

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 MARCH 2007 AT 1000 HOURS  
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,  
KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tommy Farrell, Jim O'Neill, Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, Willie Coffey, Drew McIntyre, John Campbell, John Knapp, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Jimmy Kelly, Neil McGhee, Eric Ross and Elaine Stewart; Church Representatives Bill McGregor, John McHugh and Dr Ivy Barclay; and Teacher Representative Iain Harvey.

**ATTENDING:** Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; Robin Gourlay, Head of Onsite Services; Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support; John McCarney, Head of Service: Schools Support; Hilary MacGillivray, Early Intervention Co-ordinator; Chris Johnston, Financial Services Manager; John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education; Dot Grieve, Principal Officer, Community Learning and Development; Kenneth McKinlay, Principal: Quality Improvement; and Sharon McHarg, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Maureen McKay, Douglas Reid and Iain Linton, Provost Jane Darnbrough and Councillors Elaine Dinwoodie and James Carmichael.

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

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

1. The Chair thanked Louise Barrett, Gavin Carr and Craig Johnston, all pupils from Loudoun Academy and their teacher Paul Casey for their excellent presentation to Members prior to the Committee on the production of their book entitled "Tam O'Haggis" and wished the pupils continued success with the future of their project.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - EDUCATION TO 4  
FEBRUARY 2007 (PERIOD 11)**

2. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 1 March 2007 (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 Educational Services for the period ended 4 February 2007 (Period 11).

**ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS**

3. There was submitted a report dated 1 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for proposals to delegate additional resources to primary, secondary and special schools.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed allocation of the Scottish Executive's additional revenue; and

- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**ADDITIONAL 2006/2007 BUDGET ALLOCATION (Item 1, Page 2475, 03/07)**

- 4. There was submitted a report dated 1 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for spending proposals in respect of additional resources allocated to Education Services by the Policy and Resources Committee.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the allocation of the time limited funding; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

- 5. There was submitted a report dated 26 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which provided information about additional resources which were received into the Council on a non-recurring basis for children's services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the proposed allocation and use of the Scottish Executive's additional revenue funding;
- (ii) to note the same report would also be presented to the Social Work Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Eric Ross joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

**LISTENING TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS**

- 6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 12 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the results of a comprehensive survey of staff, parents and carers, and pupils on their opinions of the educational services provided by the Department.

**EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES: PRIORITY TO IMPROVEMENT 2007-2010**

- 7. There was submitted a report dated 27 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of a new approach to Service Improvement Planning and which sought approval for the Annual Statement of Educational Improvement Objectives 2007-2010.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the changes to service improvement planning set out in the report;
- (ii) to approve the key priorities identified for education for the period 2007-2010;
- (iii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services provide a report to Committee on progress in due course; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **A GUIDE TO EVALUATING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE USING QUALITY INDICATORS**

8. There was submitted a report dated 27 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the approaches to evaluating services for children and young people presently in place and planned for the future in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the approaches to evaluation of services for children and young people;
- (ii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services report back to Committee on the progress in due course;
- (iii) to note that the same report would be presented to the Social Work Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **LITERACY DEVELOPMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE**

9. There was submitted a report dated 26 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed on the progress made with regard to literacy development in East Ayrshire and which sought approval for the Literacy Strategy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the continuation of the focus on literacy in all schools and early years establishments;
- (ii) to approve the developments detailed in the report to support literacy;
- (iii) to approve the Literacy Strategy; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **DRAFT CONSTITUTION FOR PARENT FORUM AND PARENT COUNCIL**

10. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the draft Constitution for the Parent Council and Parent Forum.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the draft Constitution for the Parent Council and Parent Forum;
- (ii) to approve the further steps proposed within the report to promote parental involvement in schools; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON ATTENDANCE OF PUPILS AT SCHOOLS**

11. There was submitted a report dated 21 February 2007 (circulated) which invited members to approve the response to the Scottish Executive consultation document: "Engaged and Involved: Attendance in Scottish Schools".

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the response to the Scottish Executive consultation;
- (ii) to approve the additional requirement relating to medical and dental appointments as detailed within the report; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **DETERMINED TO SUCCEED - WORK BASED VOCATIONAL LEARNING FUNDING**

- 12.** There was submitted a report dated 28 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which updated on the recent Determined to Succeed Supplementary Funding Award to support the development of work based vocational learning opportunities.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made within the Determined to Succeed programme;
- (ii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services inform Members of future progress and provide an annual monitoring report; and
- (iii) otherwise, note the contents of the report.

#### **ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT QUARTER 3 AND 4 (1 JULY - 30 SEPTEMBER 2006 AND 1 OCTOBER - 31 DECEMBER 2006)**

- 13.** There was submitted and noted a report dated 26 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of absence rates for the Department of Educational and Social Services for the period 1 July to 30 September 2006 and 1 October to 31 December 2006.

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY ACTION PLAN 2007/2008**

- 14.** There was submitted a report dated 2 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the 2007/2008 Health and Safety Action Plan for Education.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the 2007/2008 Health and Safety Action Plan as appended to this report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **REVIEW OF CHARGES IN THE LETTING POLICY FOR COMMUNITY USE (Item 14, Page 2067, 03/07)**

- 15.** There was submitted a report dated 16 February 2007 (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 2007; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor McDill, seconded by Cllr Coffey 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.

**VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS 2007/2008 (Item 5, Page 2224, 03/07)**

16. There was submitted a report dated 28 February 2007 (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 2007/2008.

It was agreed:-

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

**CUMNOCK AND DOON VALLEY GIFT FURNITURE SCHEME  
AND THE HOLIDAY PROJECT  
GRANT FUNDING 2007/2008 (Item 8, Page 2225, 03/07)**

17. There was submitted a report dated 28 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the outcome of the annual evaluations of the Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme and the Holiday Project and confirmed the future funding arrangements.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to remit the development of Service Level Agreements with Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme and the Holiday Project for the period 2007/2010 to the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services;
- (ii) to approve the recommendations for an annual award with inflation for 2007/2008; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**“LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: WE CAN AND  
MUST DO BETTER”**

18. There was submitted a report dated 7 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the contents of the national report “Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better” and sought approval for an action plan to address the main issues identified in this document.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the action plan appended to the report;
- (ii) to note this report would also be considered by the Social Work Committee;
- (iii) to note the importance of this issue at this stage; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

19. There was submitted and noted a report dated 27 February 2007 (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, as follows:-

<b>Contract</b>	<b>Successful Contractor</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Patna Primary School, Patna - Upgrading Lighting and CCTV	ADT Fire & Security plc, Uddingston	£82,429.87
Proposed Primary School and Nursery at Western Road, Galston	Barr Ltd, Paisley	£7,171,671.50

### 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 items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

#### ONSITE SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN (Item 21, Page 2070, 03/07)

21. There was submitted a report dated 7 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which invited consideration and sought approval of the Onsite Services Business Plan for 2007/2008.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Business Plan for 2007/2008 for Onsite Services as detailed in the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### LAND ADJACENT TO KILMAURS PRIMARY SCHOOL, 12 MAIN STREET, KILMAURS

22. There was submitted a report dated 14 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval to declare land adjacent to 12/12A Main Street, Kilmaurs extending to 373 square metres or thereby as shown hatched on the plan appended to the report, and authorise disposal of the same together with land extending to 272 square metres or thereby as shown cross-hatched on the plan appended to the report to the parties identified in the report.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to declare the land extending to 373 square metres or thereby adjacent to 12A Main Street, Kilmaurs surplus to requirements and authorise the disposal of same together with the land extending to 272 square metres to the party identified in the report;
- (ii) to refer the matter to the Acting Executive Director of Development and Property Services for disposal; and

(iii) otherwise, note the contents of the report.

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

- 23.** The Chair (i) thanked all Members and Officers of the Committee for their continued support and gave a special thanks to the representatives; (ii) emphasised that all Members and Officers on the Committee were first and foremost, committed to providing a quality education for young people; and (iii) wished all Members of the Committee good luck in the future.

The meeting terminated at 1115 hours.