

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 14 SEPTEMBER 2004

### BEST VALUE REVIEW: THREE YEAR PROGRAMME

#### Report by Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek agreement to a programme of best value reviews for the Department of Educational and Social Services to take place over the next three years.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will recall that there have been a number of reports to committee over recent years describing the background to best value, and reporting the results of specific reviews.
- 2.2 In order to fulfil its legal obligations, and to deliver quality and efficient services, East Ayrshire Council is committed to reviewing its services under best value arrangements over the next three years. Members will also recall that the Department operates under systems of self evaluation using sets of national performance indicators. Where there is such rigorous self-evaluation, it is readily recognised that this fulfils the essential best value requirements. There remain, however, some areas of activity that would benefit from best value scrutiny. This general approach has been endorsed by the external evaluation by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HMIE).

#### 3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 A proposed programme of best value reviews has been drafted. This programme is attached as appendix 1 and covers a three year period. Senior colleagues have been involved in developing this programme.
- 3.2 Under the proposed programme all areas of departmental activity will be subject to scrutiny across the four main service areas of education, social work, community learning and development and onsite services. The reviews have been phased in order to spread review activity over the three year period. In this way provision is being made to minimise overload on staff by spreading the work evenly. The programme has also been designed to harmonise with budget and planning processes thereby to derive maximum efficiencies from the review process.
- 3.3 The results of each individual review will be processed under the conditions that are prescribed corporately and will be submitted to committee for scrutiny.

#### **4. IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1** The programme will be taken forward by specific task groups of officers. An important part of the procedure will be to consult the principal stakeholders, most notably front-line staff and service users.

#### **5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** Nil

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1** This exercise will take place in parallel with the annual budget cycle. Wherever practicable service efficiencies will be identified alongside the possibilities for service improvements. The tasks will be overtaken by existing staff and therefore there will be no additional personnel costs.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1** It is recommended that Members :

- (i) approve this programme of best value review;
- (ii) note that this report has also been considered by the Social Work Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report

John Mulgrew  
Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)

GRS  
09 September 2004

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

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

- 1.
- 2.

**Implementation Officer: Graham Short**

Appendix 1: Proposed Best Value Programme for Department of Educational and Social Services.

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL : DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
 SCHEDULE OF BEST VALUE AND SERVICE REVIEWS : Educational Services

Service Area	September 04 to July 05				September 05 to July 06				September 06 to July 07				Notes
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
Ancillary staffing	→												
Network Team	→												
Technicians Service/ICT team	→												
School Staffing <sup>1</sup>					→								
Personnel					→								
Delegated budgets					→								
Teacher's CPD <sup>2</sup>									→				
Janitation – general	→												
Janitation PPP	→												
Cleaning PPP	→												
Catering PPP	→												
Quality Improvement	→											→	
Community Facilities	→												
Community Learning and Development Service		→											
Support to voluntary organisation <sup>3</sup> s					→								
Youth Strategy									→				
Early Years Services					→								
Resource support (Education)			→										

<sup>1</sup> Linked to Early Years Services Review

<sup>2</sup> Continuing Professional Development

<sup>3</sup> May be a corporate issue