

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 1995 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE
MEETING ROOM, LONDON ROAD CENTRE, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Farrell (Chair), Reeves, Cree, Brailsford, Knapp, Fulton, Nicoll, Ross, Sneller, G Smith, Taylor and Jackson; and Church Representatives Wm McConnell, J McHugh and Reverend M Sullivan.

ATTENDING: D Montgomery, Chief Executive; J Mulgrew, Director of Education; M Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; S Angus, Depute Director of Education; J Wallace, Depute Director of Education; D Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing and G Fraser and V Murdoch, Support Unit.

APOLOGIES: Councillors McCredie, Stirling, Macrae, Turnbull and Carmichael.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION IN SHADOW YEAR - PROGRESS REPORT

1. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Education bringing members up-to-date with regard to the considerable progress which had been made since August 1995 in addressing the Education Department's agenda for action in the shadow year of the Council.

Having heard the Director of Education in response to members questions, the Committee agreed to note the report and the considerable progress in pursuing the issues for consideration within the education service in the shadow year.

JOINT WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

2. There was submitted a further report (circulated) by the Director of Education providing members with a detailed account of the continuing discussions of the Directors of Education working group.

The report highlighted issues which related to the primary areas of the Education Service: Special Educational Needs; the Property Order; Minibuses; Art Collections; Musical Instruments; Primary Foreign Languages; Child Protection Training; Work Experience/Health and Safety; In-Service Provision; and Contract - Scottish Schools Educational Resource Centre and proposed a series of recommendations for consideration.

It was agreed:-

- i) that the Director of Education be authorised to make the necessary arrangements to implement the recommendations as contained in the report; and
- ii) that, with regard to the question of inter-authority fees, the Director write to CoSLA stressing the need for a consistent approach to the assessment of inter-authority fees for special educational needs.

PLACING REQUESTS

3. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Education referring to the Education Committee meeting held on 2 November 1995 and providing the Committee with criteria by which placing requests could be administered within the authority.

It was agreed:-

- i) that the Director of Education should make decisions on placing requests where adequate places were available in the requested school;
- ii) to approve the criteria for acceptance or refusal of placing requests;
- iii) that where there were more placing requests than places available, all such placing requests would be referred to a local attendance council, who having heard appropriate evidence, would make recommendations to the Director of Education; and
- iv) in principle to the setting up of an appeals panel at a later date;

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

4.1 Election of Parent Representative

There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Education advising Members of the arrangements to be put in place to identify a parent representative to serve on the Education Committee.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Taylor, moved the recommendation that the Committee endorse the proposed procedures for the identification of a parent representative.

Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Brailsford, moved as an amendment that a school might nominate a parent who was not necessarily a member of a School Board.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 10 votes to 2.

4.2 Appointment of Teacher Representative

There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Education outlining procedures by which a teacher representative could be elected to the Education Committee and to seek approval to proceed with the 1996 teacher representative election.

It was agreed to approve the arrangements outlined for the appointment of one teacher representative to the Education Committee and that the administration of the election be carried out by the Education Department.

4.3 Church/Denominational Representation on the Education Committee

There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Education advising the committee that, following a process to identify a third church/denominational representative on the Education Committee, a nomination had been received on behalf of Reverend Matthew Sullivan of the Cumnock Congregational Church.

It was agreed to approve Reverend Sullivan's nomination following which Councillor Farrell welcomed Reverend Sullivan to the meeting.

4.4 Voting Rights

There was submitted a report and related correspondence (circulated) by the Director of Education which clarified the position with regard to the ability of co-opted members on the education committee to vote.

In the light of advice from the Scottish Office, it was agreed that the three church representatives, one parent representative and one teachers' representative would have full voting rights.

CROSS BOUNDARY ARRANGEMENTS

5. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Education advising the Committee of schools located within the East Ayrshire Council area which would require to be involved in cross boundary arrangements, namely Dalrymple Primary School, St Clare's Primary School, and St Xavier's Primary School who are associated with Carrick Academy, Maybole (Dalrymple Primary School) and Queen Margaret Academy, Ayr (St Clare's and St Xavier's Primary Schools).

It was agreed that the existing arrangements for the above schools should be maintained for session 1996/97.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AT WORK

6. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Education advising the Committee of the contents of a consultative document entitled "The Protection of Children at Work" produced by The Scottish Office Education and Industry Department.

Having heard the Senior Depute Director of Education state that responses to the document must be submitted by 31 January 1996 it was agreed:-

- i) that members of the committee who wish to comment on the contents of the consultative paper should do so to the Director of Education by 8 January 1996; and
- ii) to authorise the Director of Education to respond to the consultation paper by developing the key issues raised in the report.

STANDARD CIRCULARS

7. There was submitted a report of 6 December 1995 (circulated) by the Director of Education requesting that all Standard Circulars currently in use in educational establishments be adopted by East Ayrshire Council.

It was agreed:-

- i) to use the Standard Circulars based on present legislation; and
- ii) to note that these circulars would be systematically reviewed to reflect East Ayrshire Council's priorities.

FURTHER EDUCATION BURSARIES

8. There was submitted report (circulated) by the Director of Education advising the committee of the proposals and ultimate decision of the Secretary of State for Scotland for future arrangements for the handling of further education bursaries.

Having heard Sue Angus, Depute Director explain that CoSLA was considering the detailed implications of the decision it was agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Scotland outlining the Council's concerns with regard to the transfer of responsibilities for the distribution of further education bursaries.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

9. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Education advising the Committee of proposals for a capital programme for financial year 1996/97.

Jennifer Wallace, Depute Director reported that:-

- i) the programme was a combination of projects already legally committed by Strathclyde Regional Council, in conjunction with proposals for capital expenditure;
- ii) the area of spend headed "Capital Minor Works" should be increased by £100,000 to a figure of £160,000.
- iii) a further heading - Replacement of Vehicles - should be added to the summary list and a figure of £100,000 be placed against that area of spend; and
- iv) the total capital bid would be some £2.8 million;

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Knapp, moved:-

- i) to endorse the report with the additions listed above as the education department's proposal for the council's capital programme; and
- ii) to submit the submission to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration within East Ayrshire Council's overall bid to the Scottish Office;

Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Brailsford moved as an amendment that Galston Primary School be included in the list of named projects.

On a division by a show of hands the motion defeated the amendment by 10 votes to 2.

The meeting terminated at 1150 hours.