

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 APRIL 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, Drew McIntyre, David Macrae, Iain Linton, Alex Walsh, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Julie Faulds, Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillors Eric Ross and Elaine Dinwoodie; Church Representative, John McHugh and Teacher Representative, Iain Harvey.

**ATTENDING:** John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services; Graham Short, Head of Schools; Allan McDougall, Head of Resource Support; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; Fred Wildridge, Education Central Services; David Mitchell, Legal Manager; Robin Gourlay, Contracts Manager; Euan Couperwhite, Finance Officer (Educational and Social Services); Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager; Caroline McElhone, Public Relations; Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer and Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Willie Coffey, John Weir, Robert McDill and Matthew Sullivan, Church Representative.

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

**CHAIR'S REMARKS****(i) Partners in Excellence Project**

It was reported that a group of 11 senior modern languages students from East Ayrshire Secondary Schools recently took part in a series of workplace visits in Lille, France, through the Partners in Excellence Project.

**(ii) Drongan Primary School**

The Chair was pleased to visit his local school, Drongan Primary, on two occasions recently to open both the new infant structured activity area and a new computer suite. Both of these developments were excellent additions to the facilities at Drongan and the Chair stated they would only add to the educational experience the young pupils were already receiving.

**(iii) East Ayrshire Schools Bands and Choir**

Congratulations were extended to all pupils and staff who had taken part in the performances of East Ayrshire Schools Bands and Choir held recently in Cumnock and Kilmarnock. The musical talents of the young people had been very well received by the audiences present on both nights. It was hoped that those who attended had enjoyed the concert.

**(iv) Scottish Accident Prevention Public Speaking Competition**

Congratulations were extended to pupils Amy Williamson and Gillian Whyte from Stewarton Academy who had made their way to the final of the Scottish Accident

Prevention Council Secondary Schools' Public Speaking Competition on 27 March 2001. The girls were close runners-up to the winners from Strathaven Academy.

**(v) The Children's Holiday Project**

It was reported that the Children's Holiday Project had been successful in its application to the National Lottery Charities Board Poverty and Disadvantaged Forum and had been granted £63,000 over three years. This funding would enable the project to exchange two of their original caravans for new units and to purchase an additional caravan bringing the total of the project to four.

**(vi) Achievers International Programme - Visit from Staff and Students at Bremen High School, Atlanta**

The Chair was pleased that Councillor Knapp, the Vice Chair had been able to welcome, on his behalf, staff and students from Bremen High School in Atlanta who had been visiting Auchinleck Academy as part of the Achievers International Programme. The Chair was delighted that this link, which had been established by the Director and the Chair just over two years ago had developed significantly.

**(vii) 'Make it in Scotland' Pilot Roadshow**

It was reported that second year pupils from Grange, Cumnock and St Joseph's Academies had participated in the 'Make it in Scotland' pilot Roadshow held in Kilmarnock College recently. The roadshow was supported by nine manufacturing companies and the Scot Tech bus. Pupils had been informed of the importance of the manufacturing sector to the Scottish economy and about the range of job opportunities available. They then participated in a range of activities developed and presented by young people from the manufacturing companies, assisted in some cases by students from the college. This pilot project, which had been supported by East Ayrshire, would be included in a report to be delivered to the Manufacturing Image Group in April and would form the basis of the National Campaign.

**(viii) Education Maintenance Allowance - Pilot Scheme**

It was reported that at the recent expansion of the Education Maintenance Allowance pilot scheme, East Ayrshire had been represented by the Director, headteachers and seven pupils - Kathleen Neil and Ross Cochrane from Auchinleck Academy, Natalie Ford, Laura Gallacher and Robbie Connacher from St Joseph's, and Suzanne Russell and Lorna Smith from Stewarton Academy. The launch had been a huge success, and the Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning and Scottish Executive staff had commented on how well the students conducted themselves and how skilfully they handled the press attention.

**(ix) Barclays New Futures Award**

Good luck and best wishes were extended to Grange Academy who had been shortlisted as one of six bids which would compete in a final in London for the Barclays New Futures Award on 15 May 2001. The Grange bid was a further extension of the previously successful project which had involved groups of pupils taking lessons in sign language and using this to befriend and support the hearing impaired pupils at the Grange Unit.

**(x) Art Exhibition at The Dick Institute**

Congratulations were extended to the pupils of the special schools in East Ayrshire who had taken part in an art exhibition at the Dick Institute recently. The exhibition

had been the culmination of a project organised in partnership with Project Ability and with the support of the Bank of Scotland and Children in Need had given each Special School received 10 weekly visits from two specialist artists over the past two terms. The exhibition had received much deserved support from the parents, pupils, teachers and East Ayrshire representatives.

**(xi) Scottish Arts Council Lottery Fund**

It was reported that Stewarton Academy had been awarded £65,000 through the Scottish Arts Council Lottery Fund towards a project which sought to develop jazz and vocal skills in parallel with band playing. It was noted residential weekends would be supported by a series of master classes, culminating in a Concert in June 2002 and that there would also be three specially commissioned works by American and other internationally renowned composers and a professional CD recording.

**(xii) Art and Design Exhibition**

Congratulations were extended to all the pupils who had contributed artwork to this year's art and design exhibition held in the Dick Institute recently. The exhibition had featured paintings by pupils from all secondary schools as well as paintings and ceramics from last year's summer school. The exhibition had received high critical acclaim from many quarters.

**(xiii) New Opportunities Bid**

The Chair was delighted to report that £79,000 had been awarded through the New Opportunities Fund to support and develop the Arts Summer School Programme. Dance; Theatre; Jazz; Vocal; Woodwind; Brass; Piping; Strings; Painting; Textiles; Video and Computer Graphics were some of the courses that would be offered to pupils across the authority.

Provost Boyd and Councillors Ross and Macrae joined the meeting during the Chair's remarks.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - EDUCATION TO 9  
FEBRUARY 2001 (PERIOD 11)**

2. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 15 March 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for Educational Services for the period ended 9 February 2001 (Period 11).

**AWARDING OF TENDERS**

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 15 March 2001 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which provided, for information, details of tenders which had been accepted in respect of the Education Service.

**THE POST McCrone SETTLEMENT: "A TEACHING PROFESSION FOR THE  
21ST CENTURY"**

4. There was submitted a report dated 19 March 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the main outcomes for the National Agreement following the McCrone Report "A Teaching Profession for the

21st Century” and which sought approval for an outline plan to implement the agreement at local level.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Educational and Social Services establish the necessary consultative structures to undertake the terms of the agreement “A Teaching Profession for the 21st Century”;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services provide future update reports to the Education Committee on the progress being made to implement the National Agreement; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **THE EXCELLENCE FUND FOR SCHOOLS: YEAR 3 (Item 15, Page 787)**

5. There was submitted a report dated 20 February 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the most recent development within the Excellence Fund and which sought approval for an implementation framework for Year 3.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the report be approved as a basis for the use of the Excellence Fund in Year 3; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **PERMANENT SUPPLY TEACHING STAFF**

6. There was submitted a report dated 15 March 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the establishment of a pool of permanent supply teachers.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to appoint 20 permanent supply teaching staff;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services make the necessary practical arrangements for the Scheme in consultation with the JCC (Teachers) and Headteachers;
- (iii) to review the provision with a possible extension to other sectors;
- (iv) that the qualifying period to be considered for ringfenced permanent part-time teaching posts be reduced to one year’s continuous service; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **FRAMEWORK FOR INTERVENTION (Item 6, Page 1538)**

7. There was submitted a report dated 15 March 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the plans to implement a pilot study based upon the framework for intervention strategy developed by Birmingham City Council Education Department Psychological Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the framework for intervention be adopted as the approach within the Authority to alternatives to exclusion; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **EAST AYRSHIRE RESPONSE TO CAREERS SERVICE REVIEW**

8. There was submitted a report dated 19 March 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the Scottish Executive's response to the Careers Service review (the Duffner Report) and its proposals for the future organisation of the Careers Service in Scotland and which advised of the comments submitted by East Ayrshire Council in respect of the Scottish Executive response to the Careers Service review.

It was reported and noted that the Careers Service in Ayrshire, of which East Ayrshire is a partner, would receive an additional £1.6 million for both the Inclusiveness Project and the All Age Careers Guidance Project.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the Scottish Executive's response to the Duffner Report; and
- (ii) to approve East Ayrshire Council's comments detailed in Appendix I of the report on the Executive's response to the Duffner Report.

### **POLICY AND PROCEDURE GOVERNING THE USE OF TELEPHONES, INTERNET AND E-MAIL**

9. There was submitted a report dated 16 March 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which asked the Education Committee to note the Council's updating of its policy and procedure governing employees' use of telephones, internet and e-mail and which requested the Director of Educational and Social Services to arrange effective implementation of the revised policy and procedure in Educational Establishments.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the Council's updating of its policy and procedure governing the use of telephones, internet and e-mail; and
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services arrange effective implementation in Educational Establishments.

### **PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS - 2001-2002 (Item 8, Page 1242)**

10. There was submitted a report dated 13 February 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the funding arrangements for pre-school education for 2001/2002.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that commissioned places with the Council's partner providers of Pre-School Education be paid at the recommended rate of £940 per fully loaded place in the financial year 2001/2002; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**CHANGING CHILDREN'S SERVICE FUND - A CONSULTATION ON PRIORITY OBJECTIVES AND MECHANISMS FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDING**

11. There was submitted a report dated 14 March 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the response to a Consultation Paper "Changing Children's Service Fund - A Consultation on Priority Objectives and Mechanism for Allocation of Funding".

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the draft response to the "Changing Children's Service Fund" set out in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note contents of the report.

**FURTHER EDUCATION BURSARIES**

12. There was submitted a report dated 12 March 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on proposed allowances and contribution scales in respect of Further Education Bursaries for 2001/2002.

It was agreed that allowances and contribution scales for 2001/2002 in respect of Further Education Bursaries be maintained at the current rate outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

13. 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 2001 (PERIOD 11)**

14. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 14 March 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director 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 to 9 February 2001 (Period 11).

The meeting terminated at 1045 hours.