

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 5 FEBRUARY 2002

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR SCIENCE

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek approval for the allocation of additional funds to support the development of Science Education in schools

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive has allocated to East Ayrshire an additional £121,800 to support Science Education. This allocation is part of a national allocation made under the Science Strategy

3. IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 The funds must be used within Financial Year 2001-2002. The Scottish Executive's guidelines indicate that the money may be used for any project aimed at promoting Science. Particular interest centres on the aims of the Science Strategy:

- Preparation of exemplar material
- More rigorous assessment in Science
- Resources for education authorities to employ more teachers
- Higher education institutions to train more teachers
- Improved initial teacher training and continuous professional development
- Ensure the new national qualifications test the full range of knowledge, understanding and skills
- Ask Learning and Teaching Scotland to advise on how to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to acquire decision making skills in relation to Science
- Practical support to Science education to promote Science, particularly as a career
- Secure modern accommodation and resources
- Organisation of an international conference

- 3.2 The covering letter from the Scottish Executive makes particular reference to the purchase of better equipment and the provision of improved accommodation.

- 3.3 In East Ayrshire, schools will be encouraged to bring forward projects focused on 5-14 and the early development of scientific skills and interests. The purchase of materials, or the development of approaches that promotes Science for girls, the

disadvantaged and children with special educational needs will be particularly welcome. This funding provides some opportunity for access to improved Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for Science teachers.

4. POLICY/LLEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 It is proposed to allocate this money to schools through delegated budgets on a roll related basis. £10,350 will be used to support centrally organised CPD.

5.2 As with other such allocations, schools will submit a brief report on how they have spent the additional resources. This information will be collated for the purposes of a report to the Scottish Executive.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that Members :

- (i) agree to the distribution of funds as outlined in this report; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/GRS
28 January 2002

Members requiring further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Schools, (01563-576089).

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Implementation Officer: Graham Short

AGENDA