

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 3 APRIL 2001

### EAST AYRSHIRE RESPONSE TO CAREERS SERVICE REVIEW

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

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the Scottish Executive's response to the Careers Service Review (The Duffner Report) and their proposals for the future organisation of the Careers Service in Scotland.
- 1.2 To advise Members of the comments submitted by East Ayrshire Council in respect of the Scottish Executive's response to the Careers Service Review.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In October 1999, the then Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning established the Careers Service Review Committee. The committee, chaired by Barbara Duffner, Head of Personnel at the Royal Mail was remitted to examine the role of the Careers Service and to consider how the Service should respond and develop their role in a dynamic and changing society.
- 2.2 The report, submitted to the Scottish Executive in September 2000, contains 48 recommendations as to how the service should change to reflect the central importance of education, lifelong learning and the changing labour market. The Executive considered the recommendations of the report and in January 2001 issued its Response and a Commentary on the recommendations. The summary of the Scottish Executive's Commentary on Recommendations resulting from the Careers Service Review (The Duffner Report) is included as Appendix 1
- 2.3 The Executive invited a range of stakeholders to comment on their response. A full copy of East Ayrshire Council's comments on the Executive response is available in the Members' Library. If Members of the Committee wish to modify the comments passed to the Executive, an arrangement has been made whereby such amendments will be accepted.

#### 3. THE EXECUTIVE'S PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CAREERS SERVICE

- 3.1 The Duffner Report identified a number of barriers to effective delivery of services. This complexity often leads to significant variability in service provision. The Executive therefore proposed a number of changes to improve the strategic and operational management of the Careers Service in Scotland. The key proposed changes are as follows :

- ◆ The creation of 'Careers Scotland' as a national service to unify the current roles of 4 organisations - Careers Service Companies, Adult Guidance Networks, Education Business Partnerships and Local

Learning Partnerships. The discontinuation of the existing Careers Companies from 31 March 2002. (Existing contracts for the delivery of the service terminate on that date)

- ◆ The discontinuation of the Education Business Partnership Companies
- ◆ At the national level, Careers Scotland, will have a Joint Venture Group involving all key stakeholders and reporting directly to the Minister
- ◆ That Careers Scotland be aligned in a joint venture with Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise Networks
- ◆ That Careers Scotland in each local area will have a local careers service (LCS) with a local board, broadly comprising equal thirds of representatives of the local education authority, business interests through the local enterprise companies and the learning industry e.g. Kilmarnock College
- ◆ The transfer of all relevant staff to public sector posts in the new organisation

**3.2** The Executive believe that the creation of Careers Scotland will provide a more cohesive service which will be better able to respond to the needs of an extended client group such as those young people identified in Inclusiveness Projects and All Age Careers Guidance Projects.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** Nil

**5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** The Executive and the Boards of Directors of the relevant companies will address all issues concerning the transfer of staff. East Ayrshire Council as one of the partner organisations involved with the Ayrshire Careers Partnership and the Ayrshire Education Partnership will require to support appropriate action to dissolve these companies following the formation of Careers Scotland on 31 March 2002.

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**6.1** It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) Note the Scottish Executive's response to the Duffner Report
- (ii) Note and approve East Ayrshire Council's comments on the Executive's response to the Duffner Report.

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational & Social Services

GS/FW/MM  
19 March 2001

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. East Ayrshire Council's comments on the Executive Response

Members wishing further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Schools, Tel: (01563) 576089.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : GRAHAM SHORT, HEAD OF SCHOOLS**

**AGENDA**