

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER 2008 AT 1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Tom Cook, Maureen McKay, Alan Brown, Stuart Finlayson, Barney Menzies, Eric Ross and Drew Filson.

ATTENDING: Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; Alex McPhee, Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management; Kenneth McKinlay, Principal - Quality Improvement; Julie McGarry, Administration Manager; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Willie Coffey, Helen Coffey and John Campbell.

CHAIR: Councillor Tom Cook, Chair.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. There were submitted and approved as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 26 September 2008 (circulated).

1.1 MATTERS ARISING

1.1.1 Furnishings for Netherthird Community Campus (Item 5(iii), Page 488, 07/11)

The Chair confirmed that the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management had circulated to Members of the Committee information as to whether the budget allocation for Netherthird Community Campus included resources for furnishings; and it was agreed that the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management would confirm to Members the budget amount and heading from which the provision of furnishings at this facility would be met.

1.1.2 Circulation of Additional Information to Members of the Committee

On the matter having been raised by the Chair, it was agreed that, in future, where a Member requests further information from an Officer of the Council relating to a matter raised during a meeting, the information requested be provided to all members of the Committee.

SCRUTINY

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 7 October 2008 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided, for information, details of tenders which had been accepted, including estimated costs.

THE JOINT INSPECTION OF SERVICES TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL AREA (Item 4, Page 352, 07/11)

3. There was submitted a report dated 7 October 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of progress in respect of the key actions which had arisen from the Inspection of Services to Protect Children published in January 2008.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services provide information to Members of the Committee on the timescales associated with the review of Mental Health Services which was already underway and which would seek to improve access to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the progress made in respect of implementing the action points which had arisen from the Inspection.

PERFORMANCE INSPECTION OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (Item 5, Page 429, 07/11)

4. There was submitted a report dated 7 October 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the submission of the Council's self evaluation questionnaire to the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) and requested Committee to endorse its contents.

It was agreed:

- (i) to endorse the summary self evaluation;
- (ii) to note the timetable in respect of the inspection process;
- (iii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services ensure, as far as is possible, for the purposes of consistency and comparison, that the results of the Inspection would be presented to Committee in the same format as the Summary Self-Evaluation; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT USING QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN EDUCATION (QMIE2)

5. There was submitted a report dated 8 October 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the outcome of the annual review of Educational Services using the evaluation framework, Quality Management in Education (QMIE2).

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the progress in establishing QMIE2 as the self evaluation framework within Educational Services;
- (ii) to note the key strengths and areas for improvement identified in the report;
- (iii) to approve the Action Plan for 2008/09 as set out in the report;
- (iv) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services report to Committee annually on QMIE2;

- (v) to approve the planned detailed “Closer Look” Workshops; and
- (vi) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT 2008

6. There was submitted a report dated 10 October 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the overall attainment and achievement in East Ayrshire schools in the session 2007/08.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the overall performance of young people in East Ayrshire schools;
- (ii) to encourage the provision of appropriate vocational courses in partnership with Ayr and Kilmarnock Colleges;
- (iii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (a) arrange to provide to Members of the Committee information on the activities of pupils from East Ayrshire at Ayr College, similar to the information provided relative to Kilmarnock College as set out in paragraphs 5.2 to 5.4 of the report; and (b) endeavour to provide within future reports of this kind, information on employment outcomes for East Ayrshire pupils;
- (iv) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services provide an updated report on attainment and achievement to Committee on an annual basis; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

GENERAL

WORK PROGRAMME: QUARTERLY UPDATE

7. There was submitted a report dated 3 October 2008 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided a quarterly update of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee’s Work Programme.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the quarterly update report of the work programme;
- (ii) that future updates on the Committee’s work be submitted on an ad hoc basis as set out in the report; and
- (iii) that the general business monitoring schedule be made available on the Members’ Information Portal and maintained as a current document.

The meeting terminated at 1102 hrs.