

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY 1 APRIL 2003 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tommy Farrell, Stephanie Young, Lilian MacLean, John Weir, Drew McIntyre, Isabella Macrae, Iain Linton, Alex Walsh, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Julie Faulds, Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillors Eric Ross and Elaine Dinwoodie; Church Representative: Rev Matthew Sullivan; and Teacher Representative: Iain Harvey.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services/Solicitor to the Council; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communications; Euan Couperwhite; Head of Resource Support; Graham Short, Head of Schools; Stephen Moore, Head of Social Work; Robin Gourlay, Contract Manager; Derek Mathieson, Education Central Services; Anne Jackson, Principal Officer (Community Learning & Development); Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager; Willie White, PE & Sport Development Officer; Janice Shaw, Principal Officer (Education Personnel Service); Jim McCaffrey and Kenneth McKinlay, Quality Improvement; Anne Marie Carr, Senior Administrative Officer; Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer and Caroline Gordon, Public Relations Assistant.

**ALSO ATTENDING:** John McCarney, University of Glasgow.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Brian Reeves and Willie Coffey and Church Representatives, John McHugh and Rev John Paterson.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

1. The Chair welcomed John McCarney, who had been recently appointed to the post of Head of Schools Support, to the meeting of the Education Committee and advised that John would be taking up his new post with effect from 12 May 2003.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - EDUCATION TO 9 FEBRUARY 2003 (PERIOD 11)**

2. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 17 March 2003 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Educational and Social Services which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for Education Services for the period ended 9 February 2003 (Period 11).

Councillor Walsh joined the meeting at this point.

**RACE RELATIONS (AMENDMENT) ACT 2000**

3. There was submitted a report dated 10 January 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for (i) the priority list of functions to be assessed as part of the Council's Race Equality Scheme; and (ii) the Education Statement on Racial Equality and Cultural Diversity.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the priority list of functions;
- (ii) to approve the Education statement on Racial Equality and Cultural Diversity detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services submit a progress report to a future Education Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**REVIEW OF CHARGES IN THE LETTING POLICY FOR COMMUNITY USE  
(Item 5, Page 2509, 99/03)**

4. There was submitted a report dated 10 March 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval to revise charges for accommodation used by Community Groups.

Councillor Finlay MacLean, seconded by Councillor McDill moved that no increase in the charges in the letting policy for community use be applied and that the status quo remain.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Knapp moved as an amendment:-

- (i) to approve implementation of the revised charges in the letting policy for community use with effect from 8 August 2003; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

On a division by a show of hands the amendment was carried by 10 votes to 7.

**COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (Item 19.2, Page 1855, 99/03)**

5. There was submitted a report dated 3 March 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the response by the Council to the Scottish Executive document "Working and Learning Together to Build a Stronger Community: Community Learning and Development Working Draft Guidance" and which sought agreement to change the name of the service known as Support to Communities, reflecting the recommendations of the report, to Community Learning and Development.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the response to the draft guidance document detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) that it be remitted to the Director of Educational and Social Services to forward the response to the Scottish Executive, Social Justice Department;
- (iii) to approve the change of name of Support to Communities to Community Learning and Development; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS (Item 7, Page 3038, 99/03)**

6. There was submitted a report dated 15 January 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for recommendations for

awards in respect of final allocations of Educational Voluntary Sector Grants for the year 2002/2003.

The Committee approved the following applications for Educational Voluntary Sector Grant:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Youthlink, Ayrshire	£1,000 for young people from East Ayrshire only
Playscheme Travel Passes	£2,000.

#### **CHARGES FOR SCHOOL MEALS (Item 9, Page 2511, 99/03)**

7. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval to increase the charges for school meals.

Councillor Finlay MacLean, seconded by Councillor Linton moved that no increase be applied to the charges for school meals.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Knapp moved as an amendment to approve an increase in charges to pupils and for the equivalent value of free meals to be increased to £1.41 with effect from Monday 18 August 2003.

On a division by a show of hands the amendment was carried by 10 votes to 7.

#### **CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS (Item 4, Page 1713, 99/03)**

8. There was submitted a report dated 14 March 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the development of Classroom Assistants in Primary Schools and which sought approval for the establishment of Classroom Assistants in Secondary Schools.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the proposals contained in the report be referred to the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee for its consideration; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **SCHOOL HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2004/2005 (Item 8, Page 3039, 99/03)**

9. There was submitted a report dated 13 March 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the outcome of the consultation exercise carried out regarding school holiday arrangements for school sessions 2004/2005 and which sought agreement of the Committee to implement the preferred school holiday option.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that Appendix 1 of the report be approved as the school holiday arrangements for school session 2004/2005; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR PERIOD 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER  
2002 (Item 6, Page 2061, 99/03)**

10. There was submitted and noted a report dated 17 March 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of absence rates for the Department of Educational and Social Services (former education employees) for the period 1 January to 31 December 2002.

**IT'S EVERYONE'S JOB TO MAKE SURE I'M ALL RIGHT**

11. There was submitted a report dated 7 March 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which (i) advised of the terms of the Scottish Executive Audit and Review of Child Protection; (ii) sought authority to submit a response to the Scottish Executive and (iii) sought approval for a package of service developments to improve Child Protection Services in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the Scottish Executive review, as summarised in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Educational and Social Services to forward to the Scottish Executive as this Council's submission the proposed response to the review, detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (iii) to support the package of service developments attached as Appendix 3 of the report for inclusion in the overall package of service developments to be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee on 10 April 2003;
- (iv) to note that the report had also been considered by the Social Work Committee at their meeting on 27 March 2003;
- (v) to note that annual progress reports in implementation of improved arrangements would be presented to the Education Committee; and
- (vi) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PE AND SPORT INITIATIVES (Item 15, Page 2512,  
99/03)**

12. There was submitted a joint report dated 21 March 2003 (circulated) by the Directors of Educational and Social Services and of Community Services which advised of the recent award of £974,553 from the New Opportunities for PE and Sport Activities Programme in Scotland and which sought the agreement of Members to begin the implementation process of this programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the implementation of this project;
- (ii) that the report be referred to the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee in relation to the staffing implications detailed in paragraph 5.2 of the report; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **ACTIVE PRIMARY SCHOOL CO-ORDINATOR PROGRAMME**

13. There was submitted a report dated 14 March 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval to continue with the Active Primary School Co-ordinator Programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the acceptance of funding to establish a second Active Primary School Co-ordinator until June 2004; and
- (ii) to approve the continuation of the Active Primary School Co-ordinator Programme as funds were made available from Sport Scotland.

### **ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY FOR SCHOOL PUPILS**

14. There was submitted a report dated 12 March 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the new requirements on the Educational Service to produce an Accessibility Strategy for school pupils with disabilities and which sought Committee approval for the Accessibility Strategy detailed in the Appendix to the report.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the contents of the Accessibility Strategy 2003/04 detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) to approve the implementation plan and timescales proposed;
- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services submit the Accessibility Strategy for School Pupils to the Scottish Executive; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN EAST AYRSHIRE**

15. There was submitted a report dated 12 March 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the key points which emerged in the recently published report on the inspection of the Education function of the Council and which sought agreement to the plan for action which results from a consideration of the recommendation for action within the inspection report.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to welcome the very positive inspection report on the Education function of the Authority;
- (ii) to approve the plan for action resulting from the report, "Making a Difference in East Ayrshire";
- (iii) to note that at paragraph 3.2, last line, "communities" should read "communications"; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME (Item 3, Page 3037, 99/03)**

16. There was submitted a report dated 17 March 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of proposals for expenditure in the

Capital Programme for 2003/04 and which sought approval to progress with the programme.

It was reported and noted that the Scottish Executive had allocated £898,000 to East Ayrshire's Education Service under the School Buildings and Improvement Programme and that written confirmation of this allocation was still awaited from the Executive.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Capital Programme for 2003/04 detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services continue to monitor closely the Capital Programme throughout the year, reporting periodically to the Education Committee.

### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

17. The Committee resolved "that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

### **BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - ON-SITE SERVICES UNIT TO 9 FEBRUARY 2003 (PERIOD 11)**

18. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 17 March 2003 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Educational and Social Services which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the On-Site Services Business Unit for the period ended 9 February 2003 (Period 11).

### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

19. As this was the last scheduled meeting of the Education Committee before the Local Government Elections, the Chair extended his thanks and appreciation to all Elected Members, Church, Teacher and Parent Representatives, the Director and his staff for their support and assistance in steering the business of the Education Committee during his term of office. He also expressed his thanks on behalf of the Committee for the sterling administrative support provided by Anne Marie Carr over the past seven years and wished her well in her new role within the Administration Section.

The meeting terminated at 1105 hours.