

EDUCATION RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 31 August 2010

Chair:

Councillor Mary Smith

Councillors Present:

Alex Allison (Depute), David Baillie, Jackie Burns, John Cairney, Gerry Convery, Bev Gauld, Tommy Gilligan, Lesley McDonald, Jim McGuigan, Brian McKenna, Anne Maggs, Alice Marie Mitchell, Graham Scott, Graham Simpson, Hamish Stewart, George Sutherland, Chris Thompson, Sheena Wardhaugh, Pat Watters

Councillors' Apologies:

Bobby Lawson, Eileen Logan, Edward McAvoy, David Watson

External Members Present:

Terri Connolly, Dr Nagy Iskander, Joan Kyle

External Members' Apologies:

John Hannah, David Kerr, Linzi Moore, Rev Sarah Ross

Attending:

Corporate Resources

S Somerville, Administration Adviser

Education Resources

D Barr, Libraries Manager; D Dickson, Operations Manager; S Fellows, Head of Education (Resources); J Gilhooly, Head of Education (Quality and Personnel); D L Robinson, Area Co-ordinator (Hamilton, Blantyre and Uddingston); J Ryan, Integrated Children's Services Health Improvement Manager; L Sherry, Head of Education (Finance)

Finance and Information Technology Resources

M Murphy, 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 1 June 2010 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Capital Budget Monitoring 2010/2011 - Education Resources

A joint report dated 27 July 2010 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Information Technology Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted advising of progress on Education Resources' capital programme for 2010/2011 and summarising the expenditure position at 9 July 2010.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

4 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2010/2011 - Education Resources

A joint report dated 27 July 2010 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Information Technology Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 9 July 2010 against budgeted expenditure for 2010/2011 for Education Resources.

Details were provided on proposed budget virements to realign budgets.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the breakeven position on Education Resources' revenue budget, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, and the forecast to 31 March 2011 of a breakeven position be noted; and
- (2) that the budget virements, as detailed in the appendix to the report, be approved.

5 Education Resources - Workforce Monitoring - April to June 2010

A joint report dated 3 August 2010 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Education Resources for the period April to June 2010:-

- ◆ attendance statistics
- ◆ occupational health statistics
- ◆ accident/incident statistics
- ◆ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ◆ analysis of leavers

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 June 2010 (Paragraph 3)]

6 My SELF and Others (South Lanarkshire Council's Emotional Literacy Framework)

A report dated 6 August 2010 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the development of 'My SELF and Others', South Lanarkshire Council's emotional literacy framework and resource pack to support staff to work on emotional literacy with children aged 3 to 12 years.

In recognition that a significant factor in a child's capacity to learn was their emotional state, a framework and resource pack had been developed by a working group which included headteachers and representatives from Integrated Children's Services, Social Work Resources and NHS Lanarkshire. Pupils from Robert Smillie Memorial Primary School, Larkhall had also contributed to the pack.

'My SELF and Others' was a toolkit of ideas and suggestions that would enable all professionals working with children to support and develop emotional literacy. Emotional literacy was:-

- ◆ recognising emotions in ourselves and others
- ◆ expressing and managing our own emotions
- ◆ responding to emotions of others in ways that were helpful to ourselves and others

The Council's Framework of Assessment and Intervention for Resilience (FAIR), which was based on the concept of educational resilience, had been used as a foundation for the development of the emotional literacy framework. The emotional literacy framework was also closely linked to 'Getting It Right for Every Child', 'Curriculum for Excellence', the early years framework and 'Towards a Mentally Flourishing Lanarkshire'.

It was proposed that 'My SELF and Others' be made available for purchase to other local authorities and interested parties.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that 'My SELF and Others', South Lanarkshire Council's emotional literacy framework to support those working with children aged 3 to 12 years, be approved; and
- (2) that 'My SELF and Others' be made available for purchase to other local authorities and interested parties.

[Reference: Minutes of 19 February 2008 (Paragraph 8)]

7 'Curriculum for Excellence' Update

A report dated 6 August 2010 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the:-

- ◆ national position in relation to the implementation of 'Curriculum for Excellence' (CfE)
- ◆ progress being made in South Lanarkshire in implementing CfE

Over the last 3 years, there had been significant progress, both nationally and locally, towards full implementation of CfE as follows:-

- ◆ new experiences and outcomes were shaping learning and teaching
- ◆ interdisciplinary learning was being introduced
- ◆ there had been an increasing focus on achievement as well as attainment
- ◆ new assessment and certification arrangements had been published

Education Resources had developed a range of guidance and advice to support the implementation of CfE. A new reporting format for primary schools had been developed and all educational establishments had been provided with detailed improvement planning guidance to support areas of development.

Formal implementation of CfE had begun in August 2010 and would be rolled out to all stages of the secondary sector by 2015.

A major component of the new approach to assessment involved the introduction of a quality assurance system that used moderation as the means of developing an understanding of national standards and ensuring that those were applied in all schools. Education Resources was developing a programme of moderation that would involve staff working with colleagues within schools and learning communities to discuss the local application of national standards. This programme and training would be funded from monies received from the Scottish Government.

Education Resources would continue to monitor the implementation of CfE in all establishments through the interactions of Quality Link Officers and would provide support where this was required.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress towards implementation of 'Curriculum for Excellence' in South Lanarkshire be noted; and
- (2) that the actions taken to further support the introduction of CfE be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 16 March 2010 (Paragraph 9)]

8 Validated Assisted Self-Evaluation (VSE)

A report dated 6 August 2010 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on changes to procedures to evaluate the effectiveness of the education functions of South Lanarkshire Council.

The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000 set out the national agenda for education. The Act provided an improvement framework for Scottish education, an integral part of which was the planned programme of inspection of the education functions of Scottish local authorities by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIe). South Lanarkshire Council had been inspected in 2004 as part of the first round of inspections.

In 2009, Validated Assisted Self-Evaluation (VSE) had been introduced as a different approach to inspection. It was intended that VSE would reduce unnecessary scrutiny through the development of a shared risk assessment model. VSE aimed to support and challenge the work of education authorities through HMIe and the Council working in partnership to validate the findings of the authority's self-evaluation rather than through inspection.

Details were provided on the 3 stage process for VSE.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the changes to HMIe procedures to evaluate the effectiveness of the education functions of South Lanarkshire Council be noted; and
- (2) that Education Resources proceed with Validated Assisted Self-Evaluation.

9 Outcome of External Evaluation of the Library Service by the Scottish Library Information Council (SLIC)

A report dated 12 August 2010 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of the external evaluation of the Library Service by the Scottish Library Information Council (SLIC).

An evaluation of the quality of provision in South Lanarkshire libraries had been undertaken using 3 of the Public Library Quality Indicators, Indicator 3 (Meeting Readers' Needs), Indicator 4 (Learners' Experiences) and Indicator 5 (Ethos and Values).

The evaluation report received from SLIC had been very positive and details of the key strengths and areas for improvement identified in the evaluation report were summarised. Areas identified for improvement would be progressed through the implementation of an improvement plan.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the outcome of the evaluation report, published by SLIC, on the Library Service and the assessments made in relation to the Public Library Improvement Indicators 3, 4 and 5 be noted; and
- (2) that a progress report on the improvement plan to take forward areas for improvement be provided at a future meeting of this Committee.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 May 2008 (Paragraph 7)]

10 Celebrating Success

A report dated 2 August 2010 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the success and achievements of young people and employees in national and local awards during 2010.

In view of the implementation of 'Curriculum for Excellence', consideration was being given to the development of a national portfolio of children's achievements. This national portfolio would be recognised by employers and further education providers as part of the overall approach to recognising the success of young people.

The Committee decided: that the success and achievements of young people and employees in national and local awards during 2010 be noted.

11 Notification of Contracts Awarded

A report dated 10 August 2010 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on contracts awarded by Education Resources in August 2010.

In terms of Standing Order No 19.6 of the Standing Orders on Contracts, Resources were required to notify the relevant Committee of contracts awarded. Details of the contracts awarded by Education Resources were provided in the appendix to the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted

12 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.