

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 1997 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tommy Farrell, Gordon Cree, Douglas Reid, Ronald Brailsford, Provost Robert Stirling and Councillors John Knapp, David Fulton, David Macrae, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, Eric Ross, David Sneller, George Smith, Jimmy Carmichael, Robert Taylor and Eric Jackson; Church Representatives, William McConnell and Matthew Sullivan; Parent Representative, Shelagh McKerrell and Teacher Representative, Iain Harvey.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Sue Angus and Graham Short, Depute Directors of Education; Robert McLeary, Head of Property Services; Ian Arnott, Chief Accountant; Ken Hathaway, Principal Client Services Officer; John McHarg, Maintenance Manager; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor, Frank Green, Principal Officer (Budgets); Janie Allen, Principal Officer (Pre-5 Services); Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; Lynn Morton, Senior Accountant; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer and Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Gordon McCredie, Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Daniel Coffey and David Macrae and John McHugh, Church Representative.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

1. In welcoming Members to the meeting of the Education Committee, the Chair highlighted a number of recent events in the Education Service for the information of Committee Members:-

**(i) St Paul's Primary School, Hurlford**

The motion for expenses in the St Paul's case was heard on Friday 14 November 1997. It had been confirmed that East Ayrshire Council was awarded all of the expenses for Stage 1 and three quarters of expenses of the appeal to the Court of Session.

**(ii) Tackling Underachievement**

Elected Members, Head Teachers and colleagues of the Education Department attended a conference recently on Tackling Underachievement. It was noted that this was very worthwhile and presenters had explained the way in which the authority would take this major initiative forward.

**(iii) Striker's Superstars**

The Scottish Football Association launched Striker's Superstars at Rugby Park on 31 October 1997. Head Teachers from East Ayrshire and pupils from Drongan Primary

School and Annanhill Primary School joined representatives of the SFA in this national launch.

**(iv) Official Openings of Educational Establishments**

The first phase of a programme of official openings to mark the completion of a number of initiatives which had been completed by the Council had taken place. These openings had been held at Nether Robertland Nursery Class, Gargieston Nursery Class and Schools Extension and Kilmarnock Academy Remodelling. It was noted that the Minister for Education and Industry, Brian Wilson MP would officially open the Gaelic Medium Class on 22 January 1998 in Onthank Primary School.

**(v) New Head Teacher Appointments**

Recently appointed Head Teachers were welcomed by the Chair and Director to a conference at the Dower House on 12 November 1997. Education Directorate and senior staff members presented an overview of the various aspects of the Department.

**(vi) Stewarton Academy Wind Bands**

Stewarton Academy Wind Bands had major success in the Boosey and Hawkes Festival held in Falkirk last Sunday. The Senior Wind Band gained a gold award and the Senior Jazz Band gained a silver award.

The Senior Wind Band will go forward to represent Scotland in the National Finals to be held in Manchester in April. If they gained a gold award at this festival this would be their third year in a row and they would receive a special platinum award to mark this achievement. This platinum award had only been won by one other band.

The Junior band gave a special performance outwith the competition and because of the high quality of music being played at this age, the junior band had been invited back to perform at the national finals in Manchester.

**SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES**

2. There was submitted and approved both as a correct record and in respect of the recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes (circulated) as detailed in Appendices 1 to 3 of these Minutes.

**2.1 COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 4 NOVEMBER 1997 - APPENDIX I**

**2.2 BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 6 NOVEMBER 1997 - APPENDIX II**

**2.3 EDUCATION (JOINT APPEALS AND BURSARIES) SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 7 NOVEMBER 1997 - APPENDIX III**

**BEST VALUE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - MEMBERSHIP (Item 3.1.19, Page 2664)**

3. It was reported that, as agreed at the Council meeting held on 6 November 1997, the Education Committee had been asked to appoint a named Elected Member from the Committee, together with a named Elected Member substitute to serve on the Best Value Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee.

It was agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Education Committee be appointed as the nominated Elected Member and Elected Member substitute respectively to serve on the Best Value Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee and that the Director of Support Services be advised accordingly.

#### **AWARDING OF TENDERS**

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 4 November 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which provided information on tenders which had been awarded in respect of the Education Department, viz:-

<b>CONTRACT</b>	<b>SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Extension to Stewarton Academy, Stewarton	AC Moir Ltd, Prestwick	£327,416.91
Supply of 200 handiecom radio units and 50 carry holsters	ROCOM Group Ltd, West Yorkshire	£22,670.00

#### **BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT (PERIOD 7)**

5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 12 November 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Education Department for the period ended 10 October 1997 (Period 7).

#### **SORN VILLAGE HALL**

6. There was submitted a report dated 28 October 1997 (copy enclosed) by the Director of Education which advised of an application for local capital grant from the Scottish Office, Agricultural, Environment and Fisheries Department on behalf of Sorn Village Hall.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the application and instruct the Director of Education to progress it through the Scottish Office;
- (ii) to note that the Council's contribution of £8,230 would be met from the Commercial Operations Department; and
- (iii) that the application be remitted to the Cumnock Area Local Committee for their information.

#### **FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF PRE-5 PROVISION**

7. There was submitted a report dated 5 November 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which provided an update on the current position relating to the provision of Pre-5 Education and which requested the Committee to consider the further development of Pre-5 Education in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the progress which was being made in the delivery of pre-school education in East Ayrshire be noted;

- (ii) that the Director of Education consult with parents not presently accessing Local Authority pre-5 provision and that a further report detailing the outcome of the consultation and implications for the expansion of the service be submitted to a meeting of the Education Committee early in the New Year; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

8. There was submitted a report dated 5 November 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought approval for the Annual Action Plan prior to submission to the Policy and Resources Committee.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Annual Action Plan be approved and remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **SETTING TARGETS: A STRATEGY TO RAISE STANDARDS**

9. There was submitted a report dated 5 November 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the contents of a Scottish Office Consultative Paper "Setting Targets: A Strategy to Raise Standards".

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education respond to the consultation exercise within the terms of Paragraph 6.2 of the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Education should give particular emphasis to the financial and resource implications in the response;
- (iii) that the Director of Education submit further reports to the Education Committee as further details of the proposals emerge; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **INTERNATIONAL LINKS WITH GEORGIA, USA**

10. There was submitted a report dated 3 November 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the positive results of a recent visit to the USA planned to strengthen links with the Department of Education in Georgia, USA.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the report on the recent visit to Georgia, USA be noted;
- (ii) that the Director of Education further develop links to provide educational opportunities for young people in East Ayrshire;
- (iii) that pupils in schools be encouraged to link with their peer group in the USA; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education considers establishing a concordat with appropriate States in Georgia, USA through Education Headquarters in Atlanta.

### **MANAGEMENT OF SPECIAL NEEDS AUXILIARIES**

11. There was submitted a report dated 3 November 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of a proposal for the management of Special Educational Needs (SEN) Auxiliaries and which sought approval for the arrangements detailed in the report.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the arrangements detailed in the report for the effective management and deployment of Special Educational Needs (SEN) Auxiliaries be approved; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **PLACING REQUESTS ARRANGEMENTS - RESPONSE TO SCOTTISH OFFICE EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT CONSULTATION**

12. There was submitted a report dated 5 November 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of consultation on the current arrangements for placing requests and which sought approval of a response to the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department (SOEID).

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the invitation from the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department (SOEID) to submit views on the existing legislation and guidelines for placing requests be noted;
- (ii) that the response to be submitted to the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department (SOEID) by 28 November 1997 as detailed in paragraph 5.2 of the report be approved; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education continue to monitor the uptake of placing requests within East Ayrshire and to submit further reports to future meetings of the Education Committee.

### **CoSLA QUALITY AWARDS - 1997/98**

13. There was submitted a report dated 11 November 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the submissions for the CoSLA Quality Awards which had been submitted by the Department of Education.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to welcome the approach taken by the Department of Education in recognising Good Practice;
- (ii) that the Director of Education inform Members of the Education Committee of the outcome of the CoSLA Quality Awards for 1997/98; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair extended to the Education Department, best wishes for success in competing for the CoSLA Quality Awards 1997/98.

### **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

- 14.1 The Chair advised the Members of the Education Committee that financial support amounting to £643,000 had been made available to the Education Department by

the Scottish Office for the next financial year. This finance would be used to help the Education Department further address the problem of over capacity of places in schools thus releasing finance to be used for further development of initiatives aimed at raising Educational standards in East Ayrshire.

The Chair also stated that the criteria for reviewing the Education Department's stock should have regard to:-

- ensuring that the resources within the Education Department are accurately targeted;
- that there is not an excessive amount of surplus accommodation in any one establishment;
- that the educational environment within which young people are being educated can be improved as a result of the proposal;
- that curricular provision can be at least maintained;
- that opportunities to reinvest revenue savings can be taken (ring-fenced) in support of the social strategy agenda.

#### **14.2 ST CONVAL'S HIGH SCHOOL, CUMNOCK**

There was submitted a consultation document (circulated) on further educational provision for secondary age, denominational pupils in the areas served by St Conval's High School, Cumnock.

It was agreed

- (i) having regard to the educational advantages to pupils of St Conval's High School, Cumnock in providing a structured and coherent access to wider curricular choice at appropriate levels and retaining the continuity of Roman Catholic Education that the proposals detailed under options 1-4 in the report be adopted;
- (ii) that the report be issued as a consultative document and be made available to all interested parties;
- (iii) that all interested parties, including School Boards be asked to make written submissions on the proposals to John Mulgrew, Director of Education, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU no later than 22 December 1997; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

### 14.3 ST XAVIER'S/PATNA PRIMARY SCHOOLS

There was submitted a consultation document (circulated) on the proposed relocation of St Xavier's Primary School, Dunaskin (Waterside) into surplus capacity within Patna Primary School building.

It was agreed to adopt the proposal that:-

- (i) St Xavier's Primary School be relocated in the building occupied at present by Patna Primary School allowing both schools to occupy the one building as two separate schools with certain shared facilities;
- (ii) that the relocation of St Xavier's Primary School commence at the start of the session 1998/99, that is August 1998, or as soon as possible thereafter depending upon the completion of the necessary adaptation works;
- (iii) that the report be issued as a consultative document and made available to all interested parties;
- (iv) all interested parties, including the relevant School Boards, be invited to make written representation on the proposals to John Mulgrew, Director of Education, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU no later than 22 December 1997; and
- (v) that the Director of Education prepare a report on the result of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

### 14.4 DALMELLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL/DOON ACADEMY

There was submitted a consultation document (circulated) on the proposed relocation of Dalmellington Primary School into surplus capacity within Doon Academy.

It was agreed to adopt the proposals that:-

- (i) Dalmellington Primary School be relocated in the building occupied at present by Doon Academy allowing both schools to occupy the one building as two separate schools with certain shared facilities;
- (ii) the relocation of Dalmellington Primary School take place at the start of the session 1998/99, that is August 1998, or as soon as possible thereafter depending on the completion of the necessary adaptation works;
- (iii) that the report be issued as a consultative document and made available to all interested parties;
- (iv) all interested parties, including the relevant School Boards, be invited to make written representation on the proposals to John Mulgrew, Director of Education, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU no later than 22 December 1997; and
- (v) that the Director of Education prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

It was also noted that the reference in paragraph 7.7 of the report should read Head of Property and not Head of Contracting and Technical Services.

#### **14.5 CUMNOCK NURSERY SCHOOL/GREENMILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

There was submitted a consultation document (circulated) on the proposed relocation of Cumnock Nursery School to surplus accommodation within Greenmill Primary School.

It was agreed to adopt the proposal that:-

- (i) Cumnock Nursery School be relocated in the building occupied at present by Greenmill Primary School allowing both schools to occupy the one building as two separate schools with certain shared facilities;
- (ii) the relocation of Cumnock Nursery School take place at the start of session 1998/99, that is August 1998, or as soon as possible thereafter depending upon the completion of the necessary adaptation works;
- (iii) that the building presently occupied by Cumnock Nursery School should be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Department on completion of the proposal;
- (iv) that the report be issued as a consultative document and made available to all interested parties;
- (v) that all interested parties, including the relevant School Board be invited to make written representation on the proposals to John Mulgrew, Director of Education, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU, no later than 22 December 1997; and
- (vi) that the Director of Education prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

It was also agreed that the proposed adaptations to Greenmill Primary School should include a traffic management scheme.

Councillor Fulton left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

The meeting terminated at 1145 hours.