

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 6 FEBRUARY 2001

### ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS, GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN SCHOOLS EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1998

#### Report by the Director of Educational & Social Services

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Education Committee of additional funds allocated from the Scottish Executive for improvements to schools and to outline the action planned by the Department.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 08/12/00, in Circular 5/2000, the Education Department of the Scottish Executive allocated additional funds under the Grants for Improvements in Schools Education (Scotland) Regulations 1998.
- 2.2 The amount allocated to East Ayrshire Council was £406,195, to be used to deal with immediate repairs, maintenance and equipment problems within schools. A condition of the allocation was that the resources involved be seen as additional to existing planned education spending.
- 2.3 Also, each school in the authority should receive some benefit from these extra resources in 2000/01. Although the allocation of funds to local authorities was based on a fixed amount per pupil (i.e. £2,800 per school, plus £10 per primary pupil, £15 per secondary pupil and £30 per special school pupil) each local authority had the ability to vary the amounts allocated to each school to better reflect local priorities and other factors e.g. very small schools, recent refurbishment, recent investments).
- 2.4 In addition, local authorities were able to bring forward projects from 2001/02 if there was difficulty on progressing new projects in the short timescale to 31 March 2001.

#### 3. ACTIONS

- 3.1 In consultation with the Chair of the Education Committee, the following actions were agreed:
- (a) That a number of essential projects would be commissioned in a small number of schools, totalling approximately £176,000

- (b) That the balance of funds be allocated to schools for projects to improve local facilities, to be commissioned through Contracting & Technical Services £230,195.

**3.2** At the present time, appropriate projects are being identified and actioned. Progress on work completed will be reviewed at the end of February 2001 to ensure that all proposed expenditure will be incurred before the end of the financial year.

#### **4. CONDITIONS OF GRANT**

**4.1** The local authority will publish locally, no later than 29 June 2001, information on what has been achieved through the allocation of these additional resources.

**4.2** The local authority will submit a report to the Scottish Executive listing the allocation to schools and what has been spent, by 29 June 2001.

#### **5. FINANCIAL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** The allocation of £406,195 is additional to the existing revenue budget and has been added to the Education Department budget in 2000/01.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATION**

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational & Social Services

AYMcD/JBS  
15 January 2001

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 1. Education Department Circular 5/2000.

Members wishing further information should contact Allan McDougall, Head of Resource Support, Tel: (01563) 576090.

**AGENDA**