

APPENDIX I

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25 MARCH 1997 AT 1000 HOURS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Ronald Brailsford, John Knapp, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, David Sneller and Eric Jackson and Parent Representative, Mrs Shelagh McKerrall.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Sue Angus, Depute Director of Education; Graham Short, Head of Quality Development; Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer and Lesley-Ann Wallace, Administrative Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Drew McIntyre and Robert Taylor.

CHAIR: In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Sneller was unanimously appointed to the Chair.

FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING GRANTS 1997/98

1. There was submitted a report dated 7 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which gave advice on matters relating to footwear and clothing grants and proposing a recommended level of grant for 1997/98.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the eligibility criteria for the award of footwear and clothing grants by the parent(s)/guardian(s) in receipt of either income support, family credit, housing benefit, Council Tax rebate or income based jobseekers allowance;
- (ii) that footwear and clothing grants should continue to be available to eligible pupils attending schools managed by East Ayrshire Council or to a school to which they have been directed by East Ayrshire Council;
- (iii) that the level of grant for 1997/98 should be maintained at £50; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education arrange to publicise widely within East Ayrshire the availability of footwear and clothing grants and continue to monitor the uptake of grants and report periodically to the Sub-Committee.

HIGHER SCHOOL AND FURTHER EDUCATION BURSARIES

2. There was submitted a report dated 11 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought agreement to proposed allowances and contribution scales in respect of Higher School and Further Education Bursaries for 1997/98.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the allowances and contribution scales for 1997/98 in respect of Higher School and Further Education Bursaries should be maintained at the current 1996/97 rate as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report; and
- (ii) that the maintenance allowance for students under 18 years living away from home be consistent with the living away rates for students over 18 years and therefore be amended to £62.35 per week.

GAELIC MEDIUM UNIT (Item 4, Page 1110)

3. There was submitted a report dated 10 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which gave advice on the progress of East Ayrshire Council's bid for Gaelic specific grant funding to establish a Gaelic Medium Unit for primary aged children in the Kilmarnock area and requesting agreement to proceed with the establishment of the Unit.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to accept the offer from the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department of specific grant of £35,000;
- (ii) that the Director of Education be authorised to identify suitable premises and resources for the unit and proceed with the selection of staff;
- (iii) that the Director of Education request additional grant from the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department to support existing projects; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SUMMER SUPPORT PILOT PROJECT: HILLSIDE SCHOOL, CUMNOCK

4. There was submitted a joint report dated 11 March 1997 (circulated) by the Directors of Education and of Social Work which sought approval for the implementation of a pilot summer support project at Hillside School, Cumnock for families of children with complex and multiple learning difficulties.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the proposal as outlined in the report would operate as a pilot project during the summer of 1997 subject to approval of the Director of Personnel Services and appropriate Trade Unions regarding reduction in school year for instructor staff;
- (ii) that the Director of Education provide a progress report on the efficiency and effectiveness of the provision including a recommendation for future development; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

BRITISH COUNCIL SEMINARS IN SCOTLAND

5. There was submitted a report dated 11 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education of the contribution of the Education Department to the British Council International Seminar and requesting agreement that further work in this area be developed.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the educational developments being promoted in schools serving rural communities;
- (ii) to support further developments in this area of work; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

RAISING ACHIEVEMENT

6. There was submitted a report dated 16 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education on some of the main development work which had taken place in order to raise pupil achievement and to seek approval for future action.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress which had been made to date in promoting work in raising achievement;
- (ii) to approve the continuation of this work through in-service training of staff and other staff development initiatives; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education provide a presentation at a future meeting of the Community Sub-Committee on the issues of underachievement in East Ayrshire and how the Council's Education Department tackle such issues.

IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUTH SUPPORT PROJECT (Item 2, Page 563)

7. There was submitted a joint report dated 13 March 1997 (circulated) by the Directors of Education and of Social Work requesting approval to further implement and extend the current Youth Support Project.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to the extension of the Youth Support Project and allow the Director of Education to proceed with staff appointments;
- (ii) to the interim management arrangements proposed;
- (iii) that the Director of Education inform Members of the Community Sub-Committee of the progress of present projects and of future development; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS 1997/98

8. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Education which made recommendations for awards in respect of the allocation of Education Voluntary Sector Grants for 1997/98.

It was noted that in Appendices 1-3 of the report that the reference to the award for 1996/97 being less than 10.9% be deleted.

It was then agreed:-

- (i) to the recommendations contained in the report with regard to grant support transferring to the Policy and Resources Committee (Appendix 1), Social Work Committee (Appendix 2) and Community Services Committee (Appendix 3);
- (ii) to the recommendation to award grants as detailed in Appendices 4-7 in respect of the following categories:-

Appendix 4 - Pre 5s
Appendix 5 - Voluntary Sector
Appendix 6 - Childcare
Appendix 7 - Language and Culture;

- (iii) to ask the Director of Education to monitor the effectiveness of the deployment of remaining voluntary sector grants and to report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

YOUTH CONFERENCE (Item 6, Page 1675)

- 9. There was submitted a report dated 10 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the progress to date of the Youth Conference to be held in East Ayrshire on 10 April 1997 in Crosshouse.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress as detailed in the report;
- (ii) to extend an invitation to all members of the Sub-Committee to attend; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education submit a report to a future Sub-Committee meeting on the outcome of the conference.

NATIONAL TESTING IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL - CONSULTATION DOCUMENT (Item 10, Page 1851)

- 10. There was submitted a report dated 17 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which gave information on the content of the consultation document "National Testing in the First Two Years of Secondary School: Consultation Document" and which made recommendations on a suitable response to the Scottish Office.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education respond to the Scottish Office on the consultation document "National Testing in the First Two Years of Secondary School" in the terms set out in the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Education emphasise in the response the concerns of the Sub-Committee regarding:-
 - (a) the resourcing of the proposed initiative.
 - (b) the need to ensure that any pilot exercise would take into consideration the views of the teaching profession; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1040 hours.