

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2001 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tommy Farrell, Brian McNeil, Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, Lilian MacLean, John Weir, David Macrae, Alex Walsh, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Julie Faulds, Provost Boyd and Councillors Eric Ross and Elaine Dinwoodie; Church Representatives: John Paterson, John McHugh and 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; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; Graham Short, Head of Schools; Janie Allen, Principal Officer, Pre-Fives; Bill Cochrane, Senior Accountant; Euan Couperwhite, Finance Officer (Educational and Social Services); Caroline Gordon, Public Relations Assistant; Robin Gourlay, Contracts Manager; Bill Hunter, Strategy Development Officer; Anne Jackson, Principal Officer (Communities); Kenneth MacKinlay, Principal Quality Development Officer; Derek Matheson, (Education Central Services); Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer and Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Willie Coffey, Iain Linton and Robert McDill.

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

**PRESENTATION BY THE YOUNG PARENTS PROJECT ENTITLED  
“WITH OR WITHOUT - YOU CHOOSE”**

1. The Chair welcomed Vicky Paterson and Maureen Jeffries, Senior Assistant Accountants who were attending the meeting as part of an ongoing staff development initiative. The Chair then welcomed Marie Bradford, Tracey Logan, Charlene Bradford, Tia Frame and Debbie Reid from the Young Parents Project.

A video presentation was then made to the Education Committee by the Young Parents Project entitled “With or Without - You Choose” which was a partnership project based in the Young Parents Project and funded by the Health Board Mental Health for All. Funding had been made available to the Group to develop a peer education training opportunity. There then followed a question and answer session.

The Chair, on behalf of the Education Committee, thanked the Young Parents Project for their presentation and participation.

Councillor Weir joined the meeting during the above item.

**CHAIR'S REMARKS****(i) Additional Resources**

The Chair was pleased to advise that the Minister had made available additional money to be distributed to all schools in the Authority's area. It was intended that this money would be additional to existing budgets and that the Authority should

ensure that schools in areas of deprivation were given priority consideration in the distribution of the finance.

**(ii) Special Educational Needs - Extra Funding**

It was noted that extra funding had also been announced by the Depute Minister recently to ensure that children with special educational needs would benefit from new technology in the classroom. The £30,000 allocated to East Ayrshire would support a range of initiatives such as specialist computers and software to help deliver the curriculum and would encourage on-line learning.

**(iii) Grange Academy**

Congratulations were extended to pupils from Grange Academy and Logan Primary School who had been invited to speak at a recent Head Teachers Seminar. The pupils were required to describe their work and their involvement in school decision-making.

**(iv) Muirkirk Music Festival**

Congratulations were extended to the schools from all over East Ayrshire who had taken part in the Muirkirk Music Festival recently. Among the winners, Nether Robertland PS P6 and P7 choir were first equal in their class, Robin Dinning (P7) was first in his solo class, Alison Young (P7) was second in her solo section. Catrine P.S. Choir had obtained first equal placing in their class and two of their pupils Kirsty Sneddon and William Smith also obtained first place in their class in the "Design a Tartan" competition organised as part of the festival.

**(v) "Classroom of the Future" - Auchinleck Academy**

It was reported that Auchinleck Academy were delighted with their "Classroom of the Future", funded through the Partners in Excellence initiative. This provides a high tech facility for the languages department and included 28 I-mac computers using wireless technology, video conferencing and smart screen presentations. The school had benefited also from a recent upgrade to their swimming pool, involving a new air handling unit, re-paint and new boys and girls changing rooms.

**(vi) Mount Carmel Primary School**

Congratulations were extended to Catriona Gray, Depute Head at Mount Carmel PS who had been awarded the Scottish Qualification for Headship. Catriona would be presented with her award by the Minister at an awards ceremony in Edinburgh on 1 December.

**(vii) Homework Club - James Hamilton Academy**

It was reported that James Hamilton Academy's successful homework club, run by senior pupils for S1 pupils, which had been held during September to mid October, had been very successful. Also, the school's team had won the East Ayrshire leg of the Enterprising Maths Competition and now go on to the Scottish Finals in Dundee on 23 November.

**(viii) Fenwick Primary School**

Congratulations were extended to former Fenwick Primary School pupil Thomas Jamieson who had been selected as a regional winner in the Tesco Our School Awards - Every Little Helps category. Thomas, who was now a pupil at Loudoun Academy, had raised the alarm when he found an elderly woman unwell in the

village of Fenwick. The woman was now recovering after having fluid removed from her lung. Thomas had now been selected as a national finalist in the Awards and would travel to London on Thursday 29 November when the National winners would be announced.

**(ix) St Matthews Primary School**

Congratulations were extended to two St Matthew's PS pupils who had had success recently: Stacey Dorran in P6 auditioned successfully for a part as a dancer in the Christmas Panto "Aladdin" at the Palace Theatre and P7 pupil, Joseph Macari, had been successful in obtaining a role in the Palace Theatre Youth Group's production "Jungle" in the spring of 2002.

**(x) Greenmill Out of School Care**

It was noted that included in successful out of school hours childcare applications to NOF, Greenmill Out of School Care services had been awarded £37,358 to provide 32 before and after school care places and 40 holiday places for children aged 4-9 years old. Yipworld.com had also been awarded £49,340 funded from NOF to provide 50 before and 50 after school and 75 holiday places for 9 years and over.

**(xi) Onthank Primary School**

It was noted that Onthank Primary School's pupils, parents and staff were all very proud of the newly created high-tech I.C.T Suite which has 28 computer stations all linked to a server providing curriculum permeation software.

**(xii) Playground Improvements - Dunlop Primary School**

It was noted that Dunlop Primary School had been successful in securing a grant of £815 from Scottish Natural Heritage to help with playground improvements. This grant would allow the school to buy picnic benches and install raised flowerbeds in the playground as the first stage of their playground improvement plans.

**(xiii) Gargieston Primary School**

It was reported that Gargieston Primary School P5 pupil Ross Dunlop had rubbed shoulders with Royalty recently when he had attended the awarding of a special award in conjunction with Scottish Charter Mark in Edinburgh recently. Ross had been part of the group representing Rainbow House. The event had been attended by HRH Princess Anne.

**(xix) National Poetry Day**

Congratulations were extended to all the schools in East Ayrshire who had taken part in National Poetry Day recently, including James Hamilton Academy, Ochiltree, Crossroads, Littlemill, St Sophia's, Hurlford and Annanhill Primaries who had taken time to celebrate this national celebration.

**(xx) Park School**

Congratulations were extended to the pupils of Park School who had visited the Czech Republic recently. The team had won the gold medal in Division 3 of the European Special Olympics Volleyball Tournament. The pupils and staff had had a wonderful time during their trip and were excellent ambassadors of the school and the authority.

### MINUTES

3. There were submitted and approved as correct records and in respect of any recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Minutes as contained in Appendices I to III of these Minutes, viz:-
- 3.1 **CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF 13 JULY 2001 - APPENDIX I.**
- 3.2 **CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF 28 AUGUST 2001 - APPENDIX II.**
- 3.3 **JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (TEACHERS) OF 27 SEPTEMBER 2001 - APPENDIX III.**

#### BUDGETARY PROGRESS REPORT EDUCATION TO 23 SEPTEMBER 2001 (PERIOD 6)

4. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 1 November 2001 (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 23 September 2001 (Period 6).

#### AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 19 October 2001 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which provided, for information, details of a tender which had been accepted in respect of the Education Service.

CONTRACT	SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT
Proposed Extension to Newmilns Primary School, Newmilns	Anderson & Innes Ltd	£226,938.80

#### RE-INTEGRATION OF PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION - FUNDING IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 19 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the re-integration of Pre-School Education Funding into the generality of the Local Government settlement in April 2002 and the subsequent policy implications for East Ayrshire.

#### EARLY YEARS EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE ADMISSIONS POLICY Item 9, Page 3678, 96/99)

7. There was submitted a report dated 18 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval of the proposed changes to the current East Ayrshire Pre-Five Admissions Policy.

It was agreed:-

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|----------|---|----------|
| <b>C</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) to refer the proposal to Council for approval of the proposed revised Early Education and Childcare Admissions Policy as stated in this report;</li> <li>(ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services advise Heads of Early Years Establishments and partner providers of the revised policy and arrange for the implementation of the policy from 1 April 2002;</li> </ul> | <b>C</b> |
|----------|---|----------|

- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services be requested to monitor the implementation of the revised policy; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **REGULATION OF CARE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2001 - IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LOCAL AUTHORITY**

8. There was submitted a report dated 16 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the implications of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 and in particular the transitional and residual issues arising for the Local Authority.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Educational and Social Services submit further reports to the Education Committee on any appropriate financial, legal, policy or personnel implications; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **SUPPORTING LEARNING AND TEACHING: PHASE 1**

9. There was submitted a report dated 28 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the first phase of the strategy to support learning and teaching in schools by enhancing ancillary staff.

It was reported and noted that line 2 of paragraph 3.1 of the report should read "it is suggested that additional staff should include the full range of posts recommended in McCrone specifically bursar, administrative and I.C.T support to schools".

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the amended report as a basis for future planning of ancillary staff support to schools;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services provide a future report to advise on detailed proposals for support staff allocations;
- (iii) to refer this report as amended for consideration by the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **LOCAL IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES (Item 16, Page 1540, 99/01)**

10. There was submitted a report dated 29 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the annual statement of improvement objectives for the Education Service.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the list of local improvement objectives detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services, in consultation with the Chair, be authorised to amend the list of objectives in the light of comments emerging from the final consultations;

- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services provide a further report to the Education Committee on the Departmental Service Plan;
- (iv) that the Director of Educational and Social Services provide a report in 12 months on progress against these objectives; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT 1995 DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE  
(SCHOOLS)**

11. There was submitted a report dated 19 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the draft Code of Practice (Schools) which outlined the new duties which extend the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to cover every aspect of school life.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the report be used as a basis for the consultation response to the Disability Rights Commission; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**LEARNING WITH CARE: THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER  
AWAY FROM HOME BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

12. There was submitted a report dated 29 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on (i) the main findings and recommendations of the Scottish Executive report "Learning with Care"; (ii) the position in East Ayrshire in setting out the terms of the response by the Council to the Minister; and (iii) proposals for the implementation of "Learning with Care" within East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the main findings and recommendations of "Learning with Care";
- (ii) to note the response made on behalf of the Council;
- (iii) to endorse the proposals to implement "Learning with Care" in East Ayrshire; and
- (iv) to approve that the additional funds allocated by the Scottish Executive being spent in the way described at paragraph 6.1 of the report.

**COMMUNITY LEARNING PLAN - PROGRESS REPORTS ON PILOT INITIATIVE  
(Item 21, Page 1245, 99/01)**

13. There was submitted a report dated 4 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on progress which had been made in relation to developing Pilot Community Learning Plans in three areas of the Council.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Educational and Social Services report on progress to appropriate Local Committees; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### PROPOSED SCHOOL HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2003/2004

14. There was submitted a report dated 25 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval to consult with Educational Establishments, School Boards, the Chamber of Commerce, Churches and the JCC on the proposals.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the report be issued for consultation to Educational establishments, School Boards, the Chamber of Commerce, Churches and the JCC (Teachers);
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services submit a further report outlining the results of the consultation process; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS 2001/2002

15. There was submitted a report dated 26 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of recommendations for awards in respect of allocations of Education Voluntary Sector Grants for the year 2001/2002.

The Committee then took the following decisions:-

- (a) Applications Approved:-

Young Parent's Project - £2,246;

Auchinleck Community Association - £1,500;

Cairnhill Community House Management Committee - £2,195;

East Ayrshire Federation of Community Associations - £1,000;

Forge Ahead - £1,500

Muirkirk Community Association - £1,500;

New Cumnock Community Association - £1,500;

North West Youth Project - £2,179;

(Application Ref: VSG/2001/41)

Patna Community Association - £1,500;

Councillor Eric Ross left the meeting at this point.

Youth Advocacy Steering Group (East Ayrshire) - £1,150;

Rankinston Community Association - £1,500;

Drongan Community Association - £1,500;

Ayrshire Schools Football Federation - £200; and

Friends of Newmilns Ski Slope - £4,500.

- (b) Applications Refused:-

Auchinleck Self Help Group

Catrine & District Visual Arts Group

Logan Junior Youth Club  
North West Youth Project  
(Application Ref: VSG/2001/40)

Councillor Ross re-joined the meeting at this point.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

16. 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 PROGRESS REPORT ON SITE SERVICES UNIT TO 23  
SEPTEMBER 2001 (PERIOD 6)**

17. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 25 October 2001 (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 23 September 2001 (Period 6).

The meeting terminated at 1147 hours.

**TO RETURN TO PREVIOUS PAGE  
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AT THE TOP LEFT OF THE PAGE**