

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 1997 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tommy Farrell, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Ronald Brailsford, John Knapp, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, Eric Ross, David Sneller, George Smith, Jimmy Carmichael, Robert Taylor and Eric Jackson; Church Representatives, John McHugh, William McConnell and Matthew Sullivan; 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; Graham Haugh, Depute Director of Personnel; Graham Short, Head of Quality Development; Ian Arnott, Chief Accountant; Bill Walkinshaw, Principal Administrative Officer; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; Frank Green, Principal Budget Officer; David Mowat, Principal Careers Officer; Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer; Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer and Lesley Ann Wallace, Administrative Assistant.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Gordon McCredie, Drew McIntyre, Douglas Reid, Provost Robert Stirling and Councillors David Macrae and George Turnbull.

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

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

1. In welcoming Members to the Education Committee, the Chair highlighted a number of points for the information of Committee Members which had emerged in recent weeks, viz:-

**(i) Opening of New Nursery Classes**

New Nursery classes at Hurlford and St Matthew's were officially opened last week and a new Nursery class for Mauchline would be officially opened on 7 March 1997.

**(ii) Appointment of Head Teacher - Gargieston Primary School**

Mrs Christine McLean, previously Depute Head Teacher at Kincaidston Primary School, South Ayrshire Council, had been appointed Head Teacher at Gargieston Primary School and would be taking up her appointment at the school as soon as possible.

**(iii) "Bright Spark Awards"**

It was noted that Stewarton Academy had been nominated to receive a minimum award of £250 as one of ten finalists in the "Bright Spark Awards" competition which was being run by Scottish Curricular Awards Scheme

**(iv) Park School**

The Chair advised that Park School would be represented by two pupils in the Scotland West Swimming Team at the Special Olympics to be held on 11-19 July 1997 at Portsmouth.

**(v) Quality Awards for Local Government in Scotland**

The Chair advised that the final of the Quality Awards for Local Government in Scotland would be held this evening and it was hoped that Hillside Special School would win an award.

**SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES**

2. There were submitted and approved both as correct records and in respect of recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes (circulated) as detailed in Appendices I to III of these Minutes.
  - 2.1 **JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (TEACHERS) - 28 JANUARY 1997 - Appendix I**
    - 2.1.1 **PROPOSED CHANGES TO PENSION SCHEME (ITEM 5, PAGE 1854)**

It was reported by the Director of Education and noted that the proposed alterations to the Scottish Office Pensions Agency Regulations would not now come into effect until 1 September 1997 as opposed to 1 April 1997.
    - 2.2 **COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 11 FEBRUARY 1997 - Appendix II**
    - 2.3 **BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 13 FEBRUARY 1997 - Appendix III.**
    - 2.3.1 **SCHOOLS TRANSPORT CONTRACTS FOR CHILDREN WHO PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED SCHOOLS AFFECTED BY THE RATIONALISATION PROGRAMME (ITEM 5, PAGE 1862)**

Arising from a query from Councillor Nicoll, on behalf of Councillor McCredie, regarding the costs for the provision of security for those schools which had been closed following the recent rationalisation exercise, it was noted that the Director of Education was currently compiling information on this matter for Councillor McCredie and would arrange a reply as soon as all the relevant information had been obtained.

**DRAFT ESTIMATES 1997/98- GENERAL SERVICES**

**3.1 FINANCIAL REPORT**

There was submitted and noted a report dated 21 February 1997 (circulated with the agenda for the Special Policy and Resources Committee of 25 February 1997) by the Director of Finance which advised of the latest position, now that finalised figures had been obtained in terms of the 1997/98 budget and which recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee determine final allocations for each of the Service Committees and requested that those Committees finalise savings and growth packages to align service delivery plans with the final allocations for 1997/98 taking into account the views and comments made during the Council's public consultation exercise.

### **3.2 REMIT FROM THE SPECIAL POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 25 FEBRUARY 1997**

There was submitted and noted remit (Minute extract circulated) from the Special Policy and Resources Committee of 25 February 1997 requesting that the Education Committee finalise savings and growth packages for the Education Service to align service delivery plans with the final financial allocations for 1997/98 as determined by the Special Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 25 February 1997.

### **3.3 REVENUE BUDGET FOR 1997/98**

There was submitted a report dated 25 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which detailed a package of measures to align the service delivery plans with the final financial allocations for 1997/98 taking into account the views and comments made during the Council's public consultation exercise.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Taylor, moved:-

- (i) to approve the revised savings and growth proposals detailed in the table in the report to align the Education Committee's budget to the final financial allocation approved by the Policy and Resources Committee of 25 February 1997; and
- (ii) to recommend the adoption of the savings and growth proposals to the Special Policy and Resources Committee to be held on 5 March 1997.

Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Brailsford, moved as an amendment that the Committee note the report.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 12 votes to 3.

### **BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT**

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 4 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on the budgetary control position of the Education Department for the period to 3 January 1997 (Period 10).

#### **"A CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK FOR CHILDREN IN THEIR PRE-SCHOOL YEAR" - RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION (Item 3, Page 1678)**

5. There was submitted a report dated 17 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the findings of the consultation process in respect of the draft Scottish Office Consultative Document "A Curriculum Framework for Children in their Pre-School Year".

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the comments detailed in the report be submitted by the Director of Education to the Scottish Consultative Council on the curriculum; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **ECONOMIC STRATEGY - KEY TARGETS FOR THE EDUCATION SERVICE**

6. There was submitted a report dated 14 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the key targets to be taken forward within the Education Department in respect of the implementation of the Economic Strategy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the action plan on the Economic Strategy as detailed in the report be endorsed; and
- (ii) that all Heads of Educational Establishments and Services take appropriate action to develop through teaching and learning an awareness of and appropriate action in relation to economic regeneration.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY - KEY TARGETS FOR THE EDUCATION SERVICE**

7. There was submitted a report dated 14 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised on the key targets to be taken forward within the Education Department on the implementation of the Environmental Strategy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the position statement on the contribution of the Education Service to the Environmental Strategy, as detailed in the report be endorsed; and
- (ii) that all Heads of Educational Establishments and Services take appropriate action to develop through teaching and learning the objectives of the Environmental Strategy.

### **RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON THE CREATION OF A DELINEATED AREA FOR STEWARTON ACADEMY (Item 6, Page 1679)**

8. There was submitted a report dated 11 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education providing details of the results of the consultation on the proposed delineation of Stewarton Academy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the proposal to create a delineated area for Stewarton Academy be approved; and
- (ii) that the delineated area be formed by the aggregation of the delineated areas of the associated Primary Schools.

It was noted that, the Director of Education would consider a number of related issues that had arisen during this exercise and take appropriate action.

### **"YOUR CAREER" EXHIBITION - SCOTTISH EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE CENTRE (SECC) - 27 FEBRUARY TO 2 MARCH 1997**

9. There was submitted a report dated 11 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised the Committee that the "Your Career" Exhibition was scheduled to take place from 27 February to 2 March 1997 and which exhibition provided an important opportunity for students to gain information on post school opportunities in Scotland in an exhibition format.

It was agreed that the Exhibition, be supported and that the information in respect of the "Your Career" Exhibition for 1997 be noted.

### **"RAISING THE STANDARD"- A WHITE PAPER ON EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN SCOTLAND**

10. There was submitted a report dated 13 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised on the contents of the Government document "Raising the Standard" - A White Paper on Education and Skills Development in Scotland and which requested the Education Committee to consider comments on the document for submission to the Scottish Office.

The Committee expressed its grave concern in relation to the very short timescale between the White Paper being issued and the deadline for submission of responses and questioned the validity of the consultation process when such timescales were imposed by the Scottish Office.

The Committee also expressed concern about the lack of 'new' money made available for the White Paper proposals and expressed reservations about the use of very limited Challenge Budgets as outlined in the proposal.

Furthermore, the Committee expressed its disquiet regarding the attack on the professionalism of teachers.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the comments on the White Paper "Raising the Standard" as detailed in the report be approved; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education be authorised to respond to the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department (SOEID) in line with the terms of the report and the foregoing comments which had been made by Members of the Committee regarding the White Paper.

### **SCOTTISH OFFICE TRANSITIONAL GRANTS**

11. There was submitted and noted a report dated 11 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised the Committee of the successful applications made by Voluntary Sector Groups to the Scottish Office Initiative for transitional grants totalling in excess of £66,000.

### **INTER-SCHOOLS QUIZ**

12. There was submitted a report dated 6 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised the Committee of the Inter-Schools Quiz organised for 25 primary schools within the former Kilmarnock and Loudoun District of East Ayrshire in conjunction with 'U' Division Strathclyde Police.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Education Department contribute £300 to the Inter-Schools Quiz Initiative;
- (ii) that the Director of Education pursue with a representative of Strathclyde Police 'R' Division to develop similar partnership initiatives in the Cumnock and Doon area of the Authority; and

- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **EMPLOYEES' PERSONAL PROPERTY (Item 3, page 1740)**

13. There was submitted a report dated 19 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised the Committee of a report which had been agreed by the Personnel Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee regarding employees' personal property and which requested that the Committee note the guidelines were relevant to members of teaching staff in the Council.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the guidelines on the employees' personal property scheme be implemented within the Education Service and applied to Teachers;
- (ii) that the guidelines set out in Appendix I to the Director of Personnel's report dated 28 October 1996 be approved as guidance for handling claims for Teachers;
- (iii) that claims settled by the Director of Education would be met from the Education Department's existing budget;
- (iv) to recommend that the Council's Scheme of Delegation be amended to reflect the above recommendation; and
- (v) that the Director of Education discuss the details of the guidelines with representatives of the Teachers Joint Consultative Committee.

C

C

### **AWARDING OF TENDERS**

14. There was submitted and noted a report dated 18 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which provided details of tenders which had been awarded in respect of the Education Department, viz:-

<b>CONTRACT</b>	<b>SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Loudoun Academy - Galston Traffic Management Works	Roads & Transportation Department	£26,230.05
Cumnock Academy - Technical Block, Electrical Upgrade, Phase 1	Commercial Operations Department	£31,312.11
Proposed Roof Repairs/Structural Upgrade, Annanhill Primary School, Kilmarnock	Ridgewood Roofing Ltd, East Kilbride	£79,852.71

The meeting terminated at 1110 hours.