

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 4 FEBRUARY 2004**

#### **THE SCHOOL ESTATE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

##### **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 Education Committee of the preparation of a School Estate Management Plan and note its submission to the Scottish Executive.

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1** The Scottish Executive and COSLA issued a joint statement on the school estate “Building Our Future – Scotland’s School Estate” in February 2003.
- 2.2** A consequence of this document is that all Scottish local authorities are required to submit their School Estate Management Plans to the Scottish Executive for consideration.
- 2.3** The Council received revenue funding of £84,500 in 2003/04 to assist in the creation and development of its plan. This financial assistance has allowed staff to be seconded from Technical Service, and new ICT hardware and software to be purchased for the creation of a property database. This work has now been completed.

### **3. THE SCHOOLS ESTATE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- 3.1** The Plan is very detailed and describes a number of key features as requested by the Scottish Executive:
- Detailing the objectives for the school estate;
  - Delivering better services through the school estate;
  - The current state of the portfolio;
  - The extent to which the estate meets current needs and objectives;
  - How the Council will identify and address future needs and priorities;
  - Option appraisal for future needs and priorities; and
  - How the Council will implement improvements to the school estate.

Meetings have been scheduled with the Scottish Executive to discuss implications of the Plan in February 2004.

- 3.2** A key aspect of the Plan is continuing and full consultation with all stakeholders.

**3.3** In summary, the Plan identifies 4 key areas which should be addressed:

- on-going rationalisation;
- addressing maintenance issues;
- Disability Discrimination legislation; and
- improving property flexibility.

These issues will ensure that the corporate objectives of having educational buildings which are fit for purpose and play a major part within their communities will be achieved.

**3.4** Cost indications estimate that the Council requires to invest approximately £38 million (excluding PPP) over the next five years to bring the schools estate to an acceptable standard for meeting these objectives. Investment will result in an enhanced educational environment for schools.

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

**4.1** It is recognised that significant capital investment will require to be made in order to bring the school estate to a condition which is acceptable to the Council. This investment will include a mixture of PPP funding, normal capital borrowing through the Prudential Framework and use of capital receipts.

**4.2** When discussions with the Scottish Executive are complete, it will be necessary to bring to committee a plan for action which will focus, in particular, on the needs of primary schools in East Ayrshire. The opportunity through the capital programme should now be grasped to progress this important priority for action.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

- (i) note the progress made to develop a School Estate Management Plan;
- (ii) invite the Director to bring forward proposals to address the issues outlined in the plan; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational and Social Services

EC/JBS  
23 January 2004

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Building our Future : Scotland's School Estate

Any member wishing further information should contact Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support at (01563) 576090.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : EUAN COUPERWHITE**