

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER 1996 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Gordon McCredie, Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Ronald Brailsford, Provost Robert Stirling, Councillors John Knapp, , David Fulton, David Macrae, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, David Sneller, George Smith, Jimmy Carmichael, Robert Taylor and Eric Jackson; Church Representatives, William McConnell and John McHugh; Parent Representative, Shelagh McKerrall and Teacher Representative, Iain Harvey.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, 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; Robin Gourlay, Depute Director of Commercial Operations; Graham Short, Head of Quality Development; Kenneth McKinlay, Quality Development Officer; Ian Arnott, Chief Accountant; Frank Green, Principal Budget Officer; Anne Jackson, Principal Officer (Community Education); David Morgan, Public Relations Officer; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer and Lesley-Ann Wallace, Administrative Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Douglas Reid, Coffey and Church Representative, Matthew Sullivan.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

1. There were submitted and approved both as a correct record and in respect of recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes (circulated) as detailed in Appendices I to III of these Minutes.

Councillor Sneller joined the meeting at this point.

- 1.1 **EDUCATION (JOINT APPEALS AND BURSARIES) SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF 10 OCTOBER 1996** - Appendix I

It was reported and noted in respect of consideration of the above Minutes that an Information Seminar regarding the Education (Joint Appeals and Bursaries) Sub-Committee of the Education Committee would be arranged by the Director of Education for those members of the Sub-Committee.

- 1.2 **COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF 5 NOVEMBER 1996** - Appendix II

- 1.3 **BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF 7 NOVEMBER 1996** - Appendix III.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE PERIOD TO 13 SEPTEMBER 1996 (PERIOD 6)

2. There was submitted a report dated 9 October 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which advised the Committee of the current budgetary control position of the Education Department for the period ended 13 September 1996 (period 6).

Having heard the Chief Executive and the Chief Accountant it was agreed:-

- (i) to note that future budgetary control reports would take into account decisions of Council during the previous Committee cycle together with any decisions to authorise any overspend and that such decisions would be reflected in the base budgets for Departments.
- (ii) otherwise, to note contents of the report.

AWARDING OF TENDERS - EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 13 November 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services providing details of tenders which had been awarded to East Ayrshire Council Commercial Operations Department in respect of Education Department contracts, viz:-

<u>CONTRACT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Heating Improvement Works, Bellfield Primary School, Kilmarnock	£88,461.78
Heating Improvement Works, Auchinleck Academy, Sorn Road, Auchinleck	£149,931.12
Proposed extension to Gargieston Primary School	£373,662.08

EXTENSION OF RIGHTS OF LOCAL COUNCILLORS WITH REGARD TO SCHOOL BOARDS

4. There was submitted a report dated 4 November 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education which informed the Committee of changes in legislation relating to the extension of the rights of local Councillors to attend and speak at School Board meetings.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education notify School Boards of the changes detailed in the report;
- (ii) that Clerks to School Boards ensure that Agendas and Minutes were distributed to Elected Members as appropriate; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

DISCRETION OF EDUCATION AUTHORITIES AND SCHOOL BOARDS IN THE LEETING OF HEAD TEACHERS, DEPUTES AND ASSISTANTS

5. There was submitted a report dated 4 November 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education which informed the Committee of changes in the legislation regarding the

discretion of Education Authorities and School Boards in the leeting of Head Teachers, Deputes and Assistants.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education ensure that School Board members applied the changes in legislation; and
- (ii) to note the discretion provided for in the Education (Scotland) Act 1996 in the appointment of Head Teachers, Deputes and Assistants as appropriate.

ELECTRONIC MAIL PILOT IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

6. There was submitted a report dated 4 November 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education which informed the Committee of the arrangements for a joint project to pilot the development of electronic mail (E-mail) in East Ayrshire Schools. In addition to continuing the involvement of the main primary school, it was agreed:-

- (i) that the electronic mail pilot be extended to include Stewarton Academy, Dunlop Primary, Lainshaw Primary and Nether Robertland Primary Schools; and
- (ii) that the Quality Development Team monitor, evaluate and review the project during Session 1996/97 and submit a further report to a future meeting of the Education Committee as appropriate.

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL - A REPORT ON SELECTION WITHIN SCHOOLS BY HM INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS

7. There was submitted a report dated 21 October 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised the Committee on the content of the document "Achievement for All: A Report on Selection within Schools by HM Inspectors of Schools" which was published recently by the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department and which advised on key issues which it raised.

After hearing the Director of Education and the Head of Quality Development it was agreed:-

- (i) to note the key points contained within the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department report "Achievement for All";
- (ii) to accept the comments raised by the Director of Education in the report;
- (iii) that the Director of Education advise Head Teachers that they should discuss the issues raised in the report with their staff recognising that there was no requirement to change existing arrangements for pupil organisation across the Authority; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education monitor the position to ensure that arrangements made by Head Teachers facilitate the development of the individual pupil level of attainment.

TAKING FORWARD THE SOCIAL STRATEGY WITHIN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

8. There was submitted a report dated 12 November 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised the Committee of the action being taken within the Education Department on the Social Strategy and which indicated the proposed framework for action in support of the Council's Social Strategy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the plan for action within the Education Department in support of the Council's Social Strategy;
- (ii) that the Director of Education make the necessary arrangements to ensure that Heads of Establishments and Services build Social Strategy related targets into their development plans; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education monitor the implementation of the proposals detailed in the report.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES - KEY TARGETS FOR THE EDUCATION SERVICE

9. There was submitted a report dated 5 November 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised members of the Education Committee of the key targets to be taken forward within the Education Department on the implementation of an equal opportunities strategy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the action plan on equal opportunities within the Education Service;
- (ii) that the Director of Education meet informally with the Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers) to discuss the Equal Opportunities Strategy; and
- (iii) that all Heads of Educational Establishments and Services be requested to take the appropriate action to develop an ethos in which equal opportunities featured as a central target.

BRIEFING VISITS TO EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS

10. There was submitted a report dated 7 November 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education which invited members of the Education Committee to consider a proposal from the Director of Education to arrange a programme of briefing visits to educational establishments in East Ayrshire.

The proposal was accepted and it was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education prepare a programme of briefing visits to Educational Establishments for all Members of the Council including members of the Education Committee; and
- (ii) that the programme of visits be developed in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Education Committee.

**HILLHEAD HOME/SCHOOL LINK PROJECT AND HILLHEAD
INFANT ACTION PROJECT**

11. There was submitted a report dated 18 November 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised the Committee of the timescale of the Urban Aid Project Hillhead School/Home Link Project and Infant Action Project both of which were based in Hillhead Primary School and for which funding would cease in November 1996 and December 1996 respectively and which made recommendations with regard to their future funding.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education investigate funding arrangements for the Hillhead Home School Link Project and Hillhead Infant Action Project until 31 March 1997;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit a further report to a future meeting of the Education Committee on the long term future of the projects; and
- (iii) to note the evaluation comments on the two urban funded projects.

**EATING FOR HEALTH - A DIET ACTION PLAN FOR SCOTLAND
(Item 4, page 1046)**

12. There was submitted a report dated 7 October 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Commercial Operations which introduced Eating for Health - A Diet Action Plan for Scotland and which outlined how this affected East Ayrshire Council and which offered proposals to progress this important area of work with the Departments of Education and of Social Work and through staff facilities.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the outline strategy and to acknowledge the important role the education service had in this area;
- (ii) to note that a future policy regarding this matter would be considered by the Policy and Resources Committee on "The Eating for Health" initiative based on the Scottish Diet Plan; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**INQUIRY INTO THE SHOOTINGS AT DUNBLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL ON 13
MARCH 1996 - REPORT BY LORD CULLEN**

13. There was submitted a report dated 13 November 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education which informed the Education Committee of the recommendations of the report by Lord Cullen on the Inquiry into the Shootings at Dunblane Primary School as they related to school security and the vetting of adults working with children and young people.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education arrange for all schools to develop safety plans;
- (ii) that the Director of Education offer support to Head Teachers in developing safety plans;

- (iii) that the Director of Education be asked to consult with Heads of Establishments to establish an East Ayrshire Policy giving guidelines on minimum standards of security measures;
- (iv) that the Director of Education be requested to continue to monitor the position regarding provision of additional funding from the Scottish Office to finance appropriate safety plans;
- (v) that the Director of Education be requested to consult with representatives of those offering a service to young people in East Ayrshire with a view to deciding best practice; and
- (vi) that the Director of Education report to a future meeting of the Education Committee recommending a registration policy for East Ayrshire

The meeting terminated at 1130 hours.