

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 30 JANUARY 2007**

#### **ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS OF AMBITION**

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

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to inform the Education Committee of additional funding received to support the Schools of Ambition initiative in Doon Learning Partnership.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED) have promoted and funded the Schools of Ambition Programme from August 2005. The purpose of the programme is to provide additional funding to schools which display ambition and enthusiasm to make significant improvements in the provision of education for young people. An initial group of 20 schools were to be involved in the programme.

- 2.2** The submission from the authority involved Doon Learning Partnership. This was the only partnership/cluster bid from the 42 submitted and this bid was successful. The main features of the programme within Doon Learning Partnership:

- To introduce vocational education provision for S3 to S6 in Doon Academy (in collaboration with Kilmarnock College).
- To enhance the provision in PE, Dance and Drama for all pupils in the partnership.
- To provide laptops for all P6 and P7 pupils in order to further enhance the ICT skills and capabilities of the pupils
- To provide a health education worker on a full time basis in order to contribute to the development of healthy lifestyles for the pupils and their parents within the community.

- 2.3** SEED confirmed the success of the Doon Learning Partnership Programme, but confirmation of funding was delayed until March 2006. Funding of £100,000 for each of financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 was allocated.

### **3. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

- 3.1** The original discussions with SEED representatives had indicated that additional funding would be available for a partnership bid. However, further information on this additional funding was not provided until August 2006 from

SEED. This involved the authority in clarifying the nature of its support to the School of Ambition Programme, whether in direct resources or in kind.

The authority responded positively indicating that its support to the programme totalled £187,000 over financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08.

- 3.2** SEED responded on 22 December 2006 to indicate that additional funding of £102,334 would be provided over financial years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. This will allow the Programme to continue through to end-June 2008 and also allow the original aims to be overtaken.

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

- 4.1** Nil.

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

- 5.1** The developments in the Schools of Ambition Programme will directly contribute towards the themes of “Promoting Community Learning” and “Improving Opportunities.”

#### **6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

- 6.1** The Programme is being monitored via the Quality Improvement Team and also by the Scottish Executive. Review meetings take place with a SEED Programme Officer on a termly basis.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1** It is recommended that members:
- (i) note the additional funding of £102,334 for the Schools of Ambition Programme, and
  - (ii) otherwise, note the contents of this report.

Graham Short  
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

JMcC/EO'N  
9 January 2007

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

1. Submission for Schools of Ambition Programme – Education Committee, 24 May 2005.

Members requiring further information should contact John McCarney, Head of Service: Schools Support (01563) 576126