

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22 MARCH 2005 AT 1000 HOURS  
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,  
KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tommy Farrell, Jim O'Neill, Stephanie Young, Daniel Coffey, John Campbell, Provost Jane Darnbrough and Councillors John Knapp, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Jimmy Kelly, Eric Ross, Elaine Dinwoodie, Elaine Stewart and Jimmy Carmichael; Church Representatives: Bill McGregor, John McHugh and Dr Ivy Barclay; Teacher Representative: Iain Harvey; and Parent Representative George Hammersley.

**ATTENDING:** John Mulgrew, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; John McCarney, Head of Service: Schools Support; Graham Short, Head of Service: Quality Improvement; Robin Gourlay, Head of Onsite Services; Chris Johnston, Education Finance Manager; Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager; Janie Allen, Principal Officer Early Years; and Sharon McHarg, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Maureen McKay, Brian Reeves, Willie Coffey, Drew McIntyre, Iain Linton and Neil McGhee.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT EDUCATION TO  
6 FEBRUARY 2005 (PERIOD 11)**

1. There was submitted a joint report dated 10 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services and Executive Head of Finance which advised of the current budgetary control position and projected out-turn for the year for Educational Services for the period ended 6 February 2005 (Period 11).

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services prepare a report on the PPP Project for consideration at the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT ONSITE SERVICES  
UNIT TO 6 FEBRUARY 2005 (PERIOD 11)**

2. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 28 February 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services and the Executive Head of Finance which advised of the current budgetary control position and projected out-turn for the year for Onsite Services Business Unit for the period ended 6 February 2005 (Period 11).

### **VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS 2005/2006**

3. There was submitted a report dated 4 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for recommendations for awards in respect of allocations of Education Voluntary Sector Grants for the year 2005/2006.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, note the contents of the report.

### **ATTENDANCE OF PRIMARY 1 PUPILS**

4. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the proposal that Primary 1 pupils commence full day attendance at school from early September rather than the current practice of mid-October.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the attendance of Primary 1 pupils for a full day from the beginning of the third week of the first term; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT STAFF TO SUPPORT THE IMPROVEMENT OF PUPIL BEHAVIOUR**

5. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which (i) informed of additional funding allocated by the Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED) providing for the employment of school support staff, and (ii) advised that the additional staff would focus on work related to improving pupil behaviour.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the additional funding which had been agreed by SEED;
- (ii) to refer the report to the Corporate Governance Committee for consideration of the additional staffing requirements arising therefrom; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **RESPONSE TO INTERIM REPORT REGARDING "BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS OF A LIFELONG LEARNING SOCIETY: A REVIEW OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES IN SCOTLAND"**

6. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the Authority's response to the Interim Report (November 2004) regarding a "Review of Collaboration Between Schools and Further Education Colleges in Scotland" (Scottish Executive, February 2004).

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the response to the consultation; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **CHILDCARE CHARGES**

7. There was submitted a report dated 10 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought agreement to increase the level of the current charge for childcare in the Council's nurseries which provide childcare in addition to pre-school education.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Stewart, moved that the Committee:-

- (i) agree the recommendation to increase the childcare charge from £2 per hour to £2.50 per hour from 1 April 2005; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor D Coffey, seconded by Councillor McDill, moved as an amendment that no increase be applied to childcare charges and that the status quo remain.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 13 votes to 4.

### **BIRTH TO THREE: SUPPORTING OUR YOUNGEST CHILDREN**

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 2 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the recently published "Birth to Three: Supporting our Youngest Children" document.

### **REVIEW OF CHARGES IN THE LETTING POLICY FOR COMMUNITY USE (Item 12, Page 656, 03/04)**

9. There was submitted a report dated 28 February 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval to revise charges for accommodation used by Community Groups.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Stewart, moved that the Committee:-

- (i) approve the implementation of revised charges from 1 August 2005; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor D Coffey, seconded by Councillor McDill moved as an amendment that there be no increase in charges in the letting policy for community use and that the status quo remain.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 12 votes to 4.

### **APPLICATION FOR LETTING OF COUNCIL PREMISES**

10. There was submitted a report dated 4 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of a revised letting application form and associated guidance for use of Council premises and which sought approval for the procedures in relation to the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the changes in the letting form and notes for guidance subject to the following amendments:-

- (a) under paragraph 3.1 delete the second last bullet point; and
  - (b) insert a further paragraph at the end of Section 3.1 to read "All those taking out lets should be made aware of the implications of public liability insurance for their let"; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **PEACE OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE SERVICES**

11. There was submitted a report dated 8 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for additional funding to PEACE in financial year 2004/2005.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve funding of £2,660.24 to PEACE Out-of-School Care Services; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT (EFQM) ASSESSMENT**

12. There was submitted and noted a report dated 7 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the results of a self-evaluation exercise using the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) Model.

#### **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING CODE OF PRACTICE RESULTS OF CONSULTATION**

13. There was submitted a report dated 15 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the results of a consultation exercise on the draft Code of Practice issued in relation to the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the East Ayrshire response to the consultation on the Additional Support for Learning Code of Practice and allied documentation;
- (ii) to note that this report would be considered by the Social Work Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **CHARGES FOR SCHOOL MEALS (Item 15, Page 657, 03/04)**

14. There was submitted a report dated 10 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which proposed revised charges for school meals to be implemented from Tuesday 16 August 2005.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Stewart, moved that the Committee:-

- (i) approve the increase in charges to pupils as detailed in the report, and for the equivalent value of free meals to be increased to £1.48 with effect from Tuesday 16 August 2005; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor D Coffey, seconded by Councillor McDill, moved as an amendment that no increase be applied to charges for school meals and that the status quo remain.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 14 votes to 4.

#### **HUNGRY FOR SUCCESS (Item 16, Page 657, 03/07)**

15. There was submitted a report dated 10 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the progress achieved within the "Hungry for Success" initiative since the last report to the Education Committee on 23 March 2004.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress and improvements being made in the provision of school meals; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Carmichael left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

#### **ORGANIC MEALS, SUSTAINABILITY AND LOCAL PRODUCE**

16. There was submitted a report dated 24 February 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of a successful pilot scheme at Hurlford Primary School and which proposed an extension to a further 10 schools.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the success of the organic and local produce pilot at Hurlford Primary School;
- (ii) to approve the extension of the pilot to a further 10 schools;
- (iii) to approve that a full and independent academic evaluation be undertaken and that the outcome be reported to a future meeting of the Education Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **LINKS WITH THE HUNTER FOUNDATION**

17. There was submitted a report dated 7 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of new links being developed with The Hunter Foundation to benefit schools within the Authority.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to welcome the opportunity to link with The Hunter Foundation and SEED on education initiatives;
- (ii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services submit a report to the Education Committee on further developments; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### EXCLUSIONS 2003/2004

18. There was submitted a report dated 7 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the levels of school exclusions during 2003/2004 and the action being taken to manage exclusions.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to continue to support initiatives that promote positive discipline within schools;
- (ii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services provide further information on exclusions at the end of the school session; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

19. There was submitted and noted a report dated 2 March 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided, for information, details of tenders which had been accepted in respect of the Education Service.

<u>Contract</u>	<u>Successful Contractor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
External Cladding and Aluminium Window Replacement at Bellsbank Community Centre, Dalmellington	Radbury of Ayr Ltd, Ayr	£61,585.32
Window Replacement, Phase 1, New Farm Loch Community Centre, Kilmarnock	J & S McFadyen Ltd, Carluke	£58,449.52

### EDUCATIONAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/2006 AND SCHOOL ESTATE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005 (Item 2, Page 653, 03/07)

20. There was submitted a report dated 7 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval (i) for 2005/2006 Education Service Capital Programme proposals; (ii) to progress with the programme attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and (iii) for the adoption of the 2005 School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) and its submission to the Scottish Executive.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed Capital Programme for 2005/2006 as detailed within the report;
- (ii) to adopt the School Estate Management Plan and approve its submission to the Scottish Executive;
- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services continue to closely monitor the Capital Programme throughout the year, reporting periodically to the Education Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

21. The Committee resolved that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Paragraphs of Schedule 7A of the Act as shown against each item.

**ONSITE SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN (PARA 6) (Item 23, Page 659, 03/04)**

22. There was submitted a report dated 15 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which invited consideration and sought approval of the Onsite Services Business Plan for 2005/2006.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Onsite Services Business Plan for 2005/06 as attached to the report;
- (ii) to note that the Business Plan was based on reduced service levels and income, however, that the focus of the Business Unit would be to successfully compete for any areas of trading activity which may be subjected to Voluntary Competitive Tendering; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT BEST VALUE  
SERVICE REVIEW (PARA 1)**

23. There was submitted a report dated 1 March 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the outcome of a Best Value Review of the Community Learning and Development Service and which invited consideration and sought approval of the recommendations.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations of the Best Value Service Review, as set out within Section 3 of the report;
- (ii) to remit the personnel implications to the Corporate Governance Committee for consideration; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1130 hours.