

EDUCATION RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 19 January 2010

Chair:

Councillor Mary Smith

Councillors Present:

Alex Allison (Depute), David Baillie, Jackie Burns, John Cairney, Gerry Convery, Bev Gault, Tommy Gilligan, Bobby Lawson, Eileen Logan, Anne Maggs, Michael McCann, Lesley McDonald, Jim McGuigan, Alice Marie Mitchell, Graham Scott, Graham Simpson, Hamish Stewart, George Sutherland, Chris Thompson, Sheena Wardhaugh, David Watson, Pat Watters

Councillor's Apology:

Edward McAvoy

External Members Present:

John Hannah, David Kerr, Linzi Moore

External Members' Apologies:

Terri Connolly, Dr Nagy Iskander, Joan Kyle, Rev Sarah Ross

Attending:

Corporate Resources

Tracy Slater, Administration Officer

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 (Quality and Personnel); J Humphreys, Personnel Services Manager; E King, Psychological Services Manager; L Sherry, Head of Education (Finance)

Enterprise Resources

S Carey, Regeneration and Inclusion Manager

Finance and Information Technology Resources

M Murphy, Accountant

Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed 9 teachers from various schools within South Lanarkshire who had achieved the Scottish Qualification for Headship (SQH) award.

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 27 October 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 12 November 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 30 October 2009.

The Committee decided: that the Education Resources' capital programme of £90.856 million and expenditure to date of £34.165 million be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 27 October 2009 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2009/2010 - Education Resources

A joint report dated 11 November 2009 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Information Technology Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 30 October 2009 against budgeted expenditure for 2009/2010 for Education Resources.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the overspend on Education Resources' revenue budget of £0.341 million (0.2%), 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 27 October 2009 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Education Resources - Workforce Monitoring - September to November 2009

A joint report dated 11 January 2010 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Education Resources for the period September to November 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 12 September 2009

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 27 October 2009 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Education Resources' Resource Plan 2009/2010 - Quarter 2 Progress Report

A report dated 17 December 2009 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Education Resources' Resource Plan 2009/2010. Details were provided on progress made at the end of quarter 2, covering the period 1 April to 30 September 2009, in implementing the priority projects identified in the Resource Plan.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 7 July 2009 (Paragraph 4)]

7 'Give us a Break!' - Programme for Young People Who Had Experienced Loss, Change or Bereavement

A report dated 15 December 2009 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the development of 'Give us a Break!', an innovative therapeutic programme to help young people, aged between 10 and 14 years, who had experienced bereavement, loss and major negative changes in their lives and were showing signs of difficulties in managing the emotional consequences.

This was the first programme of its kind in the UK and had been developed jointly by Education Resources' Psychological Services, Macmillan Cancer Support and NHS Lanarkshire.

Information was provided on the expected benefits of 'Give us a Break!', together with planned training for healthcare staff, teachers, social workers, educational psychologists and other professionals who would facilitate group sessions with young people.

It was proposed that 'Give us a Break!' be made available to interested parties outwith the Council at a cost of £200 per copy. This would cover the costs of producing the pack and associated training requirements. Macmillan Cancer Support had also provided £50,000 to support the development of the programme.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that 'Give us a Break!' be made available to schools to support young people aged between 10 and 14 years who had experienced bereavement, loss and major negative changes in their lives; and
- (2) that 'Give us a Break!' be made available to interested parties outwith the Council at a cost of £200 per copy to cover the costs of producing the pack and associated training requirements.

8 National Parent Forum

A report dated 14 December 2009 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the establishment of a National Parent Forum by the Scottish Government.

The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 introduced a change in parental representation through the establishment of Parent Councils and there were now 143 schools in South Lanarkshire with Parent Councils.

In 2008, the Scottish Government had commissioned a research survey to obtain the views of the newly formed Parent Councils and other relevant organisations on the establishment of a national representative body for Parent Councils and the role and remit that a national body might take. 79% of those who expressed a view were in favour of the establishment of a national body.

In June 2009, the National Parent Forum had been established. Education Resources, through the Council's website and the Parents as Partners Newsletter, had invited expressions of interest from parents to be nominated to sit on the Forum. 1 nomination had been received from Stonelaw High School Parent Council for their Parent Member, Mr John Rice.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the establishment of the National Parent Forum by the Scottish Government be noted; and
- (2) that Mr John Rice from Stonelaw High School Parent Council be approved as the Council's representative on the National Parent Forum.

9 'More Choice, More Chances' - Summary Progress Report

A joint report dated 18 December 2009 by the Executive Directors (Education Resources) and (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on:-

- ♦ the outcome of the School Leaver Destination Rate 2008/2009 report
- ♦ the progress being made in implementing actions in support of the 'More Choices, More Chances' (MCMC) agenda

MCMC was the Government strategy aimed at reducing the number of young people aged from 16 to 19 years not in education, employment or training (NEET). The 16+ Learning Choices model was the key driver for delivering the strategy. The Council had established an inclusive MCMC partnership structure led by Enterprise Resources which was responsible for implementing 16+ Learning Choices in South Lanarkshire. Following the submission of a proposal from the South Lanarkshire MCMC Strategy Group, the Scottish Government had appointed South Lanarkshire Council as 1 of the 21 early implementing local authorities for 16+ Learning Choices in Scotland.

An overview was provided on the School Leaver Destination Rates for 2008/2009 and the overall South Lanarkshire position and comparator local authority areas used by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIe) and the Scottish Government were detailed in the appendix to the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the overview of the School Leaver Destination Rate 2008/2009 report be noted; and
- (2) that the partnership action to address the needs of young people requiring MCMC be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 19 May 2009 (Paragraph 8)]

10 Arrangements for Mainstream Transport

A report dated 17 December 2009 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the formal Agency Agreement between the Council and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) for the provision of mainstream pupil transport services.

Discussions between the Council and SPT were currently ongoing with a view to extending the existing Agency Agreement until 31 March 2011.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 3 March 2009 (Paragraph 14)]

11 Team Workers (Youth Work Modern Apprenticeships)

A joint report dated 29 December 2009 by the Executive Directors (Education Resources) and (Corporate Resources) was submitted on action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 36(c) because of the timescales involved, by the Executive Directors (Education Resources) and (Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, to:-

- ♦ approve the establishment of 4 temporary posts of Team Worker (Modern Apprentice) on Grade 2, Level 1, SCP 27-33 (£16,497 to £18,048) in Youth Work for 15 months from January 2010
- ♦ authorise the advertisement of the 4 posts, on a restricted basis, to young people who had successfully completed the Youth Work Trainee Programme in 2009

Recent pressures in the economic environment had led to an increase in youth unemployment with the Lanarkshire area experiencing a 45% increase compared to the Scottish average of 39%. Additional funds had been made available by the Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland to promote employment and training opportunities for vulnerable young people including those leaving school.

The H2O Project was due to commence in January 2010 and would deliver programmes of core skills activities in 4 geographical areas throughout South Lanarkshire to young people in the 16+ Learning Choices category. 16+ Learning Choices was a new Government approach which provided every young person aged from 16 to 19 years in Scotland with the entitlement to an 'appropriate offer of learning'.

In order to deliver the H2O Project, there was provision within the Scottish Government funding to establish 4 posts of Team Worker (Modern Apprentice) on a temporary basis for 15 months and, because of the timescales associated with the funding, it was important to put both staff and programme structures in place as soon as possible.

The Committee decided:

that the following action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 36(c) because of the timescales involved, by the Executive Directors (Education Resources) and (Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, be noted:-

- ♦ approval of the establishment of 4 temporary posts of Team Worker (Modern Apprentice) on Grade 2, Level 1, SCP 27-33 (£16,497 to £18,048) in Youth Work for 15 months from January 2010
- ♦ authorisation to advertise the 4 posts, on a restricted basis, to young people who had successfully completed the Youth Work Trainee Programme in 2009

12 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.