

EDUCATION RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 9 November 2010

Chair:

Councillor Mary Smith

Councillors Present:

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

Councillors' Apologies:

David Baillie, Tommy Gilligan, Bobby Lawson, Edward McAvoy, Graham Simpson

External Members Present:

Terri Connolly, David Kerr, Linzi Moore, Rev Sarah Ross

External Members' Apologies:

John Hannah, Dr Nagy Iskander, Joan Kyle

Attending:

Corporate Resources

T Slater, Administration Officer

Education Resources

L Forde, Executive Director; A Batchelor, Head of Education (Inclusion); D Dickson, Operations Manager; J Gilhooly, Head of Education (Quality); L Sherry, Head of Education (Finance and Personnel)

Finance and Information Technology Resources

K Main, Accountant

Also Attending:

S Toms, Cultural Co-ordinator (East Kilbride/Strathaven); K White, Cultural Co-ordinator (Clydesdale)

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 31 August 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 13 October 2010 by the Chief Executive and Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted advising of progress on Education Resources' capital programme for 2010/2011 and summarising the expenditure position at 1 October 2010.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

4 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2010/2011 - Education Resources

A joint report dated 13 October 2010 by the Chief Executive and Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 1 October 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 - July to September 2010

A joint report dated 13 October 2010 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Education Resources for the period July to September 2010:-

- ◆ 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 June 2010

It was noted that, in Appendix 3 to the report, the headings of the rows at the bottom of each table entitled "non teachers" and "teachers" should be reversed.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 31 August 2010 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Education Resources' Resource Plan 2010/2011 - Quarter 2 Progress Report

A report dated 19 October 2010 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Education Resources' Resource Plan 2010/2011. Details were provided on progress made at the end of quarter 2, covering the period 1 April to 30 September 2010, in implementing the priority projects identified in the Resource Plan.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 June 2010 (Paragraph 4)]

7 Education Resources - Statutory Performance Indicators - 5 Year Comparison 2005/2006 to 2009/2010

A joint report dated 12 October 2010 by the Chief Executive and Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Education Resources' Statutory Performance Indicators for the financial year 2009/2010. Comparisons and explanations, where appropriate, were provided for the 5 year period covering 2005/2006 to 2009/2010.

The Committee decided: that Education Resources' Statutory Performance Indicators for 2009/2010 be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 27 October 2009 (Paragraph 7) and Executive Committee of 3 November 2010 (Paragraph 14)]

8 School Inspection Framework Review - Public Consultation

A report dated 19 October 2010 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the public consultation on proposals for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIe) school inspection framework.

The consultation document cited a number of aspirations which included:-

- ◆ the need for HMIe to review the inspection framework regularly to ensure that it remained up to date
- ◆ deciding how to select schools for inspection in the future
- ◆ ensuring that inspection was seen as a positive, partnership experience
- ◆ ensuring that the principles set out in the government's response to the Crerar Review in 2007 were supported

Information was provided on proposals for the school inspection framework and the scope of the consultation which would run until 17 December 2010. Following an analysis of the responses, HMIe intended to introduce a pilot inspection framework during the summer term of 2011, with full implementation from September 2011.

To allow the Council's response to be submitted to HMIe by the closing date of 17 December 2010, it was proposed that the Executive Director (Education Resources), in consultation with the Chair and Depute Chair, be authorised to develop and submit the Council's response to HMIe.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Executive Director (Education Resources), in consultation with the Chair and Depute Chair, be authorised to develop and submit the Council's response to the HMIe consultation on proposals for the HMIe school inspection framework by the closing date of 17 December 2010; and
- (2) that a report on the consultation response be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Watters left the meeting during this item of business

9 Implementation of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009

A report dated 18 October 2010 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the commencement of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009 (2009 Act) and the proposed arrangements for the implementation of the 2009 Act in South Lanarkshire.

The 2009 Act, which strengthened the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 (2004 Act), would commence on 14 November 2010. Details were provided on the provisions of the 2009 Act and the main changes to the 2004 Act in Appendix 1 to the report.

The arrangements for the implementation of the 2009 Act included:-

- ◆ the revision of Operating Procedure A28 – Additional Support for Learning – information and guidance
- ◆ the revision, printing and distribution of information leaflets for parents and young people
- ◆ preparation and planning of a training programme to support staff in the implementation of the 2009 Act
- ◆ updating the Council's website
- ◆ liaison with Social Work Resources and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration to ensure information regarding looked after children was accurate
- ◆ consideration of the implications of the 2009 Act in respect of placing requests
- ◆ the re-issue of the Future Planning Protocol to educational establishments and other appropriate agencies

The Committee decided: that the arrangements, as detailed in the report, for the implementation of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009 be approved.

10 School Holiday Dates for Session 2011/2012

A report dated 19 October 2010 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on proposed holiday arrangements for schools in South Lanarkshire for session 2011/2012. Neighbouring education authorities, all teachers, trades 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 Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 August 2011. The remaining 3 dates would be determined locally in consultation with schools, learning communities and trades unions.

The Committee decided: that the following school holidays for session 2011/2012 be approved:-

		Date of Attendance
First Term	Teachers return	Monday 15 August 2011
	Pupils return	Wednesday 17 August 2011
Local Holiday	Close on	Thursday 22 September 2011
	Re-open	Tuesday 27 September 2011
Mid Term	Close on	Friday 14 October 2011
	Re-open	Monday 24 October 2011
Christmas	Close on	Wednesday 21 December 2011

Second Term	Re-open	Monday 9 January 2012
February break	Close on Re-open	Friday 10 February 2012 Wednesday 15 February 2012
Third Term		
Easter/Spring break	Close on Re-open	Friday 30 March 2012 Monday 16 April 2012
(Good Friday 6 April 2012 and Easter Monday 9 April 2012)		
Local Holiday	Closed	Monday 7 May 2012
Local Holiday*	Close on Re-open	Thursday 31 May 2012 Wednesday 6 June 2012
*Lanark schools to observe 7 and 8 June 2012 (Lanimers) Additional bank holiday on 5 June 2012 (Queen's Diamond Jubilee)		
Summer	Close on	Thursday 28 June 2012
Working days for Teachers		194
Proposed date for teachers return		Monday 13 August 2012
Pupils return		Wednesday 15 August 2012

11 Community Learning and Development Strategy 2010 to 2014

A report dated 19 October 2010 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the Community Learning and Development Strategy 2010 to 2014.

The Strategy, which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report, addressed the following 3 national priorities:-

- ♦ achievement through learning for adults
- ♦ achievement through learning for young people
- ♦ achievement through building community capacity

Details were provided on the consultation process undertaken on the draft Strategy. Information was also provided on the key achievements during the 2007 to 2010 Strategy.

The Strategy would be delivered within existing resources of partner agencies and, where appropriate, external funding sources would be identified to enhance the provision.

The Committee recommended to the Executive Committee: that the Community Learning and Development Strategy 2010 to 2014 be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 18 September 2007 (Paragraph 7) and Executive Committee of 10 October 2007 (Paragraph 14)]

12 Engaging Children and Young People in Cultural Activities

A report dated 21 October 2010 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the educational benefits of engaging children and young people in cultural activities.

Scottish Screen and the Scottish Arts Council had invited local authorities to participate in the Creative Identities Programme. This was an 18 month pilot programme, funded through Cashback for Communities, which used arts and moving image media to provide creative learning activities for young people.

In South Lanarkshire, the project was primarily targeted at a range of looked after young people and young carers aged between 10 and 19 years and was delivered jointly by the Cultural Co-ordinator Team and South Lanarkshire's Young Carers Service.

Information on the numbers of young people who had participated in the programme, the range of activities that they had engaged in and evaluative comments made by those young people on the educational benefits gained through their participation in the programme was provided in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Chair, on behalf of the members of the Committee, praised the support provided by the Cultural Co-ordinator Team and South Lanarkshire's Young Carers Service to those participating in the programme.

The Committee decided: that the educational benefits for children and young people gained through their involvement in cultural activities such as the Creative Identities Programme be noted.

13 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Chair's Closing Remarks

The Chair congratulated the pupil from Cathkin Community Nursery who had been selected as one of 21 finalists, from 1,000 entries, in the National Galleries on the Mound competition.