

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 1998 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Gordon McCredie, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Ronald Brailsford, Ann Hay, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, David Sneller, George Smith and Eric Jackson and Church Representatives, John McHugh, John Paterson and Matthew Sullivan; Teacher Representative, Iain Harvey and Parent Representative Andrew J Torrance.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; 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; Frank Green, Principal OfficeR (Finance & Resources); Ken MacKinlay, Principal, Quality Development; Ewan Couperwhite, Accountant; Janie Allen, Principal Officer (Pre-Fives); Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer; David Morgan, Public Relations Officer; Bill Walkinshaw, Principal Administrative Officer; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer, Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer and Lesley-Ann Wallace, Administrative Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Douglas Reid, Jane Darnbrough, John Knapp, David Macrae and Robert Taylor.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS**(i) Gala Concert, Grand Hall**

It was noted that a highly successful Gala Concert had been held on 2 October 1998 in the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock. 250 extremely talented young people from all secondary schools in East Ayrshire had been involved in an evening's entertainment of brass, wind, percussion, strings and vocal performances. Congratulations were extended to all involved in this outstanding event. A CD/cassette was being produced from last year's Gala Concert and the first performance of the Schools Band and Choir. Copies will be available, just in time for Christmas from Andrew Keachie, Principal Teacher of Instrumental Service.

(ii) Cairnhill Primary School, New Cumnock

The Chair expressed his delight in reporting that Cairnhill Primary School in New Cumnock had been awarded a Certificate of Distinction in the Education Extra 1998 National Awards for its outstanding scheme for after-school care and reported that later this month he would take great pleasure in presenting them with a certificate and a cheque for £650.

(iii) Work Experience Abroad

It was noted that several of the secondary schools in East Ayrshire were currently engaged in a work experience abroad exercise which was taking place in schools in Germany with the full co-operation of a German education authority. It was further

noted this was highly innovative and was a pioneering exercise in Scotland, which would encourage pupils to develop both their language and entrepreneurial skills.

(iv) Partnership Initiative with Strathclyde Police

The Chair advised that a very successful initiative, developed in partnership with Strathclyde Police and the Community Services Department had been held at Dumfries House in Cumnock last month. The initiative aimed to provide pupils with experience in dealing with emergencies and potentially dangerous situations.

(v) Sue Blake, Depute Director of Education

The Chair extended his personal congratulations and that of the Committee to Sue Blake on obtaining a degree in Law from Strathclyde University. It was noted that Sue had been studying for five years and had worked extremely hard to obtain this qualification.

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (TEACHERS) - MINUTES

2. There were submitted and approved both as a correct record and in respect of the recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers) meeting held on 24 September 1998 (circulated) as shown in Appendix I to these Minutes.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT TO 11 SEPTEMBER 1998 - PERIOD 6

3. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 28 September 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 11 September 1998 (Period 6).

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - COMMUNITY EDUCATION STEWARDS - TRADING SERVICES TO 11 SEPTEMBER 1998 (PERIOD 6)

4. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 28 September 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 11 September 1998 (Period 6).

Matthew Sullivan joined the meeting during discussion of the above item.

AWARDING OF TENDERS

5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 2 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which provided, for information, details of the lowest satisfactory tenders which had been awarded in respect of the Education Service, viz:-

<u>CONTRACT</u>	<u>SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Re-roofing of Catrine Primary School, Catrine	Braedale Roofing Limited, Wishaw	£27,161.89
Crookedholm Community Centre - Alterations and Heating Upgrade	CT & CF Lugton	£34,944.71

Removal of Asbestos Enviraz (Scotland) Limited, £21,798.53
Ceilings at Grange Academy, Glasgow
Kilmarnock

Replacement Boiler Plant at A C Moir Limited, Prestwick £100,458.79
James Hamilton Academy,
Kilmarnock

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL BYE-LAWS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

6. There was submitted a joint report dated 6 August 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education and the Director of Support Services which sought approval for a change to the existing bye-laws in relation to the employment of children.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education be authorised to seek confirmation of the bye-laws;
- (ii) that the East Ayrshire Council Bye-laws on the Employment of Children 1998 detailed in the report be approved;
- (iii) that the Director of Education disseminate any necessary publicity documentation in relation to the Bye-laws for schools, employers or relevant groups and individuals; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

A CHILDCARE STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND

7. There was submitted a report dated 29 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the Government's Green Paper "Meeting the Childcare Challenge: A Childcare Strategy for Scotland" and which advised that additional funding of £104,940 for the financial year 1998/99 had been allocated to East Ayrshire to take forward the Childcare Strategy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the proposals to progress the initial implementation of the Childcare Strategy as detailed in paragraph 9 of the report be approved;
- (ii) that the Director of Education establish a Childcare Partnership to take forward the strategy and that a progress report be submitted to the Education Committee in due course;
- (iii) that the Director of Education identify the best way to take forward the Childcare Audit;
- (iv) that the Director of Education establish a Childcare Information Service; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CONSULTATION AND PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK FOR CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE TEACHING PROFESSION IN SCOTLAND

8. There was submitted a report dated 11 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of a consultation on proposals relating to the continuing

professional development of teachers and the response proposed by the Education Department of East Ayrshire Council.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that any comments on the proposals for developing a framework for continuing professional development for the teaching profession in Scotland be submitted to the Director of Education;
- (ii) that the Education Department's response to the Consultation Document be submitted to the Scottish Office by 19 October 1998, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved and that following consultation with the Trades Unions it be remitted to the Director of Education in consultation with the Chair to incorporate any further comments;
- (iii) that the Director of Education circulate details of the Trades Unions' comments to all Members of the Education Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AUDIT SYSTEM

9. There was submitted a report dated 10 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the progress which had been made on the introduction and implementation of a Health and Safety Audit System within the Education Department.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the implementation of the Audit System within the Education Department as detailed in the report be approved;
- (ii) that the continued high profile promotion of health and safety matters within the Education Department be endorsed;
- (iii) that the Director of Education continue to monitor progress and report periodically to the Education Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor McCredie left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

HIGHER STILL: ADDITIONAL FUNDING (Item 15, Page 3680)

10. There was submitted a report dated 22 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of additional funding amounting to £73,976 which had been allocated by the Government in support of the Higher Still Programme and which sought agreement on the best method for the allocation of funding.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education prepare a detailed spending plan for submission to the Scottish Office;
- (ii) that the maximum practicable amounts of funding be distributed to schools within East Ayrshire through the delegated budgets system;
- (iii) that the Director of Education provide regular reports to the Education Committee on the progress of the Higher Still programme; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**PROMOTING LEARNING - DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES - RESPONSE BY THE
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

11. There was submitted a report dated 29 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the response by the Education Department to the CoSLA Consultation Paper Promoting Learning - Developing Communities which had been published recently.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education submit the response from the Education Department to CoSLA as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**CURRICULUM DESIGN FOR THE SECONDARY STAGES - GUIDELINES FOR
SCHOOLS: CONSULTATION**

12. There was submitted a report dated 1 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of a national proposal to revise guidelines for the design of the Secondary School curriculum and which sought approval for a consultation exercise to formulate a response.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the arrangements for consultation on the proposed guidelines for schools regarding curriculum design for the Secondary stages as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report be approved;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit a report to the Education Committee providing details of the Authority's response to the Scottish Consultative Council on the Curriculum;
- (iii) that it be remitted to the Director of Education to carry out appropriate consultation with the Trade Unions; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Cree left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

PART-TIME PERMANENT TEACHING POSTS

13. There was submitted a report dated 8 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education regarding the establishment of a number of part-time permanent teaching posts.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that in relation to paragraph 3.1, line 5 of the report "member" be replaced by "number";
- (ii) that the establishment of the part-time teaching posts on a permanent basis as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved;
- (iii) to recommend that the policy regarding part-time permanent teaching posts be amended to provide for the appointment of part-time teachers on a permanent basis;

- (iv) that advertising of the posts detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be restricted, in the first instance, to those teachers who had had two year's continuous service;
- (v) that the Education Department would establish further permanent part-time posts from time to time and as required; and
- (vi) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Cree re-joined the meeting at this point.

VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS 1998/99 (Item 20, Page 3246)

14. There was submitted a report dated 8 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of applications which had been submitted for Education Voluntary Sector Grants for the financial year 1998/99.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the undernoted grant awards be made for the financial year 1998/99, viz:-

KULOC Youth Education	£1,500
Workers Educational Association	£2,000
East Ayrshire Federation of Community Associations	£1,200
- (ii) that no awards be made in respect of the undernoted grant applications for the financial year 1998/99 be refused, viz:- Sounds of Progress; Childline Scotland - Bullying Helpline; One Plus; and Comann an Luchdlonnsachaidh.
- (iii) that the part of the application submitted by the East Ayrshire Federation of Community Associations to fund an unemployment conference be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration; and
- (iv) that the balance of £38,636 remaining within the budget for Voluntary Sector Grants 1998/99 be allocated for the funding of two Rural Challenge Projects, viz:- (a) a Young Mothers Project, and (b) a Peer Education Project.

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE

15. There was submitted a joint report dated 5 October 1998 (circulated) by the Directors of Education and of Social Work which advised of the progress which had been made in supporting young people who were experiencing difficulties in mainstream schools.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Directors of Education and of Social Work submit update reports on the Youth Support Strategy to the respective Service Committees; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CURRENT GOOD PRACTICE IN THE EDUCATION SERVICE - EARLY INTERVENTION INITIATIVE - PROGRESS REPORT (Item 18, Page 3426)

16. There was submitted a report dated 17 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the progress of the Early Intervention Initiative within East Ayrshire as an example of current good practice from the Education Service.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that further detailed briefings be held on this significant educational initiative and that it be remitted to the Director of Education to make the necessary arrangements as appropriate; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY - DALMELLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING

17. There was submitted a report dated 5 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the forthcoming termination of the use of the present Dalmellington Primary School Building and which recommended that the property be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Committee.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the former Dalmellington Primary School building be declared surplus to requirements on completion of the relocation of the Primary School activities; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education refer the matter to the Head of Property Services for disposal.

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS: INTRODUCTION OF CARE AND WELFARE INSPECTION

18. There was submitted and noted a report dated 8 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the introduction of a new type of inspection that would be undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools.

PERFORMANCE PLAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

19. There was submitted a report dated 8 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which provided a summary of progress that had been made by the Education Department towards the target that had been developed within the context of Best Value.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the report be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1142 hours.