

**HMIE REPORT 2004 – 05**

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**1. SUMMARY**

The education functions of Argyll & Bute Council were inspected during the period December 2004 to January 2005 by HM Inspectorate of education (HMIe), as part of a 5 year national inspection programme of all local authorities in Scotland. In June 2005, HMIe issued their inspection report, this outlined service key strengths plus areas requiring improvement. The overview is provided in Appendix 1.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The contents of this report are noted and to be followed up by Internal Audit.

**3. DETAILS**

3.1 The HMIe report identified several key strengths within Community Services and the Education Service. In particular the report noted strengths in communication, effective partnership working, senior management commitment, effective inclusion of pupils with special educational needs in mainstream education and improvements in budget management.

3.2 The HMIe report also identified areas requiring action. These were, the need for raising attainment and achievement in secondary schools, improving performance evaluation and monitoring in secondary schools, addressing issues of capacity and the physical environment of schools. In addition a need for better integration between service and budget planning was also cited.

3.3 HMIe as part of the inspection process requested of Community Services management that they prepare and make public an action plan, within 8 weeks of the publication of their report.

3.4 Internal Audit has been informed by Community Services management, that they are in the process of compiling a draft action plan to be discussed at a meeting with HMIe on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2005. A finalised action plan is expected by the beginning of September 2005.

**4. CONCLUSIONS**

Internal Audit will monitor progress by Community Services management as they address the issues contained in the agreed public action plan. A further update will be provided to the Audit Committee on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2005.

**5. IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Policy: None

5.2 Financial: None

5.3	Personnel:	None
5.4	Legal:	None
5.5	Equal Opportunities:	None

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