

EDUCATION RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 14 June 2011

Chair:

Councillor Mary Smith

Councillors Present:

Alex Allison (Depute), David Baillie, Bev Gault, Tommy Gilligan, Eileen Logan, Lesley McDonald, Jim McGuigan, Brian McKenna, Anne Maggs, Alice Marie Mitchell, Alan Scott, Graham Scott, Graham Simpson, Hamish Stewart, George Sutherland, Chris Thompson, Sheena Wardhaugh, David Watson

Councillors' Apologies:

Jackie Burns, John Cairney, Bobby Lawson, Edward McAvoy, Pat Watters

External Members Present:

Terri Connolly, David Kerr

External Members' Apologies:

John Hannah, Dr Nagy Iskander, Joan Kyle, Linzi Moore, Rev Sarah Ross

Attending:

Corporate Resources

S Somerville, Administration Adviser

Education Resources

L Forde, Executive Director; A Batchelor, Head of Education (Inclusion); D Dickson, Operations Manager; S Fellows, Head of Education (Resources); J Gilhooly, Head of Education (Curriculum and Quality); J Humphreys, Personnel Services Manager; I MacDougall, Head of Education (Hamilton, Larkhall and Uddingston)

Finance and Information Technology Resources

G Booth, Accountant

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Education Resources Committee held on 29 March 2011 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Committee decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Workforce Monitoring – February to April 2011

A joint report dated 19 May 2011 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Education Resources for the period February to April 2011:-

- ◆ attendance statistics
- ◆ occupational health statistics

- ♦ accident/incident statistics
- ♦ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ♦ analysis of leavers
- ♦ Joint Staffing Watch as at 12 March 2011

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 29 March 2011 (Paragraph 6)]

Councillor Gauld entered the meeting during this item of business

4 Education Resources' Resource Plan

A report dated 19 May 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Education Resources' Resource Plan for 2011/2012. Details were provided on:-

- ♦ Resource achievements and performance during 2010/2011
- ♦ Resource objectives and actions for 2011/2012
- ♦ capital and revenue resources for 2011/2012
- ♦ the organisational structure of the Resource

In line with the Council's performance management arrangements, a mid year progress report on actions identified in the 2011/2012 Resource Plan would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Committee recommended to the Executive Committee: that the Education Resources' Resource Plan for 2011/2012 be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 3 November 2010 (Paragraph 6)]

5 Parents as Partners Conference - Working Together to Support Children's Learning

A report dated 25 May 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of the evaluation of the Parents as Partners Conference.

On 3 March 2009, this Committee had approved a Strategy for Parental Involvement designed to support parents and schools in working together to support children's learning. The Parental Involvement Strategy provided a supportive framework for establishments, services and parents and carers to use in helping everyone to work together to support children's learning.

As part of the Strategy, a commitment had been given to host an annual 'Parents as Partners' conference. Over 100 people had attended this year's conference held on 17 March. Parents and carers had the opportunity to attend learning workshops and engage in dialogue with other parents in groups on how they might support their child's learning and their school. A range of market stalls had also been provided to enable parents to see some of the learning activities and programmes that were available in schools and services.

A summary of the evaluations completed by the participants following the conference was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Committee decided: that the feedback from parents and carers who attended the Parents as Partners Conference be used as a part of the self-evaluation process to help inform the planning and organisation of future parental events.

[Reference: Minutes of 19 January 2010 (Paragraph 8) and Minutes of 3 March 2009 (Paragraph 7)]

6 International Children's Games

A report dated 24 May 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on a range of activities organised for children and young people in recognition of the forthcoming International Children's Games (ICG).

The Council's Education Resources, in conjunction with North Lanarkshire Council's Learning and Leisure Services, had planned and organised a number of learning activities linked to the curriculum and those were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Details were provided in Appendix 2 to the report on the following projects which had encouraged creativity and health promotion in children and young people:-

- ◆ the Tile Project in Clydesdale
- ◆ the Cultural Kinetics Fashion Project
- ◆ the mural at the underpass in Uddingston
- ◆ the work of the Sports Ambassadors in secondary schools
- ◆ the creation of Gaelic bookmarks and signage by Mount Cameron Primary School and Calderglen High School, East Kilbride
- ◆ the work with the Scots author, Matthew Fitt and Holy Cross High School, Hamilton to create a guide to Scots language for athletes

The Committee decided: that the programme of activities, as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, to increase the involvement of children and young people in International Children's Games' related events be noted.

7 Learning in Scotland's Communities

A report dated 24 May 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education's (HMIE's) evaluation of the effectiveness of work in learning communities to improve outcomes for learners and communities.

From September 2008, HMIE had introduced inspections of learning communities within the geographical areas surrounding non-denominational secondary schools. The secondary school and its learning community were inspected at the same time, with an overlap in the membership of the inspection teams. In denominational secondary schools, teams also considered the community dimension in their inspection work. This approach to inspection had placed a greater emphasis on the quality of partnership activities in communities across the range of institutions and agencies that played a part in supporting people to achieve and in making communities better places to live.

HMIE had now reported on the inspections of 91 learning communities across the 32 local authority areas in Scotland and a report had been published which set out the findings. HMIE had identified the following features of effective practice across Scotland:-

- ◆ Community Learning and Development (CLD) providers had developed and used important skills and experience to support young people to achieve
- ◆ opportunities for accredited achievement were developing well and were helping to provide opportunities for all
- ◆ schools and early years' centres were becoming increasingly active in working with partners to support learning for parents and carers
- ◆ increasing numbers of secondary schools were active in supporting young people to engage with their communities. CLD partners were important partners in supporting this development
- ◆ in a few examples, CLD partnerships were well focused on achieving significant outcomes and demonstrating, through effective self-evaluation, how well those were being achieved

HMIE had also identified the following areas for improvement across Scotland:-

- ◆ more schools, CLD providers and a range of others now needed to work together under the common purpose and outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) to enable all children and young people to achieve all that they might
- ◆ community practitioners and teachers needed to learn together so that they developed a shared understanding about their roles and responsibilities in successfully implementing CfE, particularly in relation to the experience and outcomes, achievement and assessment
- ◆ community providers working with early years centres and schools should continue to build the confidence of parents to engage as learners themselves and to support their children's learning
- ◆ volunteering and other motivating learning activities now needed to be developed further across partnerships to provide all children and young people with rich learning experiences in both the school and the community
- ◆ schools, centres and all of those involved in CLD needed to work more closely together to deliver improved outcomes through joint planning and self-evaluation
- ◆ partnerships within learning communities needed to improve their capacity to measure outcomes across the full range of their impacts and to work together to do this

Details were provided on the findings of the HMIE inspections of the 5 learning communities in South Lanarkshire. The evaluation across South Lanarkshire compared favourably with the position reported across Scotland with an "Excellent" evaluation achieved in Hamilton Grammar for 'Impact on Young People'.

The Committee decided: that the outcome of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education's evaluation of the effectiveness of work in learning communities to improve outcomes for learners and communities be noted.

8 McCormac Review of Teacher Employment in Scotland - Call for Evidence

A report dated 24 May 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the response to the 'Call for Evidence' submitted to the McCormac Committee which had been set up to conduct a Review of Teacher Employment in Scotland.

At its meeting on 29 March 2011, this Committee had agreed that a response to the McCormac Committee be prepared by the Executive Director (Education Resources), in consultation with the Chair and Depute Chair, and submitted to the Scottish Government by 21 April 2011.

An initial draft of the response had been circulated to all members of the Education Resources Committee to allow them to comment. A copy of the final response, taking account of the comments made by elected members, was attached as an appendix to the report.

It was anticipated that the McCormac Committee would report by late summer, with a view to changes being implemented by August 2012.

The Committee decided: that the submission to the McCormac Committee's Call for Evidence to inform its review of teacher employment in Scotland, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 29 March 2011 (Paragraph 10)]

9 Implementation of the 33 Period Week in Secondary Schools

A report dated 25 May 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the implementation of a 33 period week in all secondary schools in South Lanarkshire.

As part of a package of savings proposals for 2007/2008, it had been agreed to move to a 33 period week to allow for access to all of a teacher's contractual commitment to 22.5 hours of class contact. It was also recognised that more periods offered more flexibility and the opportunity to introduce curricular changes that might bring about educational benefits for pupils.

The implementation of this configuration of the school week had been deferred following discussions with headteachers and trades union partners to take account of the full implementation of Curriculum for Excellence in August 2010. It was agreed to allow each establishment to determine their weekly timetable to promote ownership of the decisions made and to develop a model that was responsive to local needs.

Details of the start, finish, intervals and lunchtimes for each secondary school were provided in an appendix to the report.

The Committee decided: that the move to a 33 period week configuration for all secondary schools, with effect from August 2011, be noted.

10 Annual Report on Mainstreaming Equalities and Diversity - Education Resources

A joint report dated 23 May 2011 by the Executive Directors (Education Resources) and (Corporate Resources) was submitted on the strategic and operational work being undertaken and planned by Education Resources to meet the commitments in the Council's Single Equality Scheme and Equality and Diversity Strategy.

The Head of Education (Inclusion) highlighted the following areas covered within the report:-

- ◆ Equalities Impact Assessments
- ◆ employment
- ◆ delivering services
- ◆ access to information
- ◆ progress and areas for improvement

The Committee decided: that the work being undertaken by Education Resources in terms of the Council's Single Equality Scheme and Equality and Diversity Strategy be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of Equal Opportunities Forum of 7 June 2011 (Paragraph 5)]

11 Celebrating the Success of Young People and Employees

A report dated 23 May 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the range of achievements and success of young people and employees in national and local awards and other programmes from August 2010 to June 2011.

The Committee decided: that the success and achievements of young people and employees in national and local awards from August 2010 to June 2011 be noted.

12 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.