

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 12 SEPTEMBER 2006

FUNDING OF ADDITIONAL TEACHERS IN 2006/07

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update members of the Education Committee on additional funding being provided to employ additional teachers in session 2006/07 and seek approval for its use.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Scottish Executive committed itself in the “Partnership Agreement for a Better Scotland” to increase teacher numbers to 53,000 by 2007. This would include reducing P1 classes to a maximum of 25 pupils and S1/S2 Mathematics and English classes to a maximum of 20 pupils from August 2007.

2.2 National funding totalling £18m in 2006/07 and £44m in 2007/08 has recently been made available to local authorities through the National Priorities Action Fund in order to cope with the above changes in class sizes and also to cope with the reduction in class contact hours to 22.5 hours per week for all teachers from August 2006. This funding has been allocated within the Education budget. Following negotiations with the teacher trade unions, revised Joint Negotiating Council for Teachers (JNCT) Circulars on Staffing Standards in the primary and secondary sectors were agreed and issued in February 2006.

2.3 The Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED) has now provided an additional national allocation of funding totalling £14.5m for 2006/07 only. These funds must be used to increase the number of teachers employed by the authority. In particular, emphasis has been placed on using this additional funding to make progress on achieving the targets in class size reduction, which was previously scheduled for August 2007.

3.0 IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN EAST AYRSHIRE

3.1 The settlement outlined in paragraph 2.2 with regard to the reduction in class contact hours has placed particular additional pressure on staffing within secondary schools. Thus, it is proposed to mainly target the additional funding for staffing within the secondary sector while ensuring that primary staffing targets are also met.

3.2 Each secondary school will receive an additional allocation of teacher staffing. This additional staffing can only be allocated in 2006/07 to correspond with the availability of the additional funding.

The additional teachers will primarily be recruited in either English or Mathematics, depending on the specific needs of each secondary school.

Consultation has already taken place with the Head Teacher of each secondary school.

- 3.3** Allocations to primary schools will be undertaken in consultation with head teachers to suit individual local circumstances.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** Funding of £354,000 to fully support this additional staffing has been allocated by SEED for school session 2006/07.

5. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** This initiative particularly supports the theme of Improving Opportunities.

6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Nil

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** It is recommended that members of the Education Committee:
- (i) note the additional funding being provided for additional teachers in 2006/07;
 - (ii) approve the proposal for additional teachers as outlined in section 3; and
 - (iii) otherwise, note the contents of this report

John McCarney
Head of Service: Schools Support

JMcC/EO'N
16 August 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter from Scottish Executive Education Department, "Funding of Additional Teachers 2006/07" – 28 June 2006
2. Letter from Peter Peacock, Minister of Education – 10 August 2006.

Implementation Officer: John McCarney, Head Of Service: Schools Support

Members requiring further information should contact John McCarney, Head of Service: Schools Support (01563) 576126 or Janice Shaw, Personnel Manager (Schools) (01563) 578114