

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 1 FEBRUARY 2005

#### COMPARATIVE INFORMATION ON EAST AYRSHIRE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

##### Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Elected Members of the annual release of information of comparative information on secondary schools.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Under regulations published by the former Scottish Office and continued by the Scottish Executive, education authorities are required to publish annually comparative information on secondary school performance. This information must, under the regulations, be distributed to the parents of all current P7 pupils.
- 2.2 Experience has proved that some parents actively seek this information, whether or not they are new to the East Ayrshire area.

#### 3. MEETING THE REQUIREMENT

- 3.1 A document has been prepared according to the specifications issued by the Scottish Executive. A copy is available in the Members' Information Point.

#### 4. COMMENT

- 4.1 The open publication of any information on education is to be welcomed. This year, however, there are two new issues that have emerged which make the interpretation of secondary school data more difficult than in the past. The Scottish Executive no longer base examination performance on the S4 roll – preferring now to benchmark against presentations for examinations. Secondly, flexibility in the curriculum has allowed, quite correctly, alternative subjects, college link programmes and presentation levels (particularly Intermediate courses) to be introduced. The combined effect of these two factors means that it is now extremely difficult to make meaningful comparisons between schools based on this level of data. The guidance note to parents in the booklet reflects this.

#### 5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil.

**6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1** The information contained in the booklet has relevance to the “Improving Opportunities” strand of the Community Plan.

**7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1** Nil.

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1** It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew  
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/MG  
17 January 2005

Members requiring further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Service: Quality Improvement, (01563-576089).

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

**Implementation Officer: Graham Short**