

HMIe REPORT 2004 – 05

1. SUMMARY

The Education Service of Argyll & Bute Council was 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.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

3. DETAILS

3.1 A copy of the HMIe report was provided to the Audit Committee on the 2nd of September 2005. The HMIe review found that Argyll & Bute Council demonstrated good and improving performance across many different aspects of its work. Overall, from a sound base, the Education Service was strengthening its impact on meeting the Council's key aim of being recognised as Scotland's leading rural area.

3.2 In response to the HMIe requirement, the Education Services management at the beginning of September 2005 agreed an Action Plan. This was then presented and approved by the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on the 8th of September 2005. See Appendix 1.

3.3 The Action Plan contains 4 main action points, which have sub sections detailing areas of concern, management comment, the responsible officer and implementation dates. Three of the main action points have implementation dates within the academic year 2005 – 2006. It should be noted that the August 2005 action date within Action Point 3 has been addressed. The remaining action point has 2 issues with agreed implementation dates of March and July 2006. Management have reported that progress is ongoing with all action points.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Internal Audit will monitor progress by Education Services management as they address the issues contained in the agreed Action Plan.

5. IMPLICATIONS

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| 5.1 | Policy: | None |
| 5.2 | Financial: | None |
| 5.3 | Personnel: | None |

5.4 Legal: None

5.5 Equal Opportunities: None

For further information please contact Ian Nisbet, Internal Audit Manager (01546 604216)

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Internal Audit Manager 25 November 2005.

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