

EDUCATION RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 13 September 2011

Chair:

Councillor Mary Smith

Councillors Present:

Alex Allison (Depute), David Baillie, Jackie Burns, John Cairney, Bev Gauld, Tommy Gilligan, Bobby Lawson, Eileen Logan, Anne Maggs, Lesley McDonald, Brian McKenna, Alice Marie Mitchell, Alan Scott, Graham Scott, Graham Simpson, George Sutherland, Chris Thompson, Sheena Wardhaugh

Councillors' Apologies:

Edward McAvoy, Jim McGuigan, Hamish Stewart, David Watson, Pat Watters

External Members Present:

Terri Connolly, John Hannah

External Members' Apologies:

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

Attending:**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 (Curriculum and Quality); I MacDougall, Head of Education (Hamilton, Larkhall and Uddingston); A Rooney, Head of Education (East Kilbride); L Sherry, Head of Education (Finance);

Finance and Corporate Resources

G Booth, Accountant; J McDonald, Administration Adviser

Chair's Remarks

The Chair, on behalf of the members of the Committee, welcomed Liz Mercer, Donna Derby-Hurst, Margaret Scott, Caroline Mulvey and Christine Emmett to the meeting and congratulated them on their success at the Scottish Education Awards ceremony held in June 2011.

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 14 June 2011 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Education Resources - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2011/2012

A joint report dated 16 August 2011 by the Chief Executive and Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 5 August 2011 against budgeted expenditure for 2011/2012 for the various services within Education Resources.

Details were provided on proposed budget virements to realign budgets.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the breakeven position on the Education Resources' revenue budget and the forecast to 31 March 2012 of a breakeven position be noted; and
- (2) that the budget virements, as detailed in the appendices to the report, be approved.

4 Education Resources - Capital Budget Monitoring 2011/2012

A joint report dated 16 August 2011 by the Chief Executive and Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted advising of progress on Education Resources' capital programme 2011/2012 and summarising the expenditure position at 5 August 2011.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

5 Education Resources - Workforce Monitoring - May to July 2011

A joint report dated 19 August 2011 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Education Resources for the period May to July 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 June 2011

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 14 June 2011 (Paragraph 3)]

6 Validated Assisted Self-Evaluation (VSE)

A report dated 23 August 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of the work undertaken in partnership with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) with the Validated Assisted Self-Evaluation (VSE) of the effectiveness of South Lanarkshire Council's education functions.

Education Resources staff, with HMIE officers, undertook the VSE in February and March 2011. A full copy of the VSE report was attached as an appendix to the report and highlighted strengths in outcomes for learners and families as well as areas for further improvement. The 3 key methods of improvement would be to:-

- ◆ build on the learning community model as the key mechanism in providing consistently high quality, integrated working across establishments and services
- ◆ identify and share best practice, for example, in supporting vulnerable young people, and ensure that establishments, learning communities and services were more consistent in using that best practice to support improvement
- ◆ ensure that the culture, approach and impact of self-evaluation for improvement within all establishments and services was more consistent

It was proposed that 4 action planning groups be formed within Education Resources to include employees and partners to further support improvement in the areas identified above. All of the areas for improvement would be included in the Education Resources' Resource Plan and reported on as part of the Resource Plan monitoring and reporting arrangements.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the outcomes of the Validated Assisted Self-Evaluation activity with HMle, as detailed in the appendix to the report, be noted; and
- (2) that a detailed action plan to address the areas identified for improvement be prepared.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 February 2011 (Paragraph 6)]

7 School Holiday Dates for Session 2012/2013

A report dated 22 August 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on proposed holiday arrangements for schools in South Lanarkshire for session 2012/2013. Neighbouring education authorities, all teachers, trades unions and parent councils had been consulted on the proposals.

The Committee decided: that the following school holidays for session 2012/2013 be approved:-

		Date of Attendance
First Term	Teachers return	Monday 13 August 2012
	Pupils return	Wednesday 15 August 2012
September	Close on	Thursday 20 September 2012
Weekend	Re-open	Tuesday 25 September 2012
October Break	Close on	Friday 12 October 2012
	Re-open	Monday 22 October 2012
Christmas	Close on	Friday 21 December 2012
Second Term	Re-open	Monday 7 January 2013
February break	Close on	Friday 8 February 2013
	Re-open	Wednesday 13 February 2013
Third Term		
Easter/Spring break	Close on	Thursday 28 March 2013
	Re-open	Monday 15 April 2013
 (Good Friday falls on Friday 29 March 2013)		
Local Holiday	Closed	Monday 6 May 2013

Local Holiday*	Close on Re-open	Date of Attendance Thursday 23 May 2013 Tuesday 28 May 2013
*Lanark schools to observe 6 and 7 June 2013 (Lanimers)		
Summer	Close on	Wednesday 26 June 2013
	Working days for Teachers	195
	Proposed date for teachers return (Subject to consultation)	Monday 12 August 2013
	Pupils return	Wednesday 14 August 2013

8 Champion for Change - Anti-Sectarianism

A report dated 22 August 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the opportunity for schools to take part in the Champion for Change award scheme for young people which was aimed at challenging sectarianism.

Champion for Change, organised by the charity Nil by Mouth, was an accreditation for schools in Scotland who could demonstrate excellent practice in challenging sectarianism. To achieve accreditation, employees, parents and young people in denominational and non-denominational schools had to work together to make a difference towards eradicating sectarianism.

The scheme was to be launched in October 2011 and it was proposed that a showcase event be held on 12 October 2011 in Stonelaw High School, Rutherglen. This event would involve schools from across the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area and representatives from the Larkhall Learning Community, reflecting their long history of work in this field. Nil by Mouth would also invite a speaker from the Scottish Government to launch the event, along with representatives from other local authorities, interested stakeholders and partner organisations.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the launch of Champion for Change on 12 October 2011 in Stonelaw High School, Rutherglen be noted; and
- (2) that the Champion for Change award scheme be promoted within South Lanarkshire schools and services.

9 Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2011 to 2014

A report dated 22 August 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the Adult Literacy and Numeracy (ALN) Strategy 2011 to 2014.

A consultation exercise, involving numerous partner organisations and other stakeholders, had been undertaken on the draft ALN Strategy 2011 to 2014. Comments received in the course of the consultation had been included in the finalised Strategy where appropriate.

The new Strategy would address the Scottish Government's Literacy Action Plan which had established Scotland's overarching vision for all learners.

The main aims of the South Lanarkshire ALN Strategy for 2011 to 2014, attached as an appendix to the report, were to:-

- ◆ raise awareness of Adult Literacy and Numeracy provision and ensure the best possible match between learner needs and high quality provision, supporting learning and progression
- ◆ improve collaboration and co-ordination by identifying and developing opportunities for local partnerships and initiatives supporting increased inter and intra sector working
- ◆ raise awareness of local developments which could be used as national models of good practice
- ◆ continue to develop a shared approach by partners to recording, monitoring and evaluating impact and outcomes

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the outcome of the consultation on the draft Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2011 to 2014 be noted; and
- (2) that the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy for 2011 to 2014 be approved.

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

10 Notification of Contracts Awarded and Tendering for Mainstream Secondary Transport

A report dated 26 July 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ contracts awarded by Education Resources in the period 1 April to 31 August 2011
- ◆ the introduction of a requirement for seatbelts on secondary school mainstream transport contracts

In terms of Standing Order No 20.7 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 in the period 1 April to 31 August 2011 were provided in the appendix to the report.

The Council operated a transport policy of single deck vehicles with seatbelts for all primary school contracts. While the policy for secondary schools met legislative requirements, it did not require contractors to provide buses with seatbelts. It was now proposed that the specification for mainstream secondary school contracts be changed to include a requirement for seatbelts, except where the home to school transport was provided on a service bus. This change would be introduced as mainstream contracts became due for renewal.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the details of the contracts awarded by Education Resources during the period 1 April to 31 August 2011, as detailed in the appendix to the report, be noted; and
- (2) that, as the contracts became due for renewal, the tender specification for mainstream secondary school contracts be changed to include a requirement for seatbelts, except where the home to school transport was provided on a service bus.

11 Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers - Pay and Conditions Agreement 2011

A joint report dated 25 August 2011 by the Executive Directors (Education Resources) and (Corporate Resources) was submitted on the revised national terms and conditions for teachers that would come into force during 2011/2012 following agreement reached by the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT).

The SNCT had agreed a series of changes to teachers' terms and conditions of employment which affected the following areas:-

- ◆ pay agreement 2011 to 2013
- ◆ conservation arrangements for promoted post holders appointed prior to April 2001
- ◆ Chartered Teacher Scheme
- ◆ National Teacher Induction Scheme
- ◆ supply teachers' pay
- ◆ annual leave

A briefing note in relation to the revised teachers' terms and conditions of employment had been issued to all schools. Further briefing notes would be issued when required as more information became available from the SNCT.

The Committee decided: that the revised national terms and conditions for teachers be noted.

12 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) - Response to School Inspection Framework Review

A report dated 23 August 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of the public consultation on the proposals for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) school inspection framework.

The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000 set out the national agenda for education and provided an improvement framework for Scottish education, part of which was a planned programme of school inspections. In September 2010, HMIE (now renamed as Education Scotland) had announced its intention to undertake a planned consultation on proposals for the HMIE school inspection framework. Following the completion of this consultation, a number of changes had been announced to the current inspection model as follows:-

- ◆ better use to be made of information on schools and centres to ensure inspections were better targeted
- ◆ a reduction in the national inspection sample by one third, covering both small and large schools
- ◆ use of an annual risk assessment process to identify any additional schools that should be added to the national inspection sample
- ◆ a move away from the method of concentrating on 4 subject departments, instead, observations would be spread more widely across a school
- ◆ reduction in the period of notice given prior to the inspection of a school to 2 weeks
- ◆ increased involvement of employees and parents in the inspection process
- ◆ sharing evidence with school employees and the Chair of the Parent Council using password protection arrangements
- ◆ arranging for the use of clearer, web-based reports in the style of letters to parents, providing a small number of paper copies to schools whose parents were unable to access the information online

This new model had been implemented at the start of August 2011. Guidance for all educational sectors covered by the framework had been made available by HMle. The challenges facing Education Resources, based on the revised approach, were detailed.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

13 International Children's Games - Education Legacy Activity

A joint report dated 17 August 2011 by the Executive Directors (Education Resources) and (Community Resources) was submitted on the:-

- ◆ 45th International Children's Games which had been jointly hosted by North and South Lanarkshire Councils in August 2011
- ◆ legacy projects which would be used to encourage young people in schools and youth learning to get active

Details were provided on the success of the Games, the achievements of Team Lanarkshire and the contribution made by partners and volunteers in the delivery of the event. Reference was also made to the significant benefit to the local economy as a result of the Games being staged in Lanarkshire.

In addition, details were provided on the legacy projects which included a tile mural in the family centre in Burnbank and the "Messages and Ginger" booklet which promoted the Scots language.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

14 Celebrating Success - Scottish Education Awards

A report dated 22 August 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the success of the following in achieving gold awards at the Scottish Education Awards in June 2011:-

- ◆ Cathkin Community Nursery – Partnership for Learning
- ◆ Lanark Primary School – Active Nation
- ◆ Christine Emmett, St Elizabeth's Primary School – Teacher of the Year

The Committee decided: that the awards gained at the Scottish Education Awards in June 2011 be noted.

15 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.