
S3 - S6                    - 30 pupils  
Practical classes       - 20 pupils

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of sustainability, strategic environmental assessment, anti-poverty, equality impact assessment and risk management. There are no major issues. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be available on the Council Web Site at <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Head of Democratic and Legal Services, secondary Head Teachers and trade unions.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Equality Impact Assessment.

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24 January 2013

**Appendix 1****The four secondary schools maintaining average class sizes of 20 in English and Maths S1-S2**

Baldragon Academy  
Braeview Academy  
Craigie High School  
St Paul's RC Academy