

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 07 MARCH 2001

ADDITIONAL FUNDING ALLOCATED BY SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1** To advise Committee of the increased expenditure available from the Scottish Executive and to advise on how this finance will be spent

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Members will recall that the Excellence Fund Core Programme brings substantial funding to school in order to support initiatives that relate to national priorities. Within the Excellence Fund, improvement plans are developed at local level and approved by the Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED). Funding is ring-fenced to the Excellence Fund Core Programmes and Special Programmes. It is claimed back from the Scottish Executive on the basis of reimbursement of the money spent by the Authority to support the improvement plans.
- 2.2** East Ayrshire's approach to the Excellence Fund was approved by the Education Committee at its meeting of 28 January 1999 and subsequently re-affirmed on 20 March 2000.

3. EXCELLENCE FUND CORE PROGRAMMES IN 2001-2002

- 3.1** In 2001-2002, the Excellence Fund Core Programmes will attract £125,600,000 worth of funding nationally. East Ayrshire's share of this will be £3,468,907. This compares to £3,063,730 in 2000-2001 and is a growth of £405,177, or 13.2%. The Scottish Executive has increased the allocation to take account of inflation, but also there is real and substantial growth in some of the core programmes such as Alternatives to Exclusion, Inclusion, and Classroom Assistants.

4. MCCRONE-RELATED FUNDING IN 2001-2002

- 4.1** The agreement that has been reached with the Unions nationally following the McCrone Report has significant implications in the area of teachers' pay, conditions of service and continuous professional development. Following the national agreement, detailed guidance is awaited on a number of aspects of the full settlement package. As these emerge, more detailed reports will be brought to Committee for approval.
- 4.2** The Authority has also been allocated an additional £1.1M for the McCrone settlement to absorb the increase in the teachers' wages bill arising from the national agreement. Further detail is awaited from the Scottish Executive on the final funding arrangements for the settlement.

6. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** The financial implications are described in outline in the previous sections of the report. All funds related to the Excellence Fund are ring-fenced and must be spent in relation to the area of provision for which they are specified. The Council is accountable for ensuring that actual spending accords with the specific improvement plans submitted to, and approved by, the Scottish Executive. the stated aims of the Improvement Plans. Similarly, McCrone monies are fully committed through existing expenditure profiles. The Authority must therefore use both categories of resources for their intended purpose.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** It is recommended that Members:

- (i) approve this report as a basis for the use of the additional funding that has been allocated by the Scottish Executive for 2001-2002; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
21 February 2001

GRS/grs

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. The Excellence Fund for Schools: Core Programme, Education Committee 28 January 1999
2. Excellence Fund for Schools Year 2, Education Committee 20 March 2000

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

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : Graham Short, Head of Schools

AGENDA