

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 1996 AT 1000 HRS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, LONDON ROAD CENTRE, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Gordon McCredie, Drew McIntyre, Gordon Cree, Ronald Brailsford, Robert Stirling, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, David Macrae, Kim Nicoll, Eric Ross, David Sneller, George Smith, Jimmy Carmichael, Robert Taylor, Eric Jackson; and Church Representatives William McConnell, John McHugh and Matthew Sullivan.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Sue Angus, Depute Director of Education; Jennifer Wallace, Depute Director of Education; Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing and Margaret McManus, James Lally and Stuart Nelson (Support Unit).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Douglas Reid, John Knapp and George Turnbull.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (TEACHERS)

1. There was submitted and noted Minutes of meeting of the first Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers) held on 24 January 1996 (circulated) as shown in the Appendix to these Minutes.

EDUCATION BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

2. There was submitted a report dated 5 February 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education outlining the arrangements being made to manage the Education Business Partnership in Ayrshire from 1 April 1996 and seeking the nomination of a member of the Education Committee and a representative of the Director of Education to serve on the Education Business Partnership's Management Committee.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Taylor, moved:-

- (i) to note the arrangements proposed for the management of the Education Business Partnership in Ayrshire from 1 April 1996; and
- (ii) that Councillor Farrell and the Director of Education be nominated as East Ayrshire Council's representatives to serve on the Management Committee of the Education Business Partnership in Ayrshire.

Councillor Coffey, seconded by Councillor McCredie moved as an amendment that Councillor Nicoll be nominated to serve on the Management Committee of the Education Business Partnership in Ayrshire.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 13 votes to 4.

TRANSPORT FOR SESSION 1996/97 FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL AND/OR MEDICAL NEEDS

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 13 February 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education intimating that initial invitations to tender for contracts within East Ayrshire for the session 1996/97 for transport to convey children with special educational needs and/or medical needs to education establishments had been made by Strathclyde Regional Council, and that offers received by Strathclyde Regional Council would be forwarded to this Council before 31 March 1996 for acceptance.

THE FUTURE OF SCOTTISH PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

4. There was submitted a report dated 13 February 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education advising on the progress of the consultation by the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department on the proposed pre-school voucher scheme and outlining the key issues relative thereto.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the issues arising in relation to the proposed pre-school voucher scheme;
- (ii) that East Ayrshire Council should not participate in the pre-school voucher scheme in the pilot year; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Education to relay the decision of the Committee to the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department.

PRE-SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY

5. There was submitted a report dated 13 February 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education recommending the establishment of a policy for admissions to all pre-school provisions within East Ayrshire Council.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Taylor, moved:-

- (i) that the undernoted policy govern admissions to pre-school provisions within East Ayrshire:-
 - Band 1 - Social Work Department referrals of children at risk.
 - Band 2 - Referrals from Social Work Department, Social Work Agencies, psychological services, pre-school assessment teams, doctors and health visitors.
 - Band 3 - Children in their pre-school year with priority given where appropriate to children from designated priority areas and children in lone adult households.
 - Band 4 - Situations of family stress.
 - Band 5 - Children living outwith the defined area but within East Ayrshire.
 - Band 6 - Children from outwith East Ayrshire.
- (ii) that all children who live outwith East Ayrshire but who currently occupy a place in a pre-school establishment within East Ayrshire should continue their placement until they transfer to Primary School;
- (iii) that the Director of Education be instructed to monitor the implementation of the policy in the first year of the new Council;
- (iv) that the Director of Education should advise Heads of pre-school establishments of the policy, and arrange for the implementation of the policy for the 1996/97 intake; and
- (v) to instruct the Director of Education to report to a future meeting of the Committee on the implementation of the policy.

Councillor Nicoll seconded by Councillor Coffey moved as an amendment that Band 3 of the Admissions Policy should be amended as follows:-

- Band 3 - Children in their pre-school year with priority given where appropriate to children from designated priority areas.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 13 votes to 4.

HIGHER SCHOOL AND FURTHER EDUCATION BURSARIES

6. There was submitted a report dated 13 February 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education recommending the establishment of a policy for higher school and further education bursaries within East Ayrshire Council.

In relation to eligibility for higher school bursaries as indicated in Section 4 of the report, the Director of Education clarified that pupils attending schools outwith East Ayrshire not as a result of a placing request, but rather as directed by the authority in accordance with existing primary/secondary association arrangements, would be treated as if they were in attendance at a school managed by this authority for the purposes of determining eligibility for higher school bursaries.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to adopt the East Ayrshire Council guide to further education and higher school bursaries 1996/97 as the Council's master policy on bursaries;
- (ii) that a separate guide to higher school bursaries be produced for wide distribution to all secondary schools;
- (iii) to adopt the proposed amendments to the policy as detailed in Section 4 of the report and as further explained above by the Director of Education;
- (iv) that interim arrangements for payments to current bursars in the final term of academic session 1995/96 be as detailed in the report;
- (v) to instruct the Director of Education to bring forward a further report on allowances and contribution scales for 1996/97; and
- (vi) that the Director of Education monitor the implementation of the policy and report progress to a future meeting of the Committee.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERVICE

7. There was submitted a report dated 13 February 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education regarding the role of the Community Education Service in the context of Community Development work.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the potential role of the Community Education Service in Community Development work;
- (ii) in principle, to support the development of this role; and

- (iii) to instruct the Director of Education to bring forward, with the Director of Social Work, a joint report on the future of Community Development work in East Ayrshire Council.

DELEGATED MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES

8. There was submitted a report dated 13 February 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education providing information on the existing Devolved Management of Schools scheme with a view to agreeing a course of action for 1996/97. A copy of the scheme of delegation referred to in the report was tabled at the meeting.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the existing scheme for delegation of resources to individual establishments;
- (ii) to note the present involvement of East Ayrshire schools in delegated management of resources;
- (iii) to note the major contribution the scheme played in the Education Department's strategy for decentralisation;
- (iv) that the Director of Education monitor the delivery of the scheme and report to a future meeting of the Committee;
- (v) that the Director of Education write to the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department advising of the scheme to be adopted in East Ayrshire; and
- (vi) that the Director of Education liaise with the Director of Finance in establishing the scheme of delegation within the Council's financial regulations.

Councillor McCredie left the meeting during discussion of the above item prior to a decision being made.

VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS

9. There was submitted a report dated 13 February 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education regarding the establishment of categories and criteria for a policy on the allocation of voluntary sector grants in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to award grants under the following grant award categories:-
 - a) Education Voluntary Sector Grants
 - b) Category B Grants
 - c) International Exchange Grants
 - d) Residential Grants
 - e) Adult Education Childcare Support Grants
 - f) Pre-5 Voluntary Sector Grants
 - g) Out of School Care Grants

- (ii) that the eligibility criteria for applicants be as follows:-
 - a) Applicants should be community groups or voluntary organisations with a valid constitution;
 - b) Applicants should have or be able to make arrangements for proper accounts to be maintained;
 - c) Applicants should have a bank account held in the name of the group or organisation and with a minimum of two signatories;
 - d) The work of the organisation for which the grant is being sought should be essentially educational in nature;
 - e) The grant aided expenditure should be educational in nature and in the pre-5 sector or associated activities a percentage should be targeted upon direct provision; and
 - f) The grant aided expenditure should have clear benefits for East Ayrshire.

- (iii) that the Director of Education disseminate information on the voluntary sector grants policy to relevant groups and organisations;

- (iv) that the Director of Education bring forward detailed proposals for the implementation of this policy in 1996/97; and

- (v) that the Director of Education monitor the implementation of the policy.

PROPOSED EDUCATION (APPEALS) SUB-COMMITTEE

- 10.** There was submitted a report dated 12 February 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education recommending the establishment, quorum and terms of reference of an Education (Appeals) Sub-Committee to exercise the delegated power to determine appeals made in terms of the disciplinary procedure for settling grievances contained in the Conditions of Service for all employees in educational establishments who are subject to Teachers Conditions of Service.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that appeals by staff employed on Teachers Conditions of Service relating to grievances and disciplinary action be heard and determined by the Education (Appeals) Sub-Committee of the Education Committee;
- (ii) that the Education (Appeals) Sub-Committee comprise five Elected Members of the Education Committee (four Administration and one Opposition) ;
- (iii) that the Education (Appeals) Sub-Committee be chaired by a member of the Education Committee;
- (iv) that the quorum of the Education (Appeals) Sub-Committee be three Members;
- (v) that the terms of reference of the Education (Appeals) Sub-Committee be as detailed in Section 3 of the report; and
- (vi) that the Chair of this Committee should, at the next meeting of the Council, nominate the Chair of the Education (Appeals) Sub-Committee and Members of the Education Committee to serve on the Sub-Committee.

PROPOSED EDUCATION (JOINT APPEALS & BURSARIES) SUB-COMMITTEE

11. There was submitted a report dated 12 January 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education recommending the establishment, quorum and terms of reference for an Education (Joint Appeals & Bursaries) Sub-Committee for the purpose of exercising the delegated power to determine appeals relating to higher school and certain further education bursaries and access to or amendment of pupil and student records.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the power to determine appeals relating to bursaries and appeals in respect of access to or amendment of pupil or student records be given to the Education (Joint Appeals & Bursaries) Sub-Committee;
- (ii) that the Education (Joint Appeals & Bursaries) Sub-Committee comprise five Elected Members of the Education Committee (four Administration and one Opposition);
- (iii) that the Education (Joint Appeals & Bursaries) Sub-Committee should be chaired by a member of the Education Committee;
- (iv) that the quorum for the Education (Joint Appeals & Bursaries) Sub-Committee be three Members;

- (v) that the terms of reference of the Education (Joint Appeals & Bursaries) Sub-Committee be as detailed in Section 3 of the report; and
- (vi) that the Chair of this Committee should, at the next meeting of the Council, nominate the Chair of the Education (Joint Appeals and Bursaries) Sub-Committee and Members of the Education Committee to serve on the Sub-Committee.

ESTABLISHMENT OF STATUTORY EDUCATION APPEAL COMMITTEES

12. There was submitted a report dated 13 February 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education referring to the requirement to establish an Appeals Committee to hear statutory education appeals in terms of Section 28D of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 as amended by the Education (Scotland) Act 1981.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the requirement to establish an Appeals Committee to hear statutory education appeals in terms of Section 28D of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980;
- (ii) to note that the terms of reference for the Committee were as detailed in the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, as amended by the Education (Scotland) Act 1981;
- (iii) to note that membership of the Committee would be as detailed in the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 as amended, and to recommend that members of individual Appeals Committees be selected from:-
 - a) Elected Members of East Ayrshire Council;
 - b) Non-elected members of the Education Committee; and
 - c) A panel including *inter alia* members of local school Attendance Councils, a register of which was held by the Director of Education.

The meeting terminated at 1115 hours.