

EAST KILBRIDE AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 21 November 2023

Chair:

Councillor Archie Buchanan

Councillors Present:

Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Mathew Buchanan, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Grant Ferguson, Councillor Susan Kerr, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Graham Scott

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Gladys Ferguson-Miller, Councillor Elise Frame, Councillor Geri Gray (Depute), Councillor Elaine McDougall, Councillor Kirsten Robb, Councillor David Watson, Councillor Kirsty Williams

Attending:

Education Resources

M Farr, Quality Lead Officer Supporting Families

Finance and Corporate Resources

H Calley, Administration Officer; L Wyllie, Administration Assistant

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the East Kilbride Area Committee held on 12 September 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

Councillor Fagan highlighted the changes in personnel at Police Scotland and noted appreciation for the work of Chief Inspector Stephen McGovern and his team.

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

3 Participatory Budgeting – Education Resources - Pupil Equity Funding

A report dated 8 November 2023 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Participatory Budgeting (PB) in relation to Pupil Equity Funding (PEF).

Before the summer holidays, Head Teachers were informed that PB would continue into 2023/2024. They were asked to allocate a minimum of 5% of their 2023/2024 PEF allocation and identify a staff member to lead and facilitate that activity in their school. Schools were informed of the principles and practices of PB that were applicable across their full PEF allocation according to PEF National Operational Guidance. Therefore, schools were encouraged to put aside more than the recommended 5% where possible.

PB training had been held on 21 August 2023 for Head Teachers and PB Leads who required a refresh or were new to the process. The training outlined expectations, timescales and support available and drew on lessons learned in relation to good practice and signposting resources. The training was then shared with schools.

Schools within the East Kilbride area had allocated £115,852.50 of their £2,037,860.00 PEF allocation for PB. A breakdown of the allocation for each learning community was provided in Appendix 1 of the report and Appendix 2 summarised the percentage of PEF which schools had allocated for PB.

Gilmourton Primary, in Strathaven Learning Community, was not allocated PEF money, however, had allocated a proportion of its core budget and match funding from its Parent Council to allocate £300 to the PB process. A further school-by-school breakdown was outlined in Appendix 3 of the report.

PB stakeholder groups, comprising pupils, parents and staff, were leading the PB process in their schools. The outcome for each school had been reported to Education Resources in October 2023. Information on the outcome of the process would be shared at future Area Committee meetings.

Education Resources would provide Area Committees with case studies of school activity which had particular impact/success and a detailed financial report of how PEF money allocated for PB had been spent.

Education Resources would support schools and monitor and track the impact of this activity. Findings would inform any future PB activity within the Resource.

The Quality Lead Officer Supporting Families responded to members' questions.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 13 June 2023 (Paragraph 4)]

4 Community Grant Applications

A report dated 6 November 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on applications for community grants.

The Committee decided: that community grants be awarded as follows:-

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| (a) | Applicant: | Strathaven Badminton Club (EK/28/23) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Equipment |
| | Amount Awarded: | £300 |
| (b) | Applicant: | Stonehouse Heritage Group (EK/29/23) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Equipment |
| | Amount Awarded: | £450 |
| (c) | Applicant: | East Kilbride Quirky Quilters (EK/31/23) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Equipment |
| | Amount Awarded: | £180 |
| (d) | Applicant: | Duncanrig Rambling Club, East Kilbride |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Outing, administration and publicity costs |
| | Amount Awarded: | £300 |

[Reference: Minutes of 12 September 2023 (Paragraph 6)]

5 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.