

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 21 May 2010

MATTERS ARISING UPDATE REPORT

Report by Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a consolidated response to information requests made by Members at previous meetings.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** As Members are aware, during the course of discussions at meetings of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee, Members, from time to time, seek information or clarification from Officers on particular matters which requires to be provided after the meeting. Such requests arise from, and reflect, the role of the Committee in respect of its scrutiny function.

- 2.2** The Committee at its meeting held on 3 April 2009 agreed that, in future, a report be submitted to the Committee to consolidate all responses to information requests made by Members of the Committee at previous meetings or, otherwise, provide an explanation as to why the relevant information is not yet available. This approach will formalise the various matters arising into report format thereby facilitating presentation of the information to Members and recording of the origin and progress of the issues raised.

3. UPDATE ON MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1** The outstanding matters arising from previous meetings of the Committee are as follows, namely:-

- (i) SQA Qualification in Gaelic (GSC, 23 April 2010, Item 2, Page 1123, 07/12);
- (ii) Breakdown of the six lots relative to the Uplift of Segregated/unsegregated Waste for Processing and Diversion from Landfill (GSC, 23 April 2010, Item 7, Page 1126, 07/12);
- (iii) Allocation and Purpose of Funding Associated with the International Biopharmaceutical Company for Work in the Dalmellington Area (GSC, 23 April 2010, Item 8, Page 1126, 07/12);
- (iv) Pupils Excluded from School and Subsequently Diagnosed with a Learning Difficulty and as a Result Have Been Transferred to a Special School (GSC, 23 April 2010, Item 9, Page 1127, 07/12);
- (v) Appeals Against Exclusion for Primary or Secondary School (GSC, 23 April 2010, Item 9, Page 1127, 07/12); and

(vi) Reasons for Exclusion from Primary or Secondary School (GSC, 23 April 2010, Item 9, Page 1127, 07/12).

3.2 The information relevant to the abovementioned matters is set out below, namely:-

3.2.1 SQA Qualification in Gaelic

Information Requested: Information in relation to the qualification offered to pupils by SQA for those pupils who are native speakers or learners studying gaelic as a second language.

Response by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services:-

One pupil achieved a B pass at Intermediate 2 gaelic last school session and was the first pupil entitled to sit an examination at this level given the "lead in" time from the primary unit. There are no pupils sitting gaelic intermediate in this school session, however there are three pupils sitting standard grade gaelic (learners) and two pupils sitting standard grade gaelic (native speakers). The results would seem to suggest that it can be anticipated that two pupils would possibly be interested in sitting intermediate/higher gaelic in May 2011.

3.2.2 Breakdown of the Six Lots Relative to the Uplift of Segregated/unsegregated Waste for Processing and Diversion from Landfill

Information Requested: An explanation regarding the breakdown of the six lots relative to the contract for the uplift of segregated/unsegregated waste for processing and diversion from landfill.

Response by the Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services:-

Lot 6 (Gulley Waste Arisings) wasn't awarded for the same reasons as Lot 4 (Street Cleansing Residue) namely that none of the bids received met the Council's requirements for those services and accordingly there will need to be a further operational review in light of the actual availability of appropriate service provision within the market.

3.2.3 Allocation and Purpose of Funding Associated with the International Biopharmaceutical Company for Work in the Dalmellington Area

Information Requested: Information in connection with the allocation and purpose of the funding allocated to an international biopharmaceutical company for work in the Dalmellington area.

Response by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager:-

Pfizer funding was allocated to East Ayrshire Carers Centre and the purpose of the funding was to (i) fund part-time staff; (ii) develop links with Health Centres in Dalmellington and Doon Valley area; (iii) carry out a patient mail shot via Dalmellington Health Centre; (iv) register and support carers identified via the mail shot; and (v) provide training in healthy lifestyles.

3.2.4 Pupils Excluded from School and Subsequently Diagnosed with a Learning Difficulty and as a Result Have Been Transferred to a Special School

Information Requested: Figures relating to the number of children excluded from school and subsequently diagnosed with a learning difficulty and as a result of which are referred to a special school.

Response by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services:-

Currently there are 91 pupils on the school role, Primary 1 to Secondary 6. Of these 91 pupils, 48 have transferred from mainstream primary school to Park School at one stage or another of their primary school life. Of the 48 pupils, 11 transferred at primary 7 to S1 stage, the others transferred early in their primary school years. Also 10 of the 48 had been excluded at some point from the mainstream school. This year five (four secondary and one primary) of the 48 pupils have been temporarily excluded from Park School itself.

For the school year August 2009 to 2010, nine pupils have transferred from mainstream primary schools to Park School primary school department, with one of the nine pupils excluded from primary school prior to being transferred to Park School.

As was stated at the Governance and Scrutiny Committee, the pupils who have been excluded from primary school have been temporary exclusions. Their presence in the Park School was because of their needs not an exclusion.

3.2.5 Appeals Against Exclusion for Primary or Secondary School

Information Requested: Information in connection with the number of appeals against exclusions from primary or secondary school.

Response by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services:-

The Head of Service: Schools has confirmed that the rate of appeal is approximately one per year. In 2007/2008 for Exclusions Appeals two were

rejected and one upheld; and in 2008/2009 one was rejected and one cancelled.

3.2.6 Reasons for Exclusion from Primary or Secondary School

Information Requested: In respect of the reasons for exclusion, clarification on the information detailed in paragraph 6.3 of the report.

Response by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services:-

| <u>Exclusions 08-09 All Sectors</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>%</u> |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|
| General or persistent disobedience | 212 | 24.6 |
| Verbal abuse of members of staff | 173 | 20.1 |
| Physical assault with no weapon against pupil | 143 | 16.6 |
| Fighting | 91 | 10.6 |
| Insolent or offensive behaviour | 60 | 7.0 |
| Other | 41 | 4.8 |
| Substance misuse - not alcohol | 25 | 2.9 |
| Physical assault with no weapon against staff | 23 | 2.7 |
| Verbal abuse of fellow pupils | 16 | 1.9 |
| Damage to school property | 15 | 1.7 |
| Threat of physical violence, no weapon, against staff | 11 | 1.3 |
| Physical assault using improvised weapon against pupil | 7 | 0.8 |
| Theft from staff | 7 | 0.8 |
| Substance misuse - alcohol | 6 | 0.7 |
| Threat of physical violence, no weapon, against pupil | 5 | 0.6 |
| Threat to school property | 4 | 0.5 |
| Physical assault using weapon against staff | 4 | 0.5 |
| Threat of physical violence using weapon or improvised weapon, against staff | 4 | 0.5 |
| Malicious communications against staff | 3 | 0.3 |
| Indecent exposure | 2 | 0.2 |
| Physical assault using weapon against pupil | 2 | 0.2 |
| Physical assault using improvised weapon against staff | 2 | 0.2 |
| Threat of physical violence using weapon or improvised weapon, against pupil | 2 | 0.2 |
| Refusal to attend class | 1 | 0.1 |
| Theft from pupil | 1 | 0.1 |
| Malicious communications against pupil | 1 | 0.1 |
| Slander and libel (incl. website) against staff | 1 | 0.1 |
| All Circumstances | 862 | 100.0 |

4. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY/COMMUNITY PLANNING/RISK IMPLICATIONS - None arising directly from this report.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1** The Committee is asked to note the information provided in response to the matters arising as set out in this report.

Alex McPhee
Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support

6 May 2010
LY/SC

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - NIL

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services on Telephone Number (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Lynn Young, Administrative Officer.