

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 30 JANUARY 2007

### ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

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

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for proposals to delegate additional resources to schools and early years establishments.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In correspondence dated 27 November 2006 the Scottish Executive have allocated £991,000 of revenue to the Council. This funding is to be delegated entirely for the benefit of schools and must be spent by 31 March 2007.

- 2.2 The resources are to be used according to national advice to purchase educational materials and equipment, which can be used directly by teachers and pupils. Some areas for spending consideration have been specifically identified by the Scottish Executive and include :-

- Musical instruments;
- Sports kit or play equipment;
- Interactive whiteboards;
- Computers;
- IT software and
- Automated calling systems.

This illustrative list does not however preclude schools using resources in any ways which will benefit staff and pupils. Further the correspondence does recognise that economies of scale can be achieved through centralised purchasing.

#### 3. PROPOSED ALLOCATION

- 3.1 Formulae have been created for nursery, primary and secondary schools which take account of pupil rolls, the number of pupils with additional support needs and the number of pupils receiving free school meals or footwear and clothing grants. In addition primary schools will receive a fixed element of £4,000.

- 3.2 It is also proposed to allocate £10,000 to each of the special schools.

- 3.3 The breakdown of resources to be allocated directly to educational establishments is as follows :-

- |                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| • Secondary Schools | £ 360,000 |
| • Primary Schools   | £ 354,000 |
| • Special Schools   | £ 40,000  |

- Nursery Schools / Family Centres      £ 35,000  
£ 789,000

**3.4** In addition to this allocation it is proposed to accelerate the purchase of ICT equipment through the ICT strategy. The impact of this proposal will be to purchase PC's, additional ICT hardware and upgrade power and network infrastructure, with all the equipment purchased going directly to schools. This spending will account for the remaining £202,000.

#### **4. LEGAL/FINANCIAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1** The additional revenue expenditure of £991,000 will be fully supported by Scottish Executive grant.

#### **5. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** This financial resource will assist the Council in meeting the following aspects of the Community Plan :-

- Improving opportunities;
- Promoting community learning; and
- Eliminating poverty

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**6.1** It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) agree the proposed allocation of the Scottish Executive's additional revenue; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

Graham Short  
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

EC/  
11 January 2007

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Scottish Executive correspondence dated 27 November 2006

Members wishing further information should contact Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resources, Tel: (01563) 576090 or Christopher Johnston, Financial Service Manager, Tel : (01563) 573731.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : EUAN COUPERWHITE**