

APPENDIX III

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17 JUNE 1997 AT 1000 HOURS IN
THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Drew McIntyre, Ronald Brailsford, John Knapp, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, David Sneller, Robert Taylor and Eric Jackson, Parent Representative, Mrs Shelagh McKerrall and Church Representative, John McHugh.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, 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; Joan Kendall, Principal Solicitor; Bill Walkinshaw, Principal Administrative Officer; Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer; Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer and Lesley-Ann Wallace, Administrative Assistant.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

**PROCEDURES AND SUPPORT FOR HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE (HMI)
INSPECTIONS**

Councillor Sneller joined the meeting at this point.

1. There was submitted a report dated 3 June 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the advice and guidance given by East Ayrshire's Department of Education to Head Teachers on HMI Inspection Procedures.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the procedures detailed in Appendix I of the report be approved for use in schools in preparing for an inspection by HMI Inspectorate; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor McIntyre joined the meeting at this point.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF PRE-FIVE PROVISION

2. There was submitted a report dated 5 June 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which recommended the expansion of Pre-Five Education in the Kilmarnock Central Area.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that Pre-Five provision be expanded within the Kilmarnock Central Area as detailed in the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Education make the necessary arrangements to introduce the expansion of the Pre-Five service with effect from 19 August 1997, or as soon as practicable; and

- (iii) that the expansion of the Pre-Five service be based upon the existing Council Policy on income generation.

It was noted that a progress report regarding the expansion of Pre-Five Education within East Ayrshire would be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee on 23 September 1997.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS: ELECTION ARRANGEMENTS

3. There was submitted a report dated 5 June 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought approval of the arrangements for the running of the School Board Elections.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Scheme of Arrangements for School Board Elections as detailed in the Appendix to the report be approved and recommended for adoption by East Ayrshire Council; and C
- (ii) that the appointment of the Returning Officer and his staff, in line with the Scheme of Arrangements for School Board Elections be approved, viz:- C
- the Director of Education be the Returning Officer.
 - the Depute Directors of Education be appointed as Senior Depute Returning Officers.
 - the Officer responsible for School Boards within the Department of Education be appointed Depute Returning Officer.
 - each Head Teacher act as Presiding Officer in respect of the elections at his/her own school.

CHALLENGE BIDS SUBMITTED TO THE SCOTTISH OFFICE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY (SOEID)

4. There was submitted a report dated 9 June 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised on the Challenge Bids submitted by the Department of Education to the SOEID to access their grants programme.

It was reported and noted that the outcome of the Challenge Fund Bids which had been submitted by the Department of Education to the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department was still awaited.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education advise members of the outcome of the bids which had been submitted by the Department of Education to the SOEID;
- (ii) that the Director of Education produce periodical progress reports following implementation of the projects should the bids be successful; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROPERTY REVIEW

5. There was submitted a report dated 4 June 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of progress to date following the meeting of the Joint Chairs Property Review Group.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that consideration of the future use of both County Hall, Mauchline Road, Hurlford and the Netherthird Community Education Wing, Craigens Road, Cumnock be continued to a further meeting during August/September to allow full consultation with all user groups;
- (ii) that the following centres be closed, viz:-
 - West Park Horsa Huts, Irvine Road, Kilmaurs
 - Dalrymple Youth Centre, Barbieston Road, Dalrymple
 - Riccarton Community Education Centre, Craigie Road, Kilmarnock
 - Sunnyside, Irvine Road, Kilmaurs
- (iii) that the centres detailed at (ii) above be declared surplus to the requirements of the Department of Education and the Head of Property notified accordingly;
- (iv) to note that the Muirkirk Youth Centre, Main Street, Muirkirk was closed and
- (v) that the following action pertaining to the undernoted centres be approved, viz:-

Cumnock Community Education Wing, Ayr Road, Cumnock - retain the Centre and consult with the Director of Commercial Operations regarding the sanitation issue; Craigmalloch Outdoor Centre, Loch Doon, by Dalmellington - retain Centre with an improved marketing strategy and a small increase in charges.

REVIEW OF LETTING POLICY AND CHARGES FOR EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS

6. There was submitted a report dated 4 June 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the proposals to harmonise letting conditions and charges for premises operated by the Department of Education and the Department of Community Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the joint letting policy detailed in Appendix 1 (as revised) of the report be approved; and
- (ii) that the increase in charges for accommodation detailed in Appendix I (as revised) of the report be approved.

It was also agreed, that three monthly progress reports be submitted to the Sub-Committee on the operation of the new charges.

REVIEW OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN THE CUMNOCK AREA (Item 6.6, Page 887)

7. There was submitted a report dated 10 June 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which requested the Sub-Committee to consider the appropriate action to be taken in response to the study group's report which had been appended to the Director's report on the review of Catholic Education in the Cumnock area.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that "Community Sub-Committee" be inserted before "Education Committee" at paragraph 6.1 of the report;
- (ii) that Option B as amended and detailed as follows be approved:-

"Invite the Director of Education to develop a number of options having regard to the study group report and invite the Education Committee to agree to issue a consultation document in September/October of this year on possible future arrangements for St Conval's High pupils. Interested parties would be able to comment on the options and a wide range of considered opinion would be presented to the Education Committee at the conclusion of the period for consultation. Rather than presenting one option as on the previous occasion on which consultation was held, a number of carefully developed and balanced options would be presented to interested parties. Included in the options could be proposals to:

- (i) Harmonise secondary school timetables by inviting the Director of Education to ensure that the secondary Head Teachers in the area (St Conval's High, Cumnock Academy and Auchinleck Academy) meet regularly and make the necessary arrangements to align timetables for senior pupils, in particular. This would enable pupils to move freely to neighbouring secondary schools to widen curricular choice.
- (ii) Develop an option whereby St Conval's High School would become a Cumnock based outreach of St Joseph's Academy, Kilmarnock through a merger process. If this were to be implemented, the management of the school would be by the Head Teacher of St Joseph's Academy. As pupils moved to the upper school years, they could increasingly be educated in Kilmarnock. For the authority and staff there would be travel implications and costs. An option of this type would need careful development prior to consultation, but has the benefit of maintaining Catholic Education and introducing greater flexibility into existing arrangements.

Options to develop a clear association with other secondary schools have to be considered, whether that association is in the local area or by merging with St Joseph's Academy."

Arising from consideration of the above item, it was noted that the issue of joint timetabling in schools in the Kilmarnock Area was under investigation and that the Director of Education would report to a future meeting.

PARENTS CONFERENCE

8. There was submitted a report dated 12 June 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the outcome of the Parents Conference held on Saturday 7 June 1997 at Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock and which made recommendations for action.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education continue to work closely with parents and parent organisations to maintain and develop the strong and effective links already established;
- (ii) that the Director of Education take forward the issues arising from the conference;
- (iii) that the Quality Development Team support and monitor the working establishments in developing effective parental links; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EDUCATION AT HOME

9. There was submitted a report dated 19 May 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the issues surrounding the Education of children at home and which sought support for the further development of the necessary procedures for this aspect of provision.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the proposals detailed within the report for monitoring the provision made by parents who chose to educate their children "by other means" be supported;
- (ii) that the Director of Education, or a nominated member of the Directorate, be authorised to approve or refuse permission to continue home education to parents under the conditions detailed in the report and the Scheme of Delegation be amended accordingly;
- (iii) that the Director of Education be authorised to further develop monitoring procedures within the conditions outlined in the report; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education be authorised to consult interested groups in the development of these procedures.

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR NURSERY VOUCHERS

10. There was submitted a report dated 4 June 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the transitional arrangements in respect of nursery vouchers.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Taylor moved:-

- (i) to note that introduction of the Nursery Voucher Scheme would be for one year only,
- (ii) that the proposals to suspend the charging policy in respect of children in their pre-school year, other than for extra sessions be approved; and

- (iii) that a progress report regarding the operation of the transitional arrangements for Nursery Vouchers be submitted to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Nicoll seconded by Councillor Brailsford moved as an amendment:-

- (i) to note that introduction of the Nursery Voucher Scheme would be for one year only; and
- (ii) to suspend the Charging Policy for pre-five education.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by seven votes to two.

The meeting terminated at 1105 hours.