

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11 APRIL 2002 AT 1000 HOURS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Brian McNeil, Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, Willie Coffey, Lilian MacLean, John Weir, Drew McIntyre, Alex Walsh, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Julie Faulds, Eric Ross and Elaine Dinwoodie; Church Representatives John Paterson, John McHugh and Matthew Sullivan; Teacher Representative Iain Harvey; and Parent Representative Alasdair MacQueen.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources; John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; Allan McDougall, Head of Resource Support; Graham Short, Head of Schools; Robin Gourlay, Contract Manager; Euan Couperwhite, Finance Manager; Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager; Caroline Gordon, Public Relations Officer; Anne Jackson, Principal Officer, Support to Communities; John Alexander, Principal Officer (Quality and Planning); Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer; Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer and Lynn Chapman, Trainee Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Iain Linton, Robert McDill and Provost Jimmy Boyd

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS**(i) Easter Schools**

It was noted that many schools had held successful Easter Schools during the holidays with a variety of activities taking place. This continuing development provides pupils of all ages and abilities the opportunity to enjoy something extra, over and above classroom teaching.

(ii) Youth Conference

The Chair expressed delight in opening this year's Youth Conference held during the Easter break. The Conference had been a great success with 105 young people from East Ayrshire in attendance. The theme of the Conference had been Social Inclusion - "Power Up" and the young people had participated in a series of workshops ranging from health, drama and the Children's Charter.

(iii) Stewarton Academy Senior Wind Band

The Chair congratulated the Stewarton Academy Senior Wind Band who had been awarded a bronze plaque in the School Wind Band Class at the National Concert Band Festival held in Manchester recently.

(iv) Careers Co-ordinator of the Year Award 2002

The Chair congratulated Grange Academy Teacher, Janice Murphy, who had been awarded a Certificate of Merit through the Careers Enterprise Jobs Scotland Careers Co-ordinator of the Year Award 2002.

(v) Bilingual Support Service

It was noted that the Bilingual Support Service had been successful in its bid for SIP funding to support the project called "Effective Communication to Support and Include Ethnic Minority Families".

(vi) Sports Hall Athletics Tournament

It was noted that the Athletics Team from Catrine Primary School had taken first place in the final of the Sports Hall Athletics Tournament which had taken place recently at the Galleon in Kilmarnock.

(vii) Sorn Primary Enterprise Team

It was noted that Sorn Primary Enterprise Team "Eggstravaganza" had organised a coffee morning with a difference. The "Grannies" in the village had come into the school prior to the event and had taught upper school children how to knit Easter chicks which were sold to parents and friends of the School.

(viii) Kilmarnock Academy Dance Club

It was noted that Kilmarnock Academy Dance Club had presented a very successful show which ran for two nights before Easter.

(ix) St Matthew's Primary School

The Chair congratulated pupils of St Matthew's Primary School who had raised £1,400 to help eliminate poverty in the poorest parts of the world and £300 for a local poverty fund. The Chair also congratulated Christopher and Stephen Ingram of Primary 7 who won the Junior Maths Challenge against all other Primaries in the cluster.

In response to a query from Councillor W Coffey the Chair agreed that in future the 'Good News' items would be circulated at future meetings of the Education Committee.

**MINUTES OF CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF 1 MARCH 2002**

2. There was submitted and approved as a correct record the Minutes (circulated) of the Chair's Sub-Committee of the Education Committee held on 1 March 2002.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT EDUCATION TO 10
FEBRUARY 2002 (PERIOD 11)**

3. There was submitted a joint report dated 2 April 2002 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Educational and Social Services which advised of the current budgetary control position and projected out-turn for the year for Education Services for the period ended 10 February 2002 (Period 11).

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Finance and Director of Educational and Social Services submit a report to a future meeting of the Education Committee outlining the operation of the Education Maintenance Allowance Scheme; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor McIntyre left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2002/2003 (Item 2, Page 1637)

4. There was submitted a report dated 22 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of proposals for expenditure in the Capital Programme for 2002/2003 and which sought approval to progress with the programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Capital Programme for 2002/2003 detailed at Appendix 1 of the report be approved; 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.

REVIEW OF CHARGES IN THE LETTING POLICY FOR COMMUNITY USE (Item 5, Page 1638)

5. There was submitted a report dated 25 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for revised charges for accommodation use by Community Groups and which advised of the proposed review of the Letting Policy which would consider affording priority to Out-of-School Care Groups.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the revised charges for the joint Letting Policy as detailed in paragraph 3.4 of the report be approved;
- (ii) that the revised charges be implemented from 11 August 2002;
- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services bring the outcome of the Out-of-School Care Review back to the Education Committee for their consideration; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS 2002/2003

6. There was submitted a report dated 15 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for recommendations for awards in respect of allocations of Education Voluntary Sector Grants for the year 2002/2003.

The committee then took the following decisions:-

- (a) Applications Approved:-
 - LEAD Scotland - £200
 - Childline Scotland - £500

Avonlea Youth Centre - Councillor McNeil seconded by Councillor Young moved that the application from Avonlea Youth Centre be re-assessed and submitted to the appropriate Local Committee for consideration.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Knapp moved as an amendment to award a grant of £4,200 to Avonlea Youth Centre.

On a division by a show of hands the amendment for a grant award of £4,200 was carried by 9 votes to 2.

The Caledonian Award - £300;

Workers' Educational Association - £1,000;

Glasgow Gaelic Drama Association - £100;

Support to Communities - Whole Area - £8,000;

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

The National Youth Orchestra - £100;

Ayrshire Schools Football Association - £700;

Enterprise Music Scotland - £200;

Youth Link Ayrshire - £100;

Scout Association - £1,000; and

(b) Applications Refused:-

Project Ability;

Sounds of Progress;

Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education;

Scottish National Dictionary Association Ltd;

The Scottish Council for Research in Education.

PARTNERSHIP WITH KILMARNOCK FOOTBALL CLUB

7. There was submitted a report dated 21 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the partnership activity "Behind the Scenes" with Kilmarnock Football Club and which sought approval to continue the development of such links.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the partnership activity "Behind the Scenes" with Kilmarnock Football Club;
- (ii) to approve the continued development of partnership activity with Kilmarnock Football Club; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ONSITE SERVICES BUSINESS UNIT: EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING (Item 2, Page 652)

8. There was submitted a joint report dated 28 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services and the Depute Chief Executive/Director of

Corporate Resources which advised of the Unit's revised Training Plan for employees of the Onsite Services Business Unit.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the training requirements of the Onsite Services Business Unit be arranged in accordance with the proposals outlined in the report;
- (ii) that the terminology used in paragraph 4.2.2 of the report be reviewed; and
- (iii) that the report be submitted to the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee, for information.

CHARGES FOR SCHOOL MEALS (Item 4, Page 1638)

9. There was submitted a report dated 28 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which proposed adjustments to the charges for School Meals for implementation from Monday 22 April 2002.

It was agreed to approve the value of a set meal for pupils and staff and the free meals equivalent be set at £1.37 with effect from Monday 22 April 2002.

DEVELOPING LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS IN EAST AYRSHIRE

10. There was submitted a report dated 25 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of a proposal for a strengthened and enhanced role for the present partnership groups in the life of the Education Authority through the concept of Learning Partnerships.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the report be approved as the basis for strengthening service delivery at local level;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services provide future reports on the phased devolution of resources for management at partnership group level; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

DRAFT GUIDANCE ON HOME EDUCATION

11. There was submitted a report dated 16 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of draft guidelines for Local Authorities on the circumstances in which parents may choose to educate their children at home and provided details of the provision within East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to invite the Director to review home education procedures in due course;
- (ii) that the report be approved as the basis for a formal response to the Scottish Executive; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ROLL-OUT OF NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL APPROACH

12. There was submitted a report dated 15 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the use of the monies made

available by the Scottish Executive for the financial year 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 to support the roll-out of a New Community School approach across the Council area.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to remit any staffing implications arising to the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SCOTTISH COMMISSION FOR THE REGULATION OF CARE (Item 8, Page 2208)

- 13.** There was submitted a report dated 8 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for arrangements to be put in place to meet the gap in services when the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care was established and to remit staffing proposals contained within the report to the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals to meet the gaps in service detailed in paragraph 3 of the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services remit the staffing implications to the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

THE NATIONAL DEBATE ON EDUCATION

- 14.** There was submitted a report dated 25 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the recently launched National Debate on Education and considered initiatives to promote the debate within East Ayrshire.

It was reported and noted that a Conference for parents had been scheduled for 27 April 2002.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to welcome the National Debate on Education;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services proceed to facilitate the debate in East Ayrshire as outlined in the report; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PE AND SPORT INITIATIVES

- 15.** There was submitted a joint report dated 25 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services and of Community Services which advised of the recently launched initiatives for PE and Sport and outlined the implications for East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to welcome the initiative to develop PE and Sports in East Ayrshire;

- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services establish a planning group including key partners from Community Services, Sport Co-ordinators, Art Links Officers and representation of Health Boards to prepare plans to take forward the initiative in East Ayrshire;
- (iii) to advise the Committee of progress being made; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ARRANGEMENTS 2003/2004

- 16.** There was submitted a report dated 13 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the consultation exercise carried out regarding school holiday arrangements for the school session 2003/2004 and which sought an agreement to implement a preferred school holiday option.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that Appendix 1 of the report be approved as the school holiday arrangements for the school session 2003/2004;
- (ii) that the return date for teachers for the session 2003/2004 be 16 August 2004 and 17 August 2004 for pupils; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR PERIOD 2 JULY TO 31 DECEMBER 2001

- 17.** There was submitted and noted a report dated 19 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the absence rates for the Department of Educational and Social Services (former Education employees) for the period 2 July to 31 December 2001.

WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN SERVICES - PROGRESS REPORT

- 18.** There was submitted a report dated 28 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of progress in achieving initial targets set for joint working within the Department of Educational and Social Services and which proposed further targets on joint working for action by the Department in the next 12 months.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the achievements made with the initial joint working targets set for the Department, detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) to approve the proposed future targets as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services circulate the information detailed in the report widely;
- (iv) that the Director of Educational and Social Services present progress reports on achieving the new targets for action to appropriate Committees; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Smith left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

ADULT LITERACY AND NUMERACY FUNDING

19. There was submitted a report dated 22 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the Community Learning Partnership Award to Support to Communities to establish additional essential skills services for people with literacy and numeracy difficulties and to establish a temporary, part-time Adult Literacy and Numeracy Monitoring Officer.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the proposals in the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services remit the staffing implications to the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

LOCAL RECOGNITION AND PROCEDURE AGREEMENT

20. There was submitted a report dated 23 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for a Local Recognition and Procedure Agreement between the Authority and the Teacher Trades Unions following guidance issued by the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT).

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals detailed in the report for the establishment of a local Framework Recognition and Procedure Agreement;
- (ii) to recommend to Council to agree the proposals described in paragraph 3.6 of the report for membership of the Management side of the East Ayrshire Council Joint Negotiating Committee;
- (iii) to approve the appointment of the nominee of the Director of Educational and Social Services as the Management side Joint Secretary;
- (iv) to recommend to Council to delegate to the Director of Educational and Social Services power to determine on behalf of the Council and to implement all matters within the Terms of Reference of the East Ayrshire Council's Joint Negotiating Committee;
- (v) to authorise the Director of Educational and Social Services to advise all relevant Trades Unions of the agreement of the Education Committee, to the terms of the formal Agreement detailed in Appendix I of the report and to invite the relevant Trades Unions to similarly agree;
- (vi) to recommend to Council that the Director of Educational and Social Services be authorised to sign a Local Recognition and Procedure Agreement in terms of the draft detailed at Appendix I of the report;
- (vii) that on the signing of the Agreement and the establishment of the East Ayrshire Council Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff, the Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers) should cease to exist;
- (viii) to note that approval of the foregoing will require amendment to the Council's Scheme of Delegation; and

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- (ix) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

21. There was submitted and noted a report dated 25 March 2002 (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.

CONTRACT	SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT
Upgrade Wood Dust Extraction Systems in Saw Cutting Room at Various Schools	McCluckie Engineering Ltd, Paisley	£50,963.85
Internal Alterations to form Offices, Crosshouse Nursery School, Crosshouse	Fulwood Holdings Ltd, t/a CT & CF Ltd, Stewarton	£66,308.08

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

22. 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 items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT ONSITE SERVICES UNIT TO 10 FEBRUARY 2002 (PERIOD 11)

23. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 21 March 2002 (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 Onsite Services Business Unit for the period ended 10 February 2002 (Period 11).

DEVELOPMENT OF A CONTRACT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR ONSITE SERVICES (Item 25, Page 1247)

24. There was submitted a report dated 14 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for further investment in the Onsite Services Management Information System.

It was agreed to approve the further investment in the Contract Management System to further enhance the Business Unit's management and performance.

The meeting terminated at 1131 hours.

**TO RETURN TO PREVIOUS PAGE
PLEASE PRESS THE BACK BUTTON
AT THE TOP LEFT OF THE PAGE**