

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21 MARCH 2006 AT 1000 HOURS  
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,  
KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tommy Farrell, Maureen McKay, Jim O'Neill, Douglas Reid, Drew McIntyre, Iain Linton, John Campbell, Provost Jane Darnbrough and John Knapp, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Jimmy Kelly, Neil McGhee, Elaine Dinwoodie, Elaine Stewart and Jimmy Carmichael; Church Representatives: John McHugh and Dr Ivy Barclay; and Teacher Representative: Iain Harvey.

**ATTENDING:** John Mulgrew, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services Designate; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; Quality Improvement; Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support; John McCarney, Head of Service: School Support; Robin Gourlay, Head of Onsite Services; Peter Hessett, Team Leader (Litigation and Advice); Chris Johnston, Education Finance Manager; Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager; Alan Paterson, Principal Quantity Surveyor (Technical Services); John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education; and Sharon McHarg, Administrative Officer.

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Carol Calder, Audit Scotland, as observer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Stephanie Young, Willie Coffey, Eric Ross; and Church Representative: Bill McGregor.

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

**CHAIRS REMARKS**

**1.1 WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed Carol Calder, External Auditor to the meeting.

**1.2 DEATH OF STEWART GILLAN**

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, extended his sympathy, to the family of Stewart Gillan, Operations Manager (Onsite Services) who had died recently.

**1.3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

The Chair advised that

- (i) John Mulgrew would be retiring from his post as Executive Director of Education and Social Services and confirmed that this would be his last meeting of the Education Committee and on behalf of the Committee, wished him well for the future; and
- (ii) Graham Short had been appointed Executive Director of Education and Social Services and would take up post in the near future.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT:  
EDUCATION TO 5 FEBRUARY 2006 (PERIOD 11)**

2. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 2 March 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services and Executive Head of Finance which advised Members of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for Educational Services for the period ended 5 February 2006 (Period 11).

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT:  
ONSITE SERVICES UNIT TO 5 FEBRUARY 2006 (PERIOD 11)**

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 20 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services and Executive Head of Finance which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Onsite Services Business Unit for the period ended 5 February 2006 (Period 11).

**PROPOSED MERGER OF MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES OF WITCHHILL  
SCHOOL, KILMARNOCK WITH WOODSTOCK SCHOOL, KILMARNOCK**

4. There was submitted a report dated 15 March 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of a consultation document outlining proposals to merge the management structures under one Head Teacher of Witchhill School, Kilmarnock, with Woodstock School, Kilmarnock, in August 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to adopt the proposal that the management structures of Witchhill School, Kilmarnock and Woodstock School, Kilmarnock be merged under one headteacher;
- (ii) that this merger would take effect from August 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (iii) that all interested parties be invited to make written or electronic submissions on the proposal to the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services, East Ayrshire Council, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 7BU, E-mail: [education.consultation@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:education.consultation@east-ayrshire.gov.uk) no later than 05 May 2006;
- (iv) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**AMALGAMATION OF ST COLUMBA'S AND ST MATTHEW'S  
PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

5. There was submitted a report dated 9 March 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of progress in the amalgamation of St Columba's and St Matthew's Primary Schools.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress on the amalgamation of St Columba's and St Matthew's Primary Schools;
- (ii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services bring forward proposals for the naming of the amalgamated school following consultation; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

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

### **SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS FOR AUCHINLECK AND LOUDOUN SWIMMING POOLS**

6. There was submitted a report dated 16 January 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the appointment of two Swimming Instructors, one for Auchinleck Academy Swimming Pool, and one for Loudoun Academy Swimming Pool.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals as outlined in paragraph 2 of the report: and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **RESPONSE TO "PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT - HEAD TEACHER AND DEPUTE HEAD TEACHER APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES": A CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

7. There was submitted a report dated February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the Council's response to the Scottish Executive's consultation document: "Parental Involvement - Head Teacher and Depute Head Teacher Appointment Procedures".

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Authority response to the Scottish Executive's consultation document: "Parental Involvement - Head Teacher and Depute Head Teacher Appointment Procedures"; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **REVIEW OF INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION: MONITORING OF PROGRESS AGAINST MINISTERIAL CHALLENGES: EAST AYRSHIRE RESPONSE**

8. There was submitted a report dated 20 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the Council's response to the Review of Initial Teacher Education: Monitoring of Progress Against the Ministerial Challenges.

It was agreed:-

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

### **SMOKING IN THE WORKPLACE POLICY**

9. There was submitted a report dated 28 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought Committee approval, in respect of teachers' interests, proposed changes to the Council's Smoking in the Workplace Policy, subject to consultation with Trade Unions.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed changes to the Council's Smoking in the Workplace Policy with effect from 26 March 2006; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Jackson rejoined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

### **CREATIVE MINDS - UPDATE REPORT MARCH 2006 (Item 16, Page 1673, 03/07)**

10. There was submitted a report dated March 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which updated on initiatives and forthcoming external funding applications supporting Creative Minds - Arts and Education Strategy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note these initiatives involving pupils from across East Ayrshire;
- (ii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services keep the Committee informed of further initiatives and funding applications; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **REVIEW OF CHARGES IN THE LETTING POLICY FOR COMMUNITY USE AND APPLICATION FOR LETTING OF COUNCIL PREMISES (Item 10, Page 1361, 03/07)**

11. There was submitted a report dated 1 March 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which (i) sought approval to revise charges for accommodation used by Community Groups; and (ii) informed of proposed changes to the application form and associated guidance in relation to the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve implementation of the revised charges from 1 August 2006;
- (ii) to remit amendments to the letting form and associated notes of guidance to officers; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **CHARGES FOR SCHOOL MEALS (Item 14, Page 1362, 03/07)**

12. There was submitted a report dated March 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which proposed revised charges for school meals to be implemented from 16 August 2006.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the increase in charges to pupils as detailed in the report, and for the equivalent value of free meals to be increased to £1.52 with effect from 16 August 2006; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**NETHERTHIRD COMMUNITY CAMPUS CONSULTATION  
(Item 10, Page 1940, 03/07)**

13. There was submitted and noted a report dated 1 March 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the outcome of the community consultation which took place on the proposals to build a new Community Centre in Netherthird.

**20:20 VISION: CHALLENGE AND CHANGE IN CUMNOCK AND DOON VALLEY**

14. There was submitted a report dated 12 January 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of an initiative entitled "20:20 Vision", which is being supported by the Scottish Executive and the Hunter Foundation, to further support the Cumnock and Doon Learning Partnerships.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the developments, as detailed within the report, for the Cumnock and Doon Learning Partnerships;
- (ii) to remit any staffing proposals to the Corporate Governance Committee;
- (iii) to approve the aspects, as detailed within the report, in support of the redevelopment of Glaisnock House, Cumnock for use by East Ayrshire young people;
- (iv) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services provide progress reports as appropriate; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

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

**ONSITE SERVICES BEST VALUE REVIEW**

15. There was submitted a report dated 28 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the outcome from the Best Value Review of Onsite Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Best Value Review of Onsite Services;
- (ii) to note that reports on service improvement priorities would be brought forward to the Committee as they were developed; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**REVIEW OF TRADING OPERATIONS**

16. There was submitted a report dated 28 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval to amend the Trading Status of the former CCT Services of Catering and Cleaning within the remit

of the Education Committee, identified as a recommendation in the Onsite Best Value Review 2006.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to amend the status of Catering and Cleaning Services and no longer regard them as trading operations with effect from 1 April 2006; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE: VARIOUS PROJECTS**

17. There was submitted a report dated 15 March 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which advised of the contractual overspend on several projects.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the additional expenditure exceeding the Contract Sums as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor McDill rejoined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

#### **AWARDING OF CONTRACTS**

18. There was submitted a report dated 3 March 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to provide, for information, details of tenders which had been accepted in respect of the Education Service as follows:-

<u><b>CONTRACT</b></u>	<u><b>SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR</b></u>	<u><b>AMOUNT</b></u>
Window Replacement to East Elevation and Elevation No 3 to Auchinleck Academy, Sorn Road, Auchinleck	J & S McFadyen Ltd, Wishaw	£118,101.25
St John's Primary School, Cumnock – CCTV and External Lighting Installation	ADT Fire & Security Plc, Uddingston	£60,386.52

#### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/2007**

19. There was submitted a report dated 16 March 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval (a) for the 2006/2007 Education Service Capital Programme proposals; (b) to progress with the programme set out in Appendix I of the report; and (c) for the 2006/2007 proposals to be financed under the Scottish Executive School Fund.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed Capital Programme for 2006/2007, as set out in Appendix I of the report;

- (ii) to approve the proposals for the School Fund Programme, as detailed in Appendix II of the report;
- (iii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services continue to monitor closely 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**

- 20.** 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 item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

**ONSITE SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN (Item 22, Page 1365, 03/07)**

- 21.** There was submitted a report dated 15 March 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which invited consideration and sought approval of the Onsite Services Business Plan for 2006/2007.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Business Plan for 2006/2007 for Onsite Services as detailed within the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1115 hours.