

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**Minute of meeting Held On Thursday 2 November 1995 at 1000 hours in the
London Road Centre, London Road, Kilmarnock**

- PRESENT:** Councillors T Farrell (Chair), R Brailsford, J Carmichael, G Cree, D Fulton, E Jackson, J Knapp, D Macrae, G McCredie, A McIntyre, K Nicoll, I Reeves, E Ross, G Smith, R Taylor and D Sneller; W McConnell and J McHugh (Church Representatives).
- ATTENDING:** D Montgomery, Chief Executive; G Fraser; J Mulgrew, director, M Burnell, senior depute director and S Angus, depute director.
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors R Stirling and G Turnbull

1. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of the meeting held on 21 September 1995 was submitted and noted.

2. JOINT WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

There was submitted a report (issued) by the director of education outlining the extent to which education departments within the new authorities will require to develop joint working arrangements to maintain and develop the range and quality of educational provision.

The report which detailed the options considered by two working groups of directors of education highlighted a series of recommendations for action. The working group comprised the twelve directors of authorities within the existing Strathclyde boundaries. The other group comprised the directors of the three Ayrshire authorities.

Having heard John Mulgrew, Director in explanation and in answer to members' questions it was agreed that the:

- (a) detailed recommendations for joint working be supported; and
- (b) director of education be authorised to make the necessary arrangements for the implementation of these recommendations.

3. RESULTS OF 1995 SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Reference was made to the meeting of 21 September 1995 when members had noted the arrangements for the 1995 school board elections.

Thereon, there was submitted a report (issued) by the director of education to advise members that school board elections had been completed on 12 October 1995 with boards having been confirmed in the eight schools in East Ayrshire which required an election.

In addition, the report highlighted arrangements for future elections in the 12 schools where there had been difficulties in forming a board, with these elections being held in December 1995.

Having heard Sue Angus, depute director it was agreed to:

- (a) note the progress of the school board elections; and
- (b) request the director of education to identify a parent representative to serve on the education committee following the next tranche of school board elections.

4. TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL PUPILS

There was submitted a report (issued) by the director of education to inform members of the arrangements currently in place for the transportation of primary and secondary school pupils.

The report indicated that the transportation of pupils to and from schools is based upon defined criteria for eligibility of access to transport. In this regard arrangements require to be made to ensure that a number of transport contracts due to be renewed are in place for next school session when East Ayrshire Council will have assumed responsibility for the education service.

Having heard John Mulgrew, director it was agreed:

- (a) that East Ayrshire Council will provide school transport for primary school pupils who live more than one mile from the local primary school (by the shortest safe walking route) and for secondary school pupils who live more than two miles from the local secondary school (by the shortest safe walking route);
- (b) that the director of education should invite the Passenger Transport Executive to make the necessary arrangements to tender for the named contracts due for renewal at the start of school session 1996/97;
- (c) that arrangements in place for contracts with expiry dates up to 1999 be continued; and
- (d) to note the negotiations taking place between the Passenger Transport Executive and the twelve unitary authorities and the functions the Passenger Transport Executive would carry out on behalf of the Council.

5. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY

There was submitted a report (issued) by the director of education advising members that it is required within the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1991 that the education committee agree a policy on admissions to schools so that parents, members of school boards and heads of educational establishments can be informed of agreed procedures for the registration of pupils in schools.

Having heard Margaret Burnell, senior depute director in answer to members' questions it was agreed that:

- (a) the committee endorse the content of the report and agree that the procedures outlined be adopted for pupils enrolling in schools in East Ayrshire from 1 April 1996; and

- (b) a further report by the director of education on the delineated catchment areas of schools be presented at a future meeting.

6. DECENTRALISATION

There was submitted a report (issued) by the director of education to advise members that in common with other Council departments, the education department had been required to give initial consideration to the development of a strategy for a decentralised service.

In this regard the report outlined the significant departmental work in support of decentralisation making particular reference to quality, values, communication, legislative framework, the strategic centre and the way ahead including devolved school management; the community education service; grants to voluntary organisations and school boards.

Having heard John Mulgrew, Director, the Committee:

- (a) agreed the terms of the Director's report;
- (b) noted the positive contribution the education department will make to the Council's decentralisation strategy; and
- (c) referred the report to the Policy and Resources (Decentralisation) Sub-Committee for their information.

7. THE EDUCATION RESOURCE SERVICE

There was submitted a report (issued) by the director of education advising members that the education resource service offers direct support to schools through the provision of curriculum support material and intimating that there would be benefit in investigating where best to place the service given that responsibility for libraries and museum services will now be within the one East Ayrshire Council.

Having heard John Mulgrew, director it was agreed that the director of education establish a small group to investigate and recommend future arrangements for the education resource service in East Ayrshire Council.

8. THE CAREERS SERVICE IN EAST AYRSHIRE

There was submitted a report (issued) by the director of education to advise members of the:

- (a) legislative background which determined the management of the careers service in East Ayrshire; and
- (b) the arrangements which are now in place for the delivery of the service based upon a formally established partnership between the present education authority and Enterprise Ayrshire.

The report also referred to:

- (i) key functions of the careers service;
- (ii) the composition of the company; and
- (iii) issues for consideration by East Ayrshire Council.

Having heard Sue Angus, depute director in explanation and in answer to members' questions it was agreed to:

- (A) request the director of education to pursue discussions with the
 - (I) directors of education for North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Councils; and
 - (II) board of Ayrshire careers partnership company;in respect of the future management of the careers service and the structure of the sub-contract in relation to the three unitary council areas; and
- (B) nominate Councillor Thomas Farrell and a representative of the director of education to serve as directors of the Ayrshire Careers Partnership Company with effect from 1 April 1996.

9. BRIEFING SEMINAR FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

There was submitted a letter (issued) which had been forwarded to members of the education committee advising them that arrangements had been made for the first briefing seminar for members of the Committee which had been arranged to take place on Wednesday 15 November 1995 at 1000 hours in the London Road Centre, London Road, Kilmarnock.