

## EDUCATION RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 29 March 2011

### Chair:

Councillor Mary Smith

### Councillors Present:

Alex Allison (Depute), David Baillie, Jackie Burns, John Cairney, Bev Gault, Tommy Gilligan, Bobby Lawson, Eileen Logan, Edward McAvoy, Jim McGuigan, Brian McKenna, Anne Maggs, Alice Marie Mitchell, Alan Scott, Graham Simpson, Hamish Stewart, George Sutherland, Chris Thompson, Sheena Wardhaugh, Pat Watters

### Councillors' Apologies:

Lesley McDonald, Graham Scott, David Watson

### External Members Present:

Terri Connolly, John Hannah

### External Members' Apologies:

Dr Nagy Iskander, David Kerr, Joan Kyle, Linzi Moore, Rev Sarah Ross

### Attending:

#### Corporate Resources

T Slater, Administration Officer

#### Education Resources

L Forde, Executive Director; P Bollen, Headteacher, Trinity High School; D Dickson, Operations Manager; J Gilhooly, Head of Education (Quality); E King, Psychological Services Manager; C Mason, Head of Education (Clydesdale); A Rooney, Head of Education (East Kilbride/Cambuslang/Rutherglen); M Scott, Headteacher, Lanark Primary School; L Sherry, Head of Education (Finance and Personnel)

#### Finance and Information Technology Resources

K Main, Accountant

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### 1 Declaration of Interests

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No interests were declared.

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### 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

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The minutes of the meeting of the Education Resources Committee held on 1 February 2011 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

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### 3 Minutes of Special Meeting

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The minutes of the special meeting of the Education Resources Committee held on 4 February 2011 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

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#### **4 Education Resources - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2010/2011**

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A joint report dated 2 March 2011 by the Chief Executive and the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 18 February 2011 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.

*[Reference: Minutes of 1 February 2011 (Paragraph 3)]*

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#### **5 Education Resources - Capital Budget Monitoring 2010/2011**

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A joint report dated 2 March 2011 by the Chief Executive and the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted advising of progress on Education Resources' capital programme for 2010/2011 and summarising the expenditure position at 18 February 2011.

**The Committee decided:** that the report be noted.

*[Reference: Minutes of 1 February 2011 (Paragraph 4)]*

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#### **6 Education Resources - Workforce Monitoring - December 2010 and January 2011**

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A joint report dated 2 March 2011 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Education Resources for the period December 2010 and January 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 11 December 2010

**The Committee decided:** that the report be noted.

*[Reference: Minutes of 1 February 2011 (Paragraph 5)]*

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#### **7 Examination Results (Post Appeal) 2010**

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A report dated 7 March 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the post appeal examination results for 2010 (Standard Tables and Charts – STACS) which had been released by the Scottish Government.

Information was provided on:-

- ♦ the performance of pupils in SQA examinations on a whole authority basis compared with the same information for schools nationally and within South Lanarkshire Council's Family Benchmarking Group
- ♦ the performance of girls and boys in examinations
- ♦ progression to and performance at Higher level

**The Committee decided:** that the report be noted.

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## **8 Janitorial Service - Proposal to Extend Pilot Scheme**

A joint report dated 11 March 2011 by the Executive Directors (Education Resources), (Community Resources) and (Corporate Resources) was submitted on the proposal to extend the Janitorial Service Pilot Scheme of shared janitorial provision which was delivered by Community Resources on behalf of Education Resources.

Based on the successful Janitorial Service Pilots which had been operating for a number of months, it was now proposed that the Janitorial Service Pilot Scheme be extended to include Chatelherault Primary School sharing with Woodside Primary School and Craigbank Primary School sharing with Robert Smillie Primary School.

The proposed new pilots would run from the end of April/early May 2011 and a period of review would be built in to allow recommendations on adjustments to service delivery to be made if necessary.

Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Allison, moved that the recommendations detailed in the report be approved. Councillor S Wardhaugh, seconded by Councillor Maggs, moved as an amendment that the recommendations detailed in the report be not approved on the grounds that there had been no feedback on the existing Janitorial Service Pilots and no consultation had taken place on the proposed Janitorial Service Pilots. On a vote being taken by a show of hands, 6 members voted for the amendment and 15 for the motion which was declared carried.

**The Committee decided:**

- (1) that the Janitorial Service Pilot Scheme be extended to include Chatelherault Primary School sharing with Woodside Primary School and Craigbank Primary School sharing with Robert Smillie Primary School; and
- (2) that a further report on the outcome of the pilots and any future recommendations on adjustments to service delivery be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

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## **9 British Council - Comenius Regio Partnership Projects**

A report dated 8 March 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on 2 British Council funded Comenius Regio Partnership Projects in which the Council was involved.

The aim of the partnerships was to enhance the European dimension of education by giving educational authorities in different regions the opportunity to work together on one or more topics of mutual interest.

Information was provided on the following 2 projects that the Council had been involved in since 2009:-

- ◆ Increasing Literacy Skills – in partnership with Ringsaker, Norway
- ◆ Creativity to Break Barriers to Achievement – in partnership with Madrid, Spain and the University of the West of Scotland

**The Committee decided:**

- (1) that the positive impact, benefits and opportunity to share good practice that had arisen from the international links established through the British Council funded Comenius Regio Partnership Projects be noted; and
- (2) that Education Resources continue its involvement with this initiative to help establish additional future partnerships.

*Councillor Watters left and re-entered the meeting during this item of business*

*Councillor B McKenna left the meeting during this item of business*

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## **10 McCormac Review of Teacher Employment in Scotland - 'Call for Evidence'**

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A report dated 21 March 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the 'Call for Evidence' from the McCormac Committee which had been set up by the Scottish Government to conduct a review of teacher employment in Scotland.

Current salaries and conditions of service for teachers had been established following the publication of 'A Teaching Profession for the 21st Century' in 2001. Following on from the 2010 spending review agreement between the Scottish Government and COSLA which included an agreement to have an independent review of all aspects of the terms and conditions of Scotland's teachers, Professor Gerry McCormac had been asked to chair the review.

Information was provided on the scope of the review together with the specific issues that the 'Call for Evidence', issued on 23 February 2011, was designed to gather views on.

It was proposed that, in view of the timescales involved, the Executive Director (Education Resources), in consultation with the Chair and Depute Chair of the Education Resources Committee, be authorised to agree a response to the 'Call for Evidence' from the McCormac Committee to allow it to be submitted by the closing date of 21 April 2011.

**The Committee decided:**

- (1) that, in view of the timescales involved, the Executive Director (Education Resources), in consultation with the Chair and Depute Chair of the Education Resources Committee, be authorised to agree a response to the 'Call for Evidence' from the McCormac Committee and submit it by the closing date of 21 April 2011; and
- (2) that a report on the response be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee for noting.

*Councillor B McKenna re-entered the meeting during this item of business*

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## **11 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) - Evaluation of the Educational Psychology Service**

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A report dated 9 March 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education's (HMIE) evaluation of the effectiveness of the Educational Psychology Service.

The report highlighted:-

- ◆ the key strengths and examples of good practice within the Service
- ◆ proposed follow-up action to continue to build on the Service's high performance

HMIE had intimated that, as a result of the Service's high performance and its very good understanding of its strengths and areas for improvement, they would make no further visits in connection with this inspection.

The Educational Psychology Service had also received a COSLA Excellence Award for Best Team for its work in supporting children and families through the 'Give us a Break!' programme. This was further evidence of the Service's commitment to making a difference in improving the life chances of children, young people and families.

It was proposed that arrangements be made to share the excellent practice found in terms of improving the life chances of children and young people, their families and carers through the dissemination of the report 'Educational Psychology in Scotland: Making a Difference'.

The Chair introduced the members of the Educational Psychology Service team and, on behalf of the members of the Committee, praised the work of the team and the outstanding leadership provided by the Psychological Services Manager.

Councillor Watters further praised the achievements of the Educational Psychology Service team on winning the COSLA Excellence Award for Best Team and presented the award to the Psychological Services Manager.

### **The Committee decided:**

- (1) that the positive outcome of the HMIE evaluation of the effectiveness of Educational Psychology Service be noted;
- (2) that the success of South Lanarkshire's Educational Psychology Service in achieving the Best Team award at the 2011 COSLA awards be noted; and
- (3) that arrangements be made to share the excellent practice found in terms of improving the life chances of children, young people and families.

*[Reference: Minutes of 19 January 2010 (Paragraph 7)]*

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## **12 Urgent Business**

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There were no items of urgent business.