

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 22 AUGUST 2007**

### **FUNDING OF ADDITIONAL TEACHERS IN 2007-08**

#### **Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update members of Cabinet on additional funding being provided to employ additional teachers in session 2007-08 and seek approval for its use.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

**2.1** The Scottish Executive has committed itself to supporting early intervention and to reducing class sizes in P1-P3 and will provide additional funding to allow education authorities across Scotland to employ 300 additional teachers. The additional funding nationally amounts to £9m for school year 2007-08. The intention is that this additional funding will employ additional teachers for school session 2007-08.

**2.2** The national requirement for the additional teachers is primarily in pre-school and in P1-P3 in deprived areas. Further, the additional teaching staff deployed in pre-school can also be deployed in partner centres, although they will be employed and managed by the local authority.

**2.3** There is also an emphasis on ensuring continuity of employment for newly qualified primary teachers. Thus, the intention is that these additional staff should come from those newly qualified primary teachers who have just completed their probationer period.

#### **3.0 IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN EAST AYRSHIRE**

**3.1** The funding available within East Ayrshire equates to 7.6 FTE of additional teacher staffing, based on employing newly qualified teachers. It is proposed that 5 FTE approximately will be deployed in the pre-school sector and 2.6 FTE approximately in the primary sector. These will be experienced teachers from within current East Ayrshire establishments. They will work under the auspices of the Early Intervention Co-ordinator and will co-ordinate with the Early Intervention Team, with a key focus on raising attainment in literacy and numeracy. The additional new staff will be employed to replace the experienced staff in their establishments.

**3.2** The 5 teachers deployed in the pre school sector will work on a peripatetic basis to further support the work of 20 pre school providers across the local authority, voluntary and private sectors in East Ayrshire. These will include partner providers of pre school education, community nurseries and stand-alone nursery schools with no teacher input.

The overall purpose of this enhanced teaching support will be to model high quality teaching input, observe and evaluate practice and improve curricular

approaches. One of the 5 teachers will be a principal teacher who will have an appropriate role in this enhanced service.

- 3.3** The teachers to be deployed in the primary sector will focus on supporting specific schools. The target will be to increase attainment in literacy and numeracy, and increase achievement. These schools will also be in areas of deprivation. These teachers will work closely with the authority's Early Intervention Team in support of achieving the aims of Priority to Improvement 2007-10. These additional staff will also contribute to reducing teacher: pupil ratios in the selected schools in P1-P3.
- 3.4** Consultation will take place with the teachers' unions on this implementation of this development.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** Funding of £217,800 to fully support this additional staffing has been allocated by Scottish Executive for school session 2007-08.

#### **5. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** These developments promote the themes of Community Learning and Improving Opportunities.

#### **6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1** Nil

#### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1** Nil

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1** It is recommended that members of the Cabinet:
- (i) note the additional funding being provided for additional teachers in 2007-08;
  - (ii) approve the proposal for additional teachers as outlined in section 3 above; and
  - (iii) otherwise, note the contents of this report

John McCarney  
Head of Service: Schools

JMcC/EO'N  
1 August 2007

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Letter from Scottish Executive Schools Directorate, Teachers Division –

3 July 2007

2. Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary to Education and Lifelong Learning, Scottish Parliament – 20 June 2007.

**Implementation Officer: John McCarney, Head Of Service: Schools and  
Kay Gilmour, Head of Service: Community Support**

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