

EDUCATION RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 22 November 2011

Chair:

Councillor Mary Smith

Councillors Present:

Alex Allison (Depute), David Baillie, Bev Gauld, Bobby Lawson, Eileen Logan, Lesley McDonald, Jim McGuigan, Brian McKenna, Anne Maggs, Alice Marie Mitchell, Alan Scott, Graham Scott, Graham Simpson, Hamish Stewart, George Sutherland, Chris Thompson, Sheena Wardhaugh, David Watson

Councillors' Apologies:

Jackie Burns, John Cairney, Edward McAvoy, Pat Watters

External Members Present:

Terri Connolly, David Kerr, Rev Sarah Ross

External Members' Apologies:

John Hannah, Dr Nagy Iskander, Joan Kyle, Linzi Moore

Attending:

Education Resources

L Forde, Executive Director; A Batchelor, Head of Education (Inclusion); D Dickson, Operations Manager; S Fellows, Head of Education (Resources); R Gallacher, Youth Learning Manager; J Gilhooly, Head of Education (Curriculum and Quality); D Hinshelwood, Support Services Manager; A M Knowles, Quality Manager; T McDade, Headteacher, Calderglen High School; L Sherry, Head of Education (Finance and Personnel)

Finance and Corporate Resources

A Murray, Finance Adviser; S Somerville, Administration Adviser

Chair's Remarks

The Chair referred to the success of Christine Emmett, a teacher at St Elizabeth's Primary School, Hamilton in winning the UK Teacher of the Year award and, on behalf of the members of the Committee, congratulated her on the achievement.

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 13 September 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 13 October 2011 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 30 September 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.

[Reference: Minutes of 13 September 2011 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Education Resources - Capital Budget Monitoring 2011/2012

A joint report dated 13 October 2011 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted advising of progress on Education Resources' capital programme 2011/2012 and summarising the expenditure position at 30 September 2011.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 13 September 2011 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Education Resources - Workforce Monitoring - August and September 2011

A joint report dated 19 October 2011 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Education Resources for the period August and September 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 10 September 2011

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 13 September 2011 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Education Resources' Resource Plan 2011/2012 - Quarter 2 Progress Report

A report dated 2 November 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Education Resources' Resource Plan 2011/2012. Details were provided on progress made at the end of quarter 2, covering the period 1 April to 30 September 2011, in implementing the priority projects identified in the Resource Plan.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of Executive Committee of 6 July 2011 (Paragraph 16)]

7 Education Resources' Risk Register and Control Plan

A report dated 27 October 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the systems and controls in place within Education Resources to control risks.

The Resource had followed the Council guidance in developing, monitoring and updating its Risk Control Register on an ongoing basis. The Register had been developed to ensure that the Resource was fully aware of the main risks that it had, was able to prioritise those risks and had controls in place to eliminate or minimise the impact of the risk.

The risks were scored in accordance with the Council's scoring mechanism which scored risks based on likelihood and impact of risk. This resulted in risks being scored between 1 to 9 (low to high). Risks were scored on their inherent risk (risk if nothing was done) and their residual risk (risk after applying controls).

A copy of the Education Resources' Risk Register and Control Plan was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

In addition, details were provided on a working group structure involving the establishment of a Resource Risk and Emergency Planning Group which would also encompass Business Continuity Planning to ensure better co-ordination of risk management. In light of the legislative requirements and operational workload around health and safety, a separate Resource Health and Safety Group would be retained.

The Committee decided: that the system and controls in place to monitor risks within Education Resources be noted.

8 Information Communications Technology (ICT) Leasing Pilot - Calderglen High School, East Kilbride

A report dated 3 November 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on a pilot project to lease Information Communications Technology (ICT) equipment to pupils in Calderglen High School, East Kilbride.

In September 2011, the 'Technologies for Learning Strategy' had been launched with 5 main objectives. The first objective was to change the culture of the use of ICT by encouraging close alignment in the use of ICT in schools with the use of technology outside of schools. It was, therefore, proposed that a pilot project be introduced at Calderglen High School, East Kilbride to enable pupils to lease net books for a 2-year period. After the 2-year lease period, the pupil would have the option to purchase the device for a nominal fee. Pupils who chose not to be part of the pilot would have no diminution in service as they would continue to have access to ICT facilities in the school.

The e-Learning Foundation, which was a charity funded by Gift Aid from parental donations, would administer the collection of donations from parents.

An evaluation of the pilot would be carried out throughout the 2-year period. However, after an interim evaluation period of 6 months, consideration would be given to the lease programme being rolled out to other Learning Communities.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the lease of ICT equipment be piloted with pupils in Calderglen High School, East Kilbride in session 2011/2012; and
- (2) that, if the pilot at Calderglen High School evaluated positively after the initial 6-month period, consideration be given to the lease programme being rolled out to other Learning Communities.

9 South Lanarkshire Council English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Strategy 2011 to 2014

A report dated 31 October 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of a consultation on the draft South Lanarkshire Council English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Strategy 2011 to 2014.

ESOL provision was an important part of supporting migrant workers and settled minority ethnic communities in South Lanarkshire to function in all aspects of their lives. In drafting the Strategy, the Community Learning and Development Partnership had consulted with learners and learning providers to find out the best ways in which to address the ESOL needs of migrant workers and settled minority ethnic communities in South Lanarkshire.

The South Lanarkshire ESOL Strategy would:-

- ◆ raise awareness of ESOL 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 the goal of increased inter and intra sector co-operation
- ◆ raise awareness of local developments which could be used as national models of good practice

A copy of the Strategy was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the outcome of the consultation on the draft ESOL Strategy 2011 to 2014 be noted; and
- (2) that the ESOL Strategy 2011 to 2014 be approved and arrangements made to publish and distribute it widely within the area.

10 Link Community Development Global Teachers' Programme (GTP)

A report dated 26 October 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on a proposed partnership between the Council's Education Resources and Link Community Development (LCD) Scotland to develop international education and global citizenship.

LCD Scotland had invited the Council to participate in the first year of its re-launched Global Teachers' Programme (GTP). The GTP offered an international, professional development experience for Scottish and African school teachers and managers which might result in accreditation through the General Teaching Council for Scotland.

It was, therefore, proposed that Education Resources participate in a pilot to offer primary school teachers the opportunity of living and working in a different cultural environment to further develop their knowledge and skills in international education and citizenship as part of an enhanced Continuous Professional Development experience.

An information event for teachers would be held to outline the expectations and practicalities of the pilot and a selection process would be undertaken to identify teachers for the programme. The Quality Manager confirmed that funding was available through LCD Scotland and the Wood Family Trust to fund participation in the partnership programme.

The Committee decided: that the invitation from Link Community Development (LCD) Scotland to participate in the first pilot of a partnership proposal to develop international education and global citizenship be accepted.

11 Curriculum for Excellence - Progress Update

A report dated 2 November 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted providing an update on the:-

- ◆ national position in relation to the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)
- ◆ progress being made in South Lanarkshire in implementing CfE

All educational establishments had a detailed plan outlining their approach to implementation. In addition, the plan highlighted particular areas where progress was required and set target dates for progress with implementation of CfE. Details of progress and future developments were provided in the report.

The Committee decided: that the progress towards implementation of Curriculum for Excellence and the actions taken to further support its introduction in South Lanarkshire be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 31 August 2010 (Paragraph 7)]

Councillor McGuigan left the meeting after this item of business

12 Advancing Professionalism in Teaching - The Report of the Review of Teacher Employment in Scotland

A report dated 2 November 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the key findings and recommendations of the Report of the Review of Teacher Employment in Scotland by Professor Gerry McCormac.

The 2010 Spending Review Agreement had included an agreement to review the terms and conditions of employment for teachers and associated professionals. A review group, chaired by Professor McCormac, had been established to consider evidence and make recommendations on the future terms and conditions of teachers' employment which would secure improved education outcomes for children and young people. The McCormac Committee had concluded that the terms and conditions of teachers needed to:-

- ◆ build the capacity of the profession to improve outcomes for learners
- ◆ strengthen the quality of teaching and leadership
- ◆ promote collegiality and partnership working, not just with other teachers but with all those who might assist young people's growth and learning

- ◆ enable necessary efficiency and flexibility
- ◆ embed a culture of self-evaluation and improvement based on the impact on young people's learning

The McCormac Review of Teacher Employment in Scotland, published in September 2011, had made 34 recommendations and details of those were included in Appendix 1 to the report.

A further report would be submitted to Committee following the conclusion of negotiations with the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers on the recommendations which, it was anticipated, would be ready for implementation by the start of the school term in August 2012.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 14 June 2011 (Paragraph 8)]

13 Youth Learning Services Update

A report dated 2 November 2011 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the ongoing work of Youth Learning Services and the successes and achievements of young people and employees.

A wide range of programmes and projects had been established over the years to support young people by offering an alternative provision to suit their needs, abilities and interests. An update was provided on the following initiatives and full details of key achievements and awards gained were included in the appendices to the report:-

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ◆ Young People Debate | ◆ Douglas Universal Connections |
| ◆ 'Ditch a Knife, Save a Life' | ◆ Alcohol and Drug Partnership |
| ◆ Core Connex Dharma Island | ◆ Youth Work Traineeship |
| ◆ International Children's Games | ◆ Youth Link Awards |
| ◆ CO3 | ◆ Scottish Youth Parliament |
| ◆ Sportworx | ◆ Volunteering |
| ◆ South Lanarkshire Youth Council | ◆ 'UC What We've Got' |
| ◆ The Street 2 | |

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

Councillor Thompson left the meeting during this item of business

14 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.