

**REPORT TO:** POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 10th FEBRUARY 2011

**REPORT ON:** EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: REVIEW OF SUPPORT FOR LEARNING PROVISION

**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

**REPORT NO:** 82-2011

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to indicate proposed savings for financial year 2011-2012.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the proposed savings described in this report be approved.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The implementation of the following proposals would result in estimated savings amounting to £62,000 in financial year 2011-12 and beyond. The appendix provides further detail.

## **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

- 4.1 There is an imperative to identify and achieve significant savings in each of the financial years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14.
- 4.2 Support for Learning is designed to provide additional support for the more vulnerable children and young people in the city.
- 4.3 When considered in conjunction with several developments of significance over recent years as outlined briefly in the following paragraphs, savings can be made while ensuring that the Department retains its capacity to provide a high level of additional support to learners in Dundee's schools. The savings declared are given as an appendix to this report.

## **5.0 THE PROPOSALS**

### **5.1 Early retirement of Team Leader, School Community Support Service**

- 5.1.1 One of the five Team Leaders in the School Community Support Service has retired with effect from 31 October 2010. He has been replaced by a current Assistant Team Leader and that post has been deleted under a restructuring of the service.

### **5.2 10% reduction in supplies and services budgets of support services (Dundee Educational Psychology Service, School Community Support Service, Bilingual Pupils Support Service, and Multi-Sensory Service)**

- 5.2.1 These budgets have rarely been fully expended in previous years and it is anticipated that each service can be effectively supported through the reduced budgets without detriment.

### 5.3 Removal of ASSIST service

- 5.3.1 The ASSIST service (Access and Special Support Initiative for Schools in Tayside) was in place for a number of years and supported by both Dundee and Angus Councils. The joint funding arrangement came to an end in August 2008 and the staff tutor employed to deliver the service retired in December 2008.
- 5.3.2 The purpose of the ASSIST service was to provide information, advice and assessment support to school staff regarding the use of information and communications technology (ICT) in supporting children with additional support needs. An integral part of the service was the short-term lending to schools of ICT equipment to help inform schools' decisions on the adequacy or otherwise of particular resources/equipment prior to purchasing.
- 5.3.3 Following consideration of a number of alternative models of provision, a new Additional Support Needs ICT Resource Library was established within the Educational Development Service, Lawton Road Dundee, in October 2010 on a trial basis. The purpose of the new resource library is to support school decision-making in the use of ICT equipment for learners with additional support needs.
- 5.3.4 The new resource library is operating efficiently and is meeting the needs of schools in supporting their pupils appropriately. Making this new service delivery model permanent and providing it with a modest annual purchasing budget of £5,000 has allowed the Department to save £14,000 during financial year 2010-2011. The same saving will be achieved in each subsequent financial year.

## 6.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 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. Equality Impact Assessments have been carried out and will be made available on the Council website: <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>. The Equality Impact Assessments for these proposals indicated that there is not likely to be adverse impact on any equality group.

## 7.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Director of Finance.

## 8.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 Equality Impact Assessments.

Jim Collins  
Director of Education

27 January 2011  
JC/JG

## APPENDIX 1

### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - SUPPORT FOR LEARNING - PROPOSED SAVINGS 2011-12

#### Summary of savings

Early Retirement - Team Leader - SCSS	£42,000
Reduction in supplies and services	£6,000
Removal of ASSIST service	£14,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£62,000</u></b>