

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2000 AT 1000 HOURS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Brian McNeil, Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, Willie Coffey, Robert Stevenson, Drew McIntyre, David Macrae, Iain Linton, Alex Walsh, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillor Elaine Dinwoodie; and Church Representatives: John McHugh and Matthew Sullivan; Teacher Representative Iain Harvey and Parent Representative Alasdair MacQueen.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Sue Bruce and Graham Short, Depute Directors of Education; Robin Gourlay, Contracts Manager; Euan Couperwhite, Financial Services Manager; John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education; Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer; Janie Allen, Principal Officer (Pre-Fives); David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; Caroline McElhone, Public Relations Officer; Bill Walkinshaw, Principal Administrative Officer and Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Alan Campbell, Julie Faulds and Eric Ross and Rev John Paterson, Church Representative.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS**(i) Auchinleck Academy**

It was reported and noted with pleasure that Graeme McPhee from Auchinleck Academy had been selected to go on a Shad Valley exchange visit to Canada in July of this year. He was one of the highest attaining pupils in Scotland in the competition for places. Four students from East Ayrshire attended last year.

(ii) Anti-bullying

The Chair advised that the Education Department was grateful to receive from the local Rotary Clubs a CD-ROM on the subject of anti-bullying. All schools, including special schools would receive a copy of this disk. The CD-ROM was a fascinating resource and allows the pupils to answer their own questions. The Chair was pleased to be able to accept the CD-ROM from the President of the Rotary at a meeting held in James Hamilton Academy.

(iii) New Cumnock Nursery

It was noted that the children of the New Cumnock Nursery School had let off balloons on 8 January 2000 to celebrate the Millennium. They had replies from as far afield as Northumbria and Yorkshire. As time went past, they thought that would be the end of the story. However, they got a letter from a small town on Lake Geneva, 26 miles from Geneva, for Kris Leitch who is one of the New Cumnock Nursery Schools 3 year olds.

(iv) Youth Conference: 12 April 2000

The Chair advised that the fourth annual youth conference had been held on 12 April in Auchinleck Community Centre. 70 young people had attended and participated fully. It had been a very successful day and the Council were able to seek young people's views on important topics such as the Youth Parliament.

(v) Mount Carmel Primary School

It was reported and noted that a pupil from Mount Carmel, Charlene Gay, who had been mentioned at the last committee, had been chosen to go to Buckingham Palace in May. She had been recently awarded a Child of Achievement Award and through this, she was one of 10 pupils to have been selected to go to Buckingham Palace.

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (TEACHERS) - MINUTES

2. There was submitted and noted the Minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers) of 29 March 2000 (circulated) as shown in Appendix I.

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

3. There was submitted a report dated 14 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Corporate Services which provided, for information, details of tenders which had been accepted in respect of the Education Service:-

<u>CONTRACT</u>	<u>SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Re-Roofing of Kilmaurs Primary School	East Ayrshire Council, Kilmarnock	£70,728.62

AYRSHIRE CAREERS PARTNERSHIP - TRANSFER TO FULL COMPANY MODEL (Item 13, Page 271, 99/01)

4. There was submitted a report dated 12 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the completion of the transfer of the Careers Service to a full company model.

It was agreed to note the completion of the transfer of the Ayrshire Careers Partnership to the full company model use of the company name 'Ayrshire Careers Partnership Limited' at all times.

VENTURE SCOTLAND MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS

5. There was submitted a report dated 18 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought approval for a Special Summer School Project that would be delivered through Outdoor Learning.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve participation in the Venture Scotland Millennium Volunteers Initiative; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**EAST AYRSHIRE CHILDCARE PARTNERSHIP EARLY EDUCATION AND
CHILDCARE PLAN (Item 3, Page 88, 99/01)**

6. There was submitted a report dated 13 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the proposed plan for early education and childcare for children aged 0-14 years in East Ayrshire and which sought agreement to the plan prior to submission to the Scottish Executive.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the plan for early education and childcare 0-14 years be approved;
- (ii) to commission pre-school education places in those voluntary and private sector providers which had been HMI accredited at the recommended minimum rate of £900 per fully loaded place; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2001/2002 (Item 11, Page 649, 99/01)

7. There was submitted a report dated 19 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the consultation exercise which had been carried out regarding school holiday arrangements for school session 2001/2002 and which sought agreement to implement the preferred school holiday option.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that Appendix I of the report be approved as the school holiday arrangements for school session 2001/2002; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS: PARENTS FORUM

8. There was submitted a report dated 11 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought approval for the establishment of a Special Educational Needs Parents Forum in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to establish a Special Educational Needs Parents Forum;
- (ii) to approve the arrangements for a Seminar planned for June 2000 as detailed in the report;
- (iii) that the Director of Education submit a progress report to the Education Committee in due course;
- (iv) that the Director of Education take on board Councillor W Coffey's comments in respect of the needs of parents of special needs children with regard to access to public transport; out of hours attendance facilities and the establishment of a befriending scheme similar to that operated by Social Work; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**NATIONAL LOTTERY LOCAL AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP AWARDS
(EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STRAND)**

9. There was submitted a report dated 12 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the Department's recent award within the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Local Authority Partnership Scheme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note this innovative project which involved pupils from across East Ayrshire; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education keep the Committee informed of future developments.

UPTAKE OF SCHOOL MEALS

10. There was submitted a report dated 13 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which provided information on the uptake of school meals during 1999/2000.

It was agreed to note the positive trend in the uptake of Primary School meals during this financial year and that a number of initiatives were being developed for Secondary Schools, the outcome of which would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

Provost Boyd joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

11.1 MUIRKIRK NURSERY SCHOOL - THE RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROVISION FOR NURSERY AGED CHILDREN IN MUIRKIRK NURSERY SCHOOL, MUIRKIRK (Item 19.2, Page 789, 99/01)

There was submitted a report dated 17 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the outcome of the consultation process in respect of Muirkirk Nursery School.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to proceed with the proposal to re-designate Muirkirk Nursery School as a 20/20 nursery class under the management of the Head Teacher of Muirkirk Primary School from August 2000;
- (ii) to proceed with the proposal to retain the nursery class in the Nursery School premises; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education submit a report to the Education Committee in 12 months advising how the new arrangements for Muirkirk Nursery School were operating.

11.2 DAME HELEN'S NURSERY SCHOOL, DALMELLINGTON - THE RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROVISION FOR NURSERY AGED CHILDREN IN DAME HELEN'S NURSERY SCHOOL, DALMELLINGTON (Item 19.1, Page 789, 99/01)

There was submitted a report dated 17 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the outcome of the consultation process in respect of Dame Helen's Nursery School, Dalmellington.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to proceed with the proposal to re-designate Dame Helen's Nursery School as a nursery class under the management of the Head Teacher of Dalmellington Primary School from 1 May 2000;
- (ii) to proceed with the proposal to locate the nursery class in Dalmellington Primary School in August 2000;
- (iii) that the Director of Education draw up proposals to extend the playground taking cognisance of Health and Safety issues; and
- (iv) that the former Dame Helen's Nursery School building be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Department and referred to the Director of Development Services for disposal.

SUPPORT TO PLAYSCHEMES

- 12.** There was submitted a report dated 11 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of progress made to support local playschemes with regard to travel passes and insurance.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to award £2,000 to Drongan Playscheme Committee to purchase travel passes for playschemes across East Ayrshire; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

NEWMILNS DRY SKI SLOPE

- 13.** There was submitted a report dated 17 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the condition of Newmilns Dry Ski Slope and which requested consideration of options regarding the future of the facility.

It was reported that the Local Community Group referred to in paragraph 3.1 of the report should read Loudoun Valley Trust.

Councillor W Coffey seconded by Councillor Linton moved:-

- (i) that paragraph 4.1 of the report be excluded from the proposals prior to the consultation exercise;
- (ii) that the Director of Education consult with users of the Newmilns Dry Ski Slope to determine the present use of the facility;
- (iii) that the Community Education Service assist the Loudoun Valley Trust in a feasibility study on future and projected use of the Ski Slope;
- (iv) that the Director of Education investigate the availability of Social Inclusion funding to support the development of the ski slope;

- (v) that a report outlining the results of the consultation exercise and feasibility study be submitted to the next meeting of the Education Committee; and
- (vi) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Knapp moved as an amendment:-

- (i) that the Director of Education consult with users of the Newmilns Dry Ski Slope to determine the present use of the facility;
- (ii) that the Community Education Service assist the Loudoun Valley Trust in a feasibility study on future and projected use of the Ski Slope;
- (iii) that a report outlining the results of the consultation exercise and feasibility study be submitted to the next meeting of the Education Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Coffey, having objected to the vote being taken by a show of hands, proposed in terms of Standing Order 35 that the vote be taken by roll call.

Having failed to attain the support of one third of the Members present to take the vote by roll call, there being only five Members in support, the vote was then taken by a show of hands.

On a division by a show of hands the amendment was carried by 10 votes to 7.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

14. The Committee resolved that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

RECRUITMENT: EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

15. There was submitted a report dated 10 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought approval for a Scheme to approve the recruitment of Educational Psychologists.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that new recruits to Psychological Services could be paid an increment of up to £3,000 depending on experience and participation in educational initiatives;
- (ii) that placement on the salary scale be delegated to the Director of Education and that placements be associated with a set of objective criteria to be determined in advance by the Director of Education;
- (iii) that the Scheme could be applied to Psychologists under training;
- (iv) that such a payment to trainees be subject to a specific contract to be drawn up by the Head of Legal Services; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1140 hours.