

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 1998 AT 1003 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tommy Farrell, Drew McIntyre, Jane Darnbrough, Ann Hay, John Knapp, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, Eric Ross, David Sneller, George Smith, Eric Jackson and Church Representative, Matthew Sullivan; Teacher Representative, Iain Harvey and Parent Representative, Andrew J Torrance.

**ATTENDING:** John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Sue Blake and Graham Short, Depute Directors of Education; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; Kenneth McKinlay, Principal; Quality Development; Euan Couperwhite, Accountant; Janie Allen, Principal Officer, Pre-Fives; Bill Walkinshaw, Principal Administrative Officer; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer and Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Gordon McCredie, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Douglas Reid, George Turnbull, Robert Taylor and John McHugh and John Paterson, Church Representatives.

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

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair, at his discretion, and in terms of Standing Order 15.1 agreed to alter the order of business and consider item 19 on the Agenda after consideration of Item 4.

**(i) Doon Academy - Artwork Display**

The Chair expressed his delight on seeing displayed in the Council's Headquarters, artwork by Doon Academy pupils and adults who had returned to Doon Academy for art classes. This artwork, which was of exceptional quality, was exhibited recently in Cathcartson Gallery in Dalmellington.

**(ii) Grange Academy**

It was reported that last May, Grange Academy had been one of the only 5 Scottish winners in the Barclays New Future Competition, securing £3,000 in prize money. The project undertaken had got off to a great start, with a qualified teacher of British sign language and a profoundly deaf adult, delivering a 30 week sign language course to a group of 12 hearing pupils and 2 members of staff within the school. After only 8 weeks, the project was already beginning to enhance the integration of hearing-impaired pupils in the school through peer support, to enhance pupils self esteem and improve current provision for hearing impaired pupils.

**(iii) Loudoun and Stewarton Academy**

The Chair extended his congratulations to Loudoun Academy who won the Round Table quiz last Wednesday evening.

**(iv) Gargieston Primary Schools**

Congratulations were extended to the pupils of Gargieston Primary School who had secured 4th place at the UK School Orienteering Championships which had been held recently. This had been an excellent result as 200 schools had taken part in this competition.

**(v) Cumnock Academy**

It was noted that a very successful School Boards Forum was held by the Director of Education on 11 November in Cumnock Academy. 36 parent representatives from 24 school boards had attended the Forum, which presents one of the positive ways forward in forming strong and constructive partnerships with parents.

**(vi) Kilmarnock Academy - "Day of Dance"**

It was noted that the pupils of Kilmarnock Academy had thoroughly enjoyed a "Day of Dance" which had been held during the October school holiday. The pupils had gained a huge amount from the dance club and its activities and that the event continues to be a very popular extra-curricular activity within the school.

**(vii) New Image Festival, Kilmarnock Rugby Club**

The Chair advised that nearly 300 primary aged boys and girls had attended a New Image Festival at Kilmarnock Rugby Club recently. The festival had been the climax of a 6 week teaching block of lessons led by the class teachers in 8 East Ayrshire schools. This very worthwhile initiative had given the pupils the opportunity to play rugby on a grass pitch and receive coaching and encouragement from the Scottish Rugby Union.

**(viii) Darvel Primary School, Stewarton Academy, Crosshouse Nursery School and Logan Primary School**

The Chair expressed his delight when he had officiated at the opening ceremonies on the remodelling of Darvel Primary School and Stewarton Academy last week. The evenings of celebration had given the Council the opportunity to mark the substantial investment of capital funding which had been made. It was noted that the openings of nursery classes within Barshare, Greenmill and Logan Primary Schools and the opening of Crosshouse Nursery School would take place in the near future.

**CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE - MINUTES**

2. There was submitted and approved as a correct record and in respect of the recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of the Chair's Sub-Committee meeting held on 15 October 1998 (circulated).

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT TO 9 OCTOBER 1998  
(PERIOD 7)**

3. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 6 November 1998 (circulated) by the Acting Director of Finance and the Director of Education which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Education Department for the period ended 9 October 1998 (Period 7).

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - COMMUNITY EDUCATION STEWARDS - TRADING SERVICES TO 9 OCTOBER 1998 (PERIOD 7)**

4. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 6 November 1998 (circulated) by the Acting Director of Finance and the Director of Education which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Community Education Stewards - Trading Services for the period ended 9 October 1998 (Period 7).

**EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1998/99 - UPDATE**

5. There was submitted a report dated 11 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised the Committee on progress which had been made in the Education Capital Programme and which sought approval for amendments to the programme for 1998/99.

Arising from a query from Councillor Ross regarding the Boiler Replacement work at Greenmill Primary School, it was agreed that the Director of Education, in consultation with the Chair, would request the Contracting and Technical Services Section to assess the feasibility of transferring the boiler from the unoccupied nearby Cumnock Nursery building and advise Councillor Ross directly.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the amendments detailed in the Capital Programme for 1998/99 be approved; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education continue to monitor closely the Capital Programme throughout the year, reporting periodically to the Education Committee.

Councillor Coffey joined the meeting during discussion of the above item.

**GALSTON NURSERY ASBESTOS INCIDENT - UPDATE REPORT**

6. There was submitted a report dated 19 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised the Committee on an asbestos related incident at Galston Nursery School and associated issues.

Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Coffey moved an amendment to recommendation (ii) of the report; that the Director of Education report on progress to reinstate Galston Nursery School.

Councillor Farrell seconded by Councillor Jackson moved as an amendment:-

- (i) to note the contents of the report; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education report progress as appropriate;

On a division by a show of hands the amendment was carried by 8 votes to 4.

It was also agreed that the Director of Education would submit a report to the next appropriate meeting of the Education Committee advising of the results of the assessment of Galston Nursery School following completion of the asbestos removal works.

Councillor Sneller left the meeting and Councillor McIntyre joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

**TOWARDS BEST VALUE: RESULTS OF THE EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR  
QUALITY MANAGEMENT/BUSINESS EXCELLENCE MODEL ASSESSMENT OF  
THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

7. There was submitted a report dated 12 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which described the main outcomes from the assessment of the Education Department which had been undertaken as part of the Council's Towards Best Value Programme and which sought approval for the Action Plan which had resulted from this exercise.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the contents of the report be approved as a basis for future action planning within the Education Department;
- (ii) that the Director of Education be authorised to use his discretion in readjusting planning priorities to suit the wider needs of the Department; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY FOR INDUSTRY - LIFERS - LEARNING AND  
INFORMATION FOR EVERYONE IN RURAL SCOTLAND**

8. There was submitted a report dated 12 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the involvement of the Education Department in a successful bid for funding as part of the ADAPT - University for Industry European Social Fund - Community Initiative.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the involvement of the Education Department in the University for Industry Scotland-Lifers Project be endorsed;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit regular progress reports to the Education Committee;
- (iii) that the Director of Education also liaise with the Irvine Valley Regeneration Partnership as part of the Council's involvement in the project; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**STANDARDS AND QUALITY: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL 1994-98 IN  
MODERN LANGUAGES - A REPORT BY HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORS OF  
SCHOOLS (Item 5, Page 2562)**

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 12 November 1998 together with revised appendices (all circulated) by the Director of Education which invited the Committee to consider the content of a recent report published by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools which dealt with quality and standards in the teaching of modern languages in Scottish education.

Councillor Fulton left the meeting at this point.

### **AGE AND STAGE RESTRICTIONS AT STANDARD GRADE AND HIGHER**

10. There was submitted a report dated 10 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department consultation paper on proposed changes to the conditions governing the entry of candidates for examinations managed by the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education submit to the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department the response detailed in Appendix 1 of the report on behalf of the Education Department of East Ayrshire Council ; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **REVIEW OF THE SCOTTISH CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON THE CURRICULUM AND THE SCOTTISH COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY**

11. There was submitted a report dated 12 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of a consultation paper which sought the views of how national advice on the curriculum in Scotland should be provided and of the response proposed by the Director of Education.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education submit the response detailed in Appendix 1 of the report favouring Option 2 on behalf of the Education Department of East Ayrshire Council; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT 1997/98 AND PART YEAR 1998/99 (Item 15, Page 2876)**

12. There was submitted and noted a report dated 18 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the absence rates for employees in the Education Department in the financial year 1997/98 and in the two quarters to date for financial year 1998/99.

### **EXIT INTERVIEW PROCEDURE (Item 3, Page 3880)**

13. There was submitted a report dated 10 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which recommended the introduction of exit interviews for all staff in the Education Service including Teachers, subject to consultation with the relevant Trades Unions and professional associations.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the introduction of exit interviews, subject to consultation with the relevant Trades Unions, be approved;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit a progress report to a future meeting of the Education Committee, including reference to any final policy document to the Council; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**CoSLA - CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN  
SCOTLAND (Item 8, Page 3306)**

14. There was submitted a report dated 12 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education regarding CoSLA's Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees in Scotland which had been referred from the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee to the Education Committee.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the report be referred to the Teachers Joint Consultative Committee representatives for consultation;
- (ii) that the Director of Education advise the Director of Personnel of the results of the consultation exercise regarding Teachers; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH - POLICY AND PROCEDURES (Item 4, Page 3881)**

15. There was submitted a report dated 10 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought approval to enter into consultation with the Teachers representatives with regard to the proposed Occupational Health Service.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the report be referred to the Teachers Joint Consultative Committee representatives for consultation;
- (ii) that the Director of Education quantify the resource implications;
- (iii) that the Director of Education advise the Director of Personnel of the outcome of the consultation exercise regarding Teachers; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**THE CHILDREN ACT 1989 TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN  
UNDER EIGHT (Item 2, Page 2713)**

16. There was submitted a report dated 11 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised on the outcome of the consultation exercise in respect of the Third Triennial Review of Childminding, Daycare and Education Services for Children under Eight as required by the Children Act 1989.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education include the comments received from respondents to the draft Review of Services in the proposed final version of the Review of Services for Children under eight;
- (ii) that the Director of Education include information in the review of services document on the planning of pre-school education and childcare and the establishment of childcare partnerships as detailed in the new guidance from the Scottish Office;
- (iii) that, once complete, the Review document be published and submitted to the Scottish Office and other interested parties; and

- (iv) that the Director of Education report to a further meeting of the Education Committee on the Childcare Partnerships combined childcare plan for East Ayrshire prior to its implementation from 1 April 1999; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

- 17.** There was submitted a report dated 11 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the Government's initiative to develop new Community Schools and which sought approval to make application to the Scottish Office to participate in the pilot programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the development of New Community Schools as detailed in the report be welcomed;
- (ii) that the submission of a bid for funding for a project based in the Kilmarnock Academy cluster for the current financial year be approved;
- (iii) that the Director of Education in partnership with the Director of Social Work and the Manager of the local Health Board, consult widely and agree a proposal for the further development of New Community Schools;
- (iv) that a further report produced by the three main agencies referred to above be submitted to the Education Committee in January 1999 detailing the final submission; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Hay left the meeting during discussion of this item.

Councillor Darnbrough left the meeting at this point.

### **DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTIES**

#### **18.1 FORMER CAREERS OFFICE, BARRHILL ROAD, CUMNOCK**

There was submitted a report dated 11 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the termination of occupancy of the former Careers Office Building at Barrhill Road, Cumnock and which sought approval to have the building declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Department.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the former Careers Office at Barrhill Road, Cumnock be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Department; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education refer the property to the Head of Property for disposal.

#### **18.2 FORMER JANITOR'S HOUSE, LOANHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

There was submitted a report dated 11 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised that the former Janitor's House at Loanhead Primary School was no longer occupied and sought approval to have the property declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Department.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the former Janitor's House at Loanhead Primary School be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Department; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education refer the property to the Head of Property for disposal.

### **18.3 DARVEL PRIMARY SCHOOL - FORMER CLASSROOM HUTS**

There was submitted a report dated 11 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised that the former classroom huts at Darvel Primary School were no longer occupied and requested that the property be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Department and demolished.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the former classroom huts at Darvel Primary School be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Department; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education refer the property to the Head of Property for demolition.

### **NATIONAL LOTTERY - FUNDED ICT TRAINING**

#### **19.1 Declaration of Interest**

Andrew Torrance, Parent Representative declared an interest in this item and left the meeting.

#### **19.2 Consideration of Item**

There was submitted a report dated 16 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which recommended participation in an initiative to support the training of Teachers in Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

It was agreed:-

- (i) that an initial declaration of interest in the project be approved;
- (ii) that the Director of Education be authorised to fully participate in the project once further details of the project were known; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Darnbrough rejoined the meeting during discussion of this item and Andrew Torrance, Parent Representative rejoined the meeting at the conclusion of the discussion.

### **FIRE AT CROSSHOUSE EDUCATION CENTRE - BRIEFING REPORT**

- 20.** There was submitted and noted a report dated 12 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised the Committee of an incident involving a fire at Crosshouse Education Centre.

### **ADDITIONAL REMARKS BY THE CHAIR**

#### **21. CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PRESENTATION**

The Chair advised that immediately following the conclusion of the Education Committee, a presentation would be made in connection with the Children's Holiday

Project which had been supervised by the Education Department and invited Members of the Committee to attend.

## **2.2 BLUE PETER APPEAL**

The Chair advised having been notified by Councillor Nicoll in connection with the BBC's Blue Peter Appeal this year in respect of the collection of aluminium that participation of schools in East Ayrshire had been sought, and noted accordingly that the Director of Education would write to Head Teachers asking them to encourage participation through their respective schools in the Appeal.

The meeting terminated at 1218 hours.