

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2003 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Jim O'Neill, Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, Daniel Coffey, Willie Coffey, Drew McIntyre, Iain Linton, John Campbell, John Knapp, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Jimmy Kelly, Neil McGhee, Eric Ross, Elaine Dinwoodie, Elaine Stewart and Jimmy Carmichael; and Church Representatives: Rev John Taylor and John McHugh.

ATTENDING: John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; Graham Short, Head of Quality Improvement; John McCarney, Head of Schools Support; Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support; Robin Gourlay, Contracts Manager; Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager; Elaine Marsh, Senior Accountant; Anne Jackson, Principal Officer (Community Learning & Development); John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education; Willie White, Physical Activity Development Officer; Mark Pentleton, Partners in Excellence Project Co-ordinator; Carol McConville, Quality Improvement Officer; Peter Hessett, Team Leader (Litigation); and Sharon McHarg, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Maureen McKay and Provost Jane Darnbrough.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - EDUCATION TO
27 JULY 2003 (PERIOD 4)**

1. There was submitted a joint report dated 28 August 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 27 July 2003 (Period 4).

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Educational and Social Services request through the Policy and Resources Committee, the allocation of the specific budgeted contingency sum of £100,000 to meet the additional demand for Special Education Outwith Area Placements;
- (ii) that a further report on the outcome be submitted to this Committee by the Director of Educational and Social Services; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

GRANGE ACADEMY FIRE

2. There was submitted a report dated 8 September 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which updated Members on the fire damage sustained at Grange Academy.

The Chair advised Members of the Committee of a letter which had been received from Fred Wildridge, Head Teacher, Grange Academy which (i) stated that the progress made to date within the school had been remarkable and demonstrated the importance East Ayrshire Council placed on education services; and (ii) thanked the Directorate of Educational and Social Services and staff, Elected Members and all other parties involved for their efforts in the operation.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that a letter be issued by the Director of Educational and Social Services on behalf of the Education Committee to the Head Teacher and staff, School Board, appropriate Trade Unions and all others involved, expressing thanks for their positive efforts to maintain provision at the school; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

REVISED ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL INSPECTIONS

3. There was submitted a report dated 11 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of changes to the arrangements for school inspections and which sought approval for proposals to meet the new requirements of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HMIE).

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Authority based proposals for the follow-through of HMIE inspections as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report;
- (ii) to note that the summary report as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the report would be circulated to parents, the School Board, staff and all members of the Education Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS 2003/2004

4. There was submitted a report dated 18 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for recommendations for awards in respect of the allocations of Educational Voluntary Sector Grants for the year 2003/2004.

The Committee then took the following decisions:-

Applications Approved:-

Avonlea Youth Centre - £3,350

Arthritis Care in Scotland - £1,000

EAST AYRSHIRE RACE EQUALITY SCHEME (Item 3, Page 3198, 99/03)

5. There was submitted a report dated 4 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the Race Equality Action Plan which had been developed following an assessment of educational functions within the Department of Educational and Social Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Action Plan set out in Appendix 1 of the report;

- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services submit a Race Equality Scheme Progress Report to Committee on an annual basis; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**PROPOSED CLOSURE OF CRAIGMALLOCH OUTDOOR CENTRE AND
OCHILTREE COMMUNITY LEARNING STORES**

6. There was submitted a report dated 21 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the use of Craigmalloch Outdoor Centre and Ochiltree Community Learning Stores and proposed closure of both facilities.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to declare Craigmalloch Outdoor Centre surplus to requirements of the Department of Educational and Social Services;
- (ii) to declare Ochiltree Community Learning Stores surplus to requirements of the Department of Educational and Social Services;
- (iii) to refer the personnel implications to the Corporate Governance Committee; and
- (iv) to refer this matter to Department of Development Services for disposal.

**PROGRESS REPORT ON COMMUNITY LEARNING PLANS
(Item 13, Page 2209,99/03)**

7. There was submitted a report dated 15 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the progress made in relation to Community Learning Plans.

It was agreed:-

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

PAYMENT OF GRANT PER PLACE TO EARLY YEARS PARTNERS PROVIDERS

8. There was submitted a report dated 27 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the 2003/2004 grant per place to Early Education Partner Providers.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the grant per place to Partner Providers for 2003/2004 as detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ACTION PLAN

9. There was submitted a report dated 26 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for a revised and updated Departmental Health and Safety Action Plan for 2003/2004 for Education Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the recommended Departmental Health and Safety Action Plan 2003/2004 as appended to the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services provide further reports on the Department's response to the Action Plan; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ENTERPRISE IN EDUCATION

- 10.** There was submitted a report dated 29 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the developments in Enterprise in Education and in particular, of the outline strategy being developed in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the approach as detailed within the report to the further development of Enterprise in Education; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

UPDATE REPORT ON PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE

- 11.** There was submitted a report dated 27 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of developments in the inter-authority Partners in Excellence (PiE) Project.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the success of the PiE Project in receiving the European Award for Languages 2003;
- (ii) to note the increase in the number of pupils taking languages at Higher Grades since 2000;
- (iii) to note the increase in attainment level at higher grade level since 2000; and
- (iv) to approve the continuing development of PiE Project.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS LEARNING/SCHOOL SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR PROGRAMME (OSHL/SSCP)

- 12.** There was submitted a report dated 11 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the allocation from Sportscotland of additional finance from the New Opportunities Fund to the level of £81,000 for the period 1 August 2003 to 31 July 2006 as part of the Out-of-School Hours Learning/School Sports Co-ordinator Programmes.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to continue the development of programmes of physical activity for children and young people; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

FUTURE LEARNING AND TEACHING PROGRAMME

- 13.** There was submitted a report dated 25 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which (i) advised of additional resources allocated through the Scottish Executive Education Department Future Learning and Teaching

(FlaT) Programme; (ii) informed that the Scottish Executive through the FlaT Programme, had agreed to fund the introduction and implementation of the Activating Children's Thinking Skills (ACTS) Project in East Ayrshire over the next two years; and (iii) highlighted that links were currently enjoyed by East Ayrshire Council and South Eastern Education and Libraries Board (SEELB) in Northern Ireland.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to welcome the additional funding allocated for the FlaT Programme;
- (ii) to approve the framework for implementation outlined within the report;
- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services advise Members of the Committee of progress regarding the proposed link with SEELB; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- 14.** There was submitted a report dated 25 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of additional resources allocated through the Assessment is for Learning (AifL) Programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to welcome the additional funding allocated from the AiFL Programme; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY CONTRACT

- 15.** There was submitted a report dated 28 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for an extension of the contract with Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care NHS Trust.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve an enhancement to the current speech and language therapy contract in line with the proposals set out within the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services and Solicitor to the Council conclude a variation of the contract with Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care NHS Trust; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CREATIVE MINDS - UPDATE REPORT

- 16.** There was submitted a report dated 29 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which (i) provided an update on the initiatives and forthcoming external funding applications supporting Creative Minds - Arts and Education Strategy; (ii) enclosed as Appendix I to the report, a calendar of music events for 2003/2004; and (iii) detailed East Ayrshire Council's funding allocation for 2003-2006 which had been made available by the Scottish Executive for the development of youth music initiatives.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note these initiatives involving pupils from across East Ayrshire; and

- (ii) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee to advise of the outcome of funding applications.

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

SCHOOLS CATERING CONTRACT REVIEW

17. There was submitted a report dated 9 September 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval to vary and modernise the charging arrangements for school meals transacted between the On-Site Services Business Unit and the Department of Educational and Social Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the variation to the charging mechanism between its On-Site Services Business Unit and the Department of Educational and Social Services as detailed within the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

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

REPORT ON IMPLICATIONS OF 'HUNGRY FOR SUCCESS'

18. There was submitted a report dated 29 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the implications arising from the Scottish Executive report 'Hungry for Success' and provided information on additional resources that have been made available.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that a further report be prepared by the Director of Educational and Social Services for the Education Committee detailing an East Ayrshire Action Plan in response to the report 'Hungry for Success';
- (ii) that it was appropriate therefore to consider a short term multi-disciplinary Steering Group to prepare the Action Plan to establish the financial, nutritional, curricular, school ethos, school management and school estate budgetary implications for all schools in East Ayrshire; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EXCLUSIONS 2002/2003

19. There was submitted a report dated 31 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the levels of school exclusion during sessions 2002/2003.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to continue to support initiatives that encourage the promotion of positive discipline in schools;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services make arrangements for the discussion of this information at the Pupil Council and with parents including School Boards;
- (iii) that a 15 minute seminar be arranged by the Director of Educational and Social Services for all members of the Education Committee following the

next meeting of the Education Committee to discuss the issue of exclusions;
and

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

EXAMINATION RESULTS 2003

20. There was submitted a report dated 31 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the overall performance in the 2003 diet of examinations.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Educational and Social Services write to schools informing them of this analysis and congratulating them on the areas of improved attainment highlighted by the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services make arrangements for discussion of this information at the Pupil Council and with parents including School Boards;
- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services draw to the attention of the Scottish Executive these results in the context of the benefits of the educational maintenance allowance; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

21. There was submitted and noted a report dated 9 September 2003 (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 and detailed within the Appendix to these Minutes.

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 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 27 JULY 2003 (PERIOD 4)

23. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 27 August 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 Service Business Unit for the period ended 27 July 2003 (Period 4).

The meeting terminated at 1128 hours.

APPENDIX

<u>Contract</u>	<u>Successful Contractor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Appointment of Legal Adviser - Education PPP	Burness, Edinburgh	£130,387.00
Appointment of Financial Adviser - Education PPP	Grant Thornton, Edinburgh	£191,425.00
Appointment of Technical Advisor - Education PPP	Atkins Design, Glasgow	£99,620.00
Re-roofing of Silverwood Primary School, Kilmarnock Academy and Patna Primary School	Braedale Roofing Ltd, Wishaw	£181,370.42
Re-roofing Phase 2 Dunlop Primary School, St Joseph's Academy, Kilmarnock and New Cumnock Community Centre	Foxbar Contracts, Kilmarnock	£43,676.85
Reinstatement of Fire Damage at Changing Pavilion, Queen's Drive, Kilmarnock	Fullwood Holdings Ltd, New Stevenson	£204,975.31
Cairnhill, Drongan Primary Schools - Window Replacement, Phase 2	J S McFadyean Ltd, Carluke	£138,719.28
Newmilns Dry Ski Slope - Refurbishment	Ayrshire Construction Ltd	£116,042.85