

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 8 JULY 2009

USE OF ADDITIONAL (2FTE) FUNDING FROM THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to utilise funding for two teachers (£80,000) allocated from the Scottish Government for session 2009/10 to appoint an additional Curriculum for Excellence Coordinator at secondary Principal Teacher level and to use the remaining allocation to part-fund the existing Curriculum for Excellence Coordinator.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Government recently agreed at COSLA that it would fund an additional 100 teachers at a cost of £4 million to support the next stage of development of the Curriculum for Excellence across Scottish schools. This sum has been allocated on a full time equivalent (FTE) pro-rata basis with the result that East Ayrshire Council has received the equivalent of 2FTE (£80,000).
- 2.2 The funding is allocated on the premise that the Authority appoints two teachers to support schools with the next phase of implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence. The Scottish Government has asked that authorities who accept the resource are able to demonstrate that two teacher posts will have been backfilled to release the seconded individuals.
- 2.3 East Ayrshire Council was one of a small range of authorities who took the innovative step last session of using its own resources to fund a Curriculum for Excellence Coordinator and has therefore already partly achieved the Scottish Government's aim of releasing teachers to support schools develop the Curriculum for Excellence. Part of the allocation of the £80,000 would allow the Department of Educational and Social Services to guarantee that this post continues next session.
- 2.4 The Department of Educational and Social Services, with the support of the Curriculum for Excellence Coordinator, has already made significant steps towards the implementation of a Curriculum for Excellence during session 2008/09. Schools have been involved in a wide variety of in-service and training programmes and operational strategy is being coordinated through a range of working groups led and managed by a Leadership and Management Board, chaired by the Head of Schools. All of the curricular responsibilities of the Quality Improvement Officers, and other educational support staff are incorporated within this structure. The Department of Educational and Social

Services is in a strong position to further develop the Curriculum for Excellence programme in session 2009/10. The appointment of an experienced secondary Principal Teacher to work alongside the present Curriculum for Excellence Coordinator (who is a primary Head Teacher) will add further value to these developments.

- 2.5** The timing of the additional resource is opportune given the Scottish Government has now announced the detail of the new examination structure to begin in session 2013. Work will require to be done to prepare secondary schools to meet this challenge and to have in place a robust S1-S3 curriculum, which includes inter-disciplinary courses and programmes.
- 2.6** The funding has been allocated specifically for the secondment of two teachers for one academic session and the Scottish Government has sought re-assurance that two teacher posts will be backfilled as a result of the funding. The proposals in this paper will allow that re-assurance to be given.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1** As indicated in Section 2, the Department of ESS funded in session 2008-2009, a Curriculum for Excellence Coordinator who works across all sectors very effectively. It is proposed that the £80,000 be used to appoint an additional secondary Principal Teacher to support the existing Curriculum for Excellence Coordinator and the balance of funding be used directly to maintain the present coordinator in post until June 2010.
- 3.2** It is recommended that the additional secondee be a Principal Teacher to ensure that someone of experience and sufficient status at secondary school level is appointed to lead and manage the programme alongside the present coordinator.
- 3.3** The Scottish Government Funding of £80,000 is sufficient for the funding of two unpromoted teachers. Using the funding in the way described above will ensure that two experienced and promoted education professionals are coordinating the programme for schools in East Ayrshire. This will give added status and value to the programme and demonstrate to the Scottish Government and schools that the authority has prioritised the implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence and has in fact deployed some of its own funding to supplement the allocation of grant from the Scottish Government to second two high quality individuals to support schools during a period of educational transformation.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The cost of a principal teacher at an average of Scale Point 4, including on-costs, would be £50,500. This would leave a remaining balance of £29,500 to part fund the present Curriculum for Excellence Co-ordinator. Her academic session salary, including on costs, is £64,000.

5. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The work of the Curriculum for Excellence is embedded within the Promoting Lifelong Learning Community Plan.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Nil

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** It is recommended that Cabinet approve:

- i) the use of the £80,000 (2FTE) allocation from the Scottish Government to support the Curriculum for Excellence in session 2009/10;
- ii) the appointment of a secondary Principal Teacher and use of the balance of the resource to ensure the present Curriculum for Excellence Coordinator remains in post until June 2010;
- iii) otherwise, note the contents of this report.

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Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

AS/JW
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Andrew Sutherland, Head of Service: Schools, Tel: (01563) 576126

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