

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2006 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tommy Farrell, Maureen McKay, Jim O'Neill, Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, Willie Coffey, Douglas Reid, Drew McIntyre, Iain Linton, John Campbell, John Knapp, Robert McDill, George Smith, Jimmy Kelly, Neil McGhee, 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:** 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; Chris Johnston, Financial Services Manager; Dot Grieve, Principal Officer, Community Learning and Development; Kenneth McKinlay, Principal, Quality Improvement; Sally Ann Kelly, Senior Manager, Children and Families and Criminal Justice; and Sharon McHarg, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Provost Jane Darnbrough and Councillor Eric Jackson.

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

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

1. The Chair advised that George Hammersley, Parent Representative, would be resigning from his post following this meeting and on behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked him for his greatly valued contribution to the work of the Committee and wished him well for the future.

**SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES**

2. There was submitted and approved as a correct record, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes (circulated), viz:-

**2.1 CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF 25 MAY 2006 - APPENDIX I.**

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - EDUCATION TO 17 SEPTEMBER 2006 (PERIOD 6)**

3. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 18 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services and the Executive Head of Finance which advised on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for Educational Services for the period ended 17 September 2006 (Period 6).

### **SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY EXAM RESULTS 2006**

4. There was submitted a report dated 13 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the overall East Ayrshire performance in the 2006 diet of examinations.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Stewart, moved:-

- (i) to note the continuing strong performance against the comparator Authorities;
- (ii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services continue to pursue the Department's agenda to raise attainment and achievement;
- (iii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services provide annual reports on attainment; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report subject to the following amendments:-
  - (a) under Paragraph 4.6, 19% should be 18%; and
  - (b) under Paragraph 5.2, delete the third bullet point.

Councillor Linton, seconded by Councillor Reid, moved as an amendment:-

- (i) to note the contents of the report; and
- (ii) to bring before a future Committee, a report detailing the cuts to the devolved budget of each school within the Authority in respect of Supplies and Services and in particular Secondary Schools where budgets had been cut from £760k in 2004 to £530k in 2006 and the impact these cuts have had on exam results.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 13 votes to 6.

### **RACE EQUALITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

5. There was submitted a report dated 13 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of progress in implementing the Race Equality Action Plan and which sought approval of the Plan up to 2008.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the priorities set until 2008;
- (ii) to note progress in achieving the priorities set for 2005/2006; and
- (iii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services provide an annual progress report.

### **AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT GAELIC NATIONAL PLAN AND GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN**

6. There was submitted a report dated 9 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which invited Members to approve the Department's response to the publication of the draft Gaelic National Plan, which incorporated a National Gaelic Language Plan.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Department's response to the publication of the draft Gaelic National Plan, which incorporated a National Gaelic Language Plan; and

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

### **PLACING REQUESTS - IMPACT OF RECENT LEGISLATION**

- 7. There was submitted a report dated 18 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the impact of the Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2004 on the administration of placing requests and the procedures of Educational Appeal Committees.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the impact of the Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2004 on placing request administration and Appeal Committee Procedures;
- (ii) to approve the proposed additional consideration for placing requests criteria as detailed in Paragraph 3.4 of the report; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES - STRATEGIC SELF ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE - PROGRESS REPORT**

- 8. There was submitted a report dated 5 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which updated on the Department of Educational and Social Services' progress in addressing areas for improvement identified during the Strategic Self Assessment of the Department's performance.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the very good progress made by the Department of Educational and Social Services in responding to the areas for improvement identified during the Department's Strategic Self Assessment of Performance;
- (ii) that any outstanding action points be incorporated into relevant service improvements or work plans as appropriate; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **NATIONAL REVIEW OF THE EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE WORKFORCE: INVESTING IN CHILDREN'S FUTURES**

- 9. There was submitted a report dated 11 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the Council's response to the "National Review of the Early Years and Childcare Workforce: Investing in Children's Futures".

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the response to the "National Review of the Early Years and Childcare Workforce: Investing in Children's Futures";
- (ii) that any minor textual amendments be delegated to the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services;
- (iii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services prepare a report for a future Committee advising on the implications arising from the final review reports; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME - MAJOR PROJECTS**

10. There was submitted a report dated 18 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of progress in four major capital projects and sought approval for funding proposals.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to progress the proposed projects identified in Section 3 of the report;
- (ii) to approve the funding proposals as detailed in Section 4 of the report;
- (iii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services submit a report to the Policy and Resources Committee transferring Altonhill Community Centre to the Educational property portfolios; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

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

### **OUTWITH PLACEMENTS**

11. There was submitted a report dated 18 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which provided a summary of the Department of Educational and Social Services use of outwith placements up to 30 September 2006.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services provide further reports every six months on this aspect of provision of outwith placements;
- (ii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services take the necessary action to ensure that available resources were matched to established needs in this provision;
- (iii) to note that this report had been considered by the Social Work Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **HUNGRY FOR SUCCESS DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

12. There was submitted a report dated 21 September 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the proposals detailed in the Hungry for Success Development Plan for 2006-2009.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Hungry for Success Development Plan, a copy of which was available at the Members' Information Point;
- (ii) to approve the financial proposals detailed in the Plan which were within the funding made available by the Scottish Executive for 2006/2007 to 2008/2009; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**MORE CHOICES, MORE CHANCES: A STRATEGY TO REDUCE THE  
PROPORTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR  
TRAINING IN SCOTLAND**

13. There was submitted a report dated 4 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the current developments and provision for young people in the NEET Group and which sought approval for a strategy in order to address the needs of this population.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services and the Executive Director of Development and Property Services submit future reports on the specific actions and achievement of targets in relation to the overall approach to reduce the NEET's Group;
- (ii) that the Strategy be developed within the overall framework of Community Planning;
- (iii) to approve the formation of a Strategy Group as outlined in this report to guide these developments; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Mr John McHugh left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

**PRIORITY TO IMPROVEMENT 2006-2007 SERVICE PLAN**

14. There was submitted a report dated 13 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the Improvement Plan for School-based education services related to the five National Priorities for Education and the Authority Special Objectives set out in Priority to Improvement Service Plan 2006-2007.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the extent to which Priority to Improvement Service Plan 2006-2007 addressed the five National Priorities for Education and how it fulfilled the aims of the Community Plan;
- (ii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services report in due course through the Standards and Quality Report 2006; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW OF YOUTH WORK  
SERVICES**

15. There was submitted a report dated 19 October 2006 (circulated) which informed of the outcome of the review of Community Learning and Development Youth Work Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services present the findings of the Youth Work Review to Local Committees; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**CREATIVE MINDS UPDATE - CULTURAL AND MUSIC PARTNERSHIP AWARDS AND PROJECTS**

16. There was submitted a report dated 18 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which updated on the recent award of the annual Major Trophy by the National Music Council (NMC) of Great Britain, on the recent successful funding applications to the Scottish Arts Council (SAC) and the Scottish Museums Council (SMC) and the forthcoming music partnership projects with Scottish Opera and Tapestry.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the award to East Ayrshire of the 2006 Major Trophy by the National Music Council of Great Britain;
- (ii) to note the partnership projects and funding awards;
- (iii) that the Committee be kept informed of future projects; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**EXTRAORDINARY LIVES - CREATING A POSITIVE FUTURE FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SCOTLAND**

17. There was submitted a report dated 6 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the publication and implications of the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) report "Extraordinary Lives - Creating a Positive Future for Looked After Children and Young People in Scotland 2006".

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services undertake an analysis of the suggestions in Extraordinary Lives with particular reference to Paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 of the report and report back to Committee on the outcome of this in due course;
- (ii) to note that this report had been presented to the Social Work Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**REPORT ON STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

18. There was submitted a report dated October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the outcome of Statutory Performance Indicators for Education within the Department of Educational and Social Services for the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 and of performance trends over the past three years.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress of the Statutory Performance Indicators within the Department; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1115 hours.

**APPENDIX I**

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 MAY 2006 AT 0930 HOURS IN  
THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,  
KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tommy Farrell and Elaine Stewart.

**ATTENDING:** Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; John McCarney, Head of Service: Schools Support; Janice Shaw, Personnel Manager (Schools); and Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer.

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

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

1. The Sub-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 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

**REQUEST FOR EARLY RETIREMENT**

2. There was submitted a report dated 18 May 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for a teacher in the Education and Social Services Department to retire from the Council's service under the terms of the Teachers (Compensation for Premature Retirement) (Scotland) Regulations 1997.

The Head of Service: Schools Support gave a verbal report on the details of the employee.

It was agreed to approve the request for a teacher in the Educational and Social Services Department to retire early from the Council's service effective from 14 August 2006 under the terms of the Teachers (Compensation for Premature Retirement) (Scotland) Regulations 1997.

The meeting terminated at 0935 hours.