

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 18 SEPTEMBER 2001**

**GAELIC LANGUAGE IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Report by Director of Educational and Social Services**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1** To seek approval for a new Gaelic Language initiative in the primary schools of East Ayrshire.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The Scottish Executive in school session 2000-2001 piloted a project on Gaelic language in the Primary School in Argyll and Bute. This was organised along the same lines as the successful Modern Languages in Primary School project that has been reported to Committee on a number of occasions.
- 2.2** Following on the successful evaluation of the pilot project, the Scottish Executive invited bids by local authorities for a phase two pilot project to run from October 2001 until June 2002.

**3. THE PROPOSAL**

- 3.1** A submission for funding by a partnership of authorities made up of East Ayrshire, Stirling, Perth and Kinross and North Lanarkshire has been accepted. The authorities will together with Argyll and Bute produce a training scheme for ten staff. The aim will be to train, for East Ayrshire 2 Gaelic tutors for 20 days. On completion of training funding will be available to enable these tutors to be employed as visiting teachers to primary schools.
- 3.2** Preliminary discussions have revealed that there is interest in such a scheme within the Primary schools, and that there are personnel who would wish to be considered for the training.
- 3.3** Participation in this scheme will enable the authority to further its implementation of the recently-published report Citizens of a Multilingual World. The scheme will also enable the authority to advance the professional development of participating staff and to meet its commitment to provide opportunities in Gaelic, which is a national educational priority.
- 3.4** The scheme will start with a national planning meeting in October 2001.

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

4.1 Nil

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Currently costs for training are estimated as being:

2 x teachers for 20 days @ £140/day =	£5740
Travelling expenses	£240
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	£6000

During the training phase in schools, the costs will be mainly related to the release of teaching staff calculated at the rate of £140 per day. There will also be costs of training materials and resources estimated at £1000.

5.2 The costs of this scheme will be met by Scottish Executive funding.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 It is recommended that Members :

- (i) agree to participation in the Gaelic Language in the Primary School project; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/GRS  
6 September 2001

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

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

Nil

**AGENDA**

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: GRAHAM SHORT**