

EDUCATION RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 27 October 2009

Chair:

Councillor Mary Smith

Councillors Present:

Alex Allison (Depute), John Cairney, Gerry Convery, Tommy Gilligan, Bobby Lawson, Eileen Logan, Anne Maggs, Michael McCann, Lesley McDonald, Alice Marie Mitchell, Graham Scott, Hamish Stewart, George Sutherland, Chris Thompson, Sheena Wardhaugh

Councillors' Apologies:

David Baillie, Jackie Burns, Bev Gauld, Edward McAvoy, Jim McGuigan, Graham Simpson, David Watson, Pat Watters

External Members Present:

Terri Connolly, John Hannah, Dr Nagy Iskander, David Kerr, Linzi Moore

External Members' Apologies:

Joan Kyle, Rev Sarah Ross

Attending:

Corporate Resources

T Slater, Administration Officer

Education Resources

L Forde, Executive Director; L Allison, Finance Manager; D Barr, Libraries Manager; A Batchelor, Head of Education (Inclusion); D Dickson, Operations Manager; S Fellows, Head of Education (Resources); J Gilhooly, Head of Education (Quality and Personnel); C Mason, Head of Education (Clydesdale)

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 7 July 2009 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Capital Budget Monitoring 2009/2010 - Education Resources

A joint report dated 15 September 2009 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Information Technology Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted advising of progress on Education Resources' capital programme for 2009/2010 and summarising the expenditure position at 4 September 2009.

The Committee decided: that the Education Resources' capital programme of £90.659 million and expenditure to date of £22.387 million be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 19 May 2009 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2009/2010 - Education Resources

A joint report dated 11 September 2009 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Information Technology Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 4 September 2009 against budgeted expenditure for 2009/2010 for Education Resources.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the overspend on Education Resources' revenue budget of £0.821 million (0.7%), as detailed in the appendix to the report, and the forecast to 31 March 2010 of a breakeven position be noted; and
- (2) that the budget virements, as detailed in the appendix to the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 19 May 2009 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Education Resources - Workforce Monitoring - June to August 2009

A joint report dated 7 October 2009 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Education Resources for the period June to August 2009:-

- ◆ attendance statistics
- ◆ occupational health statistics
- ◆ accident/incident statistics
- ◆ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ◆ analysis of leavers
- ◆ Joint Staffing Watch as at 13 June 2009

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 7 July 2009 (Paragraph 3)]

6 Education Resources - Statutory Performance Indicators - 5 Year Comparison 2004/2005 to 2008/2009

A joint report dated 7 October 2009 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Information Technology Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted on Education Resources' Statutory Performance Indicators for the financial year 2008/2009. Comparisons and explanations, where appropriate, were provided for the 5 year period covering 2004/2005 to 2008/2009.

The Committee decided: that Education Resources' Statutory Performance Indicators for 2008/2009 be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 9 December 2008 (Paragraph 7) and Executive Committee of 7 October 2009 (Paragraph 7)]

7 Fairer Scotland Fund Programme 2008 to 2011

A joint report dated 7 October 2009 by the Executive Directors (Education Resources) and (Corporate Resources) was submitted on the additional staffing implications of the 'Early Intervention Education Programme' strand of the Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) Programme 2008 to 2011.

In December 2007, the Scottish Government had announced the creation of the new FSF to address poverty and deprivation. This incorporated several previously ring-fenced funds, including the former Community Regeneration Fund.

The redevelopment of Rutherglen Library had offered an opportunity to create accommodation which was specifically designed for the delivery of the Bookstart programme's early intervention work in the Rutherglen area. This programme aimed to:-

- ◆ provide a recognisable branded base from which an increasing number of local early intervention literacy programmes would operate
- ◆ enhance the clear partnership between the library, local Early Years providers and families to stimulate family reading and literacy
- ◆ improve employee skills to deliver integrated early intervention literacy initiatives

To meet the requirements of the new developments, it was proposed to establish 1 temporary 0.5 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) post of Children's Assistant on Grade 1, Level 3-4, SCP 18-28 (£14,398 to £16,734 pro rata) for a 12 month period.

The cost of implementing the proposals would be £10,092 and would be met from the allocation from the FSF.

The Committee decided: that the establishment of 1 temporary 0.5 FTE post of Children's Assistant on Grade 1, Level 3-4, SCP 18-28 (£14,398 to £16,734 pro rata) for a 12 month period to support the redevelopment of Rutherglen Library be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 19 May 2009 (Paragraph 6)]

8 'Together We Can' - Guidance for Early Years Professionals Working with Children Aged Under 3 Years

A report dated 2 October 2009 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the development and implementation of the Council's new guidance for Early Years practitioners working with children aged under 3 years.

In 1999, the Council had published 'Learning for Living', curriculum guidance for children aged 0 to 5 years. In 2005, national guidance, entitled 'Birth to Three', had been published providing further general support materials for those working with children aged under 3 years. The development of a 'Curriculum for Excellence 3 to 18' had, however, identified the need for the Early Years Service to review curriculum guidance and support materials in this area.

'Together We Can' had been developed with partner providers over a 2 year period and provided guidance for Early Years employees in South Lanarkshire working with children aged under 3 years. 'Together We Can' was closely aligned to the 4 capacities and curriculum area headings in 'Curriculum for Excellence' and contained the following main aspects:-

- ◆ health and well-being
- ◆ emotional and spiritual well-being
- ◆ social competence
- ◆ physical competence
- ◆ cognitive competence

A training programme would be put in place for all employees in Early Years establishments.

The Committee decided: that the 'Together We Can' guidance for Early Years practitioners working with children aged under 3 years be implemented in all Early Years establishments.

9 School Holiday Dates for Session 2010/2011

A report dated 5 October 2009 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on proposed holiday arrangements for schools in South Lanarkshire for session 2010/2011. Neighbouring education authorities, all teachers, trade unions and parent councils had been consulted on the proposals. The 5 dates on which teachers would attend in-service training had been excluded, with the exception of Thursday 12 and Friday 13 August 2010. The remaining 3 dates would be determined locally in consultation with schools, learning communities and trade unions.

The Committee decided: that the following school holidays for session 2010/2011 be approved:-

		Date of Attendance
First Term	Teachers return	Thursday 12 August 2010
	Pupils return	Monday 16 August 2010
Local Holiday	Close on	Thursday 23 September 2010
	Re-open	Tuesday 28 September 2010
Mid Term	Close on	Friday 8 October 2010
	Re-open	Monday 18 October 2010
Christmas	Close on	Thursday 23 December 2010
Second Term	Re-open	Wednesday 5 January 2011
February break	Close on	Friday 11 February 2011
	Re-open	Wednesday 16 February 2011
Third Term		
Spring break	Close on	Friday 1 April 2011
	Re-open	Monday 18 April 2011
Easter Weekend	Close on	Thursday 21 April 2011
	Re-open	Tuesday 26 April 2011
(Good Friday 22 April 2011 and Easter Monday 25 April 2011)		
Local Holiday	Closed	Monday 2 May 2011

Local Holiday*	Close on	Thursday 26 May 2011
	Re-open	Tuesday 31 May 2011

*Lanark schools to observe 9 and 10 June 2011 (Lanimers)

Summer	Close on	Friday 24 June 2011
	Working days for Teachers	195
	Proposed date for teachers return	Thursday 11 August 2011
	Pupils return	Monday 15 August 2011

10 Disability Equality Statement of Commitment 2009 to 2012

A report dated 7 October 2009 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Education Resources' Disability Equality Statement of Commitment 2009 to 2012.

A written statement of disability equality policy was required of each education authority under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005.

A consultation process had been undertaken inviting views and comments on the draft Disability Statement of Commitment 2009 to 2012 and on progress made in implementing the first Statement of Commitment 2006 to 2009. Particular efforts had been made to involve disabled people and young people in the consultation. A number of constructive suggestions for amendment had been incorporated into the revised Statement of Commitment.

The revised Statement of Commitment would be made available in various formats and issued to all stakeholders. It would also be taken into account in planning, delivering and monitoring the effectiveness of the provision of Education Services.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Education Resources' Disability Equality Statement of Commitment 2009 to 2012 be approved; and
- (2) that the consultation process undertaken and the arrangements to publish the Statement of Commitment on the Council's website, by the required date of 4 December 2009, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 9 December 2008 (Paragraph 10)]

11 Accessibility Strategy 2009 to 2012

A report dated 30 September 2009 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Education Resources' Accessibility Strategy 2009 to 2012.

The Education (Disability Strategies and Pupils' Educational Records) (Scotland) Act 2002 required local authorities to prepare and implement long-term strategies to improve access to education for pupils and prospective pupils with disabilities.

A consultation process had been undertaken inviting views and comments on various aspects of the draft Strategy and on progress made in implementing the first Accessibility Strategy 2006 to 2009. Particular efforts had been made to involve all interested parties including disabled people and young people in the consultation. A number of constructive suggestions for amendment had been incorporated into the revised Strategy.

The revised Strategy would be made available in various formats and issued widely to all stakeholders. It would be taken into account in planning, delivering and monitoring the effectiveness of the provision of Education Services.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Accessibility Strategy 2009 to 2012 be approved; and
- (2) that the consultation process undertaken and the arrangements to publish the Strategy on the Council's website be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 July 2003 (Paragraph 9)]

12 'Curriculum for Excellence' Position Statement

A report dated 7 October 2009 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on a Position Statement outlining the Council's current stage of development in relation to the implementation of 'Curriculum for Excellence' (CfE).

The Position Statement, attached as an appendix to the report, had been issued to all employees and aimed to secure the full engagement of employees in terms of the broad aims and implementation strategies being developed to deliver the CfE programme.

Arrangements had been made to hold an information seminar on CfE for all councillors and external representatives on the Education Resources Committee on 10 November 2009.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the 'Curriculum for Excellence' Position Statement, as detailed in the appendix to the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the arrangements made to hold an information seminar on 10 November 2009 for all councillors and external representatives on the Education Resources Committee on CfE be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 30 September 2008 (Paragraph 9)]

13 Response to Consultation on the Future Status of the General Teaching Council for Scotland

A report dated 6 October 2009 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the Council's response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the future structure and membership of the General Teaching Council for Scotland.

The consultation had been structured around 10 specific questions relating to:-

- ◆ responsibility for teaching standards
- ◆ entry requirements to and approval of courses of initial teacher education
- ◆ continuing professional development
- ◆ governance of an independent General Teaching Council for Scotland

A copy of the Council's response which had been submitted to The Scottish Government in July 2009 by the Executive Director (Education Resources), following discussion with the Chair, was detailed in the appendix to the report.

The Committee decided:

that the Council's response to the consultation paper on the future status of the General Teaching Council for Scotland be noted.

14 Notification of Contracts Awarded

A report dated 8 October 2009 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on contracts awarded by Education Resources in August 2009.

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.

15 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.