

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee: 14 March 2012

Subject: Parent Membership of Education and Lifelong Learning Committee from May 2012

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To ask Committee to approve arrangements for the means by which parent members will be selected for the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee to serve from May 2012.

2. Background

- 2.1** At the meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee on 12 May 2010 Committee agreed;

- “(1) that one parent member of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee should be chosen from the Parental Involvement Strategy Group and the other should be chosen by election from the chairs of Parent Councils; and
- (2) to instruct officers to seek a nomination for one parent member from the Parental Involvement Strategy Group and to seek a nomination and organise an election for one parent member from the chairs of Parent Councils with both parent members serving on the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee from September 2010 until May 2012.”

- 2.2** Having followed the above procedures, George Hill and Lynsay Spence were chosen to represent parents on the committee, although Ms Spence subsequently resigned.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** In advance of the local government elections in May 2012, it is now appropriate for the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee to determine whether there

should be parental representation on the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee (or on any committee which might succeed following the election). If members decide that there should be parental representation, then the methods by which parents should be chosen should also be determined.

- 3.2 The presence of parents on the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee since September 2010 has added an additional dimension to the committee. It has been useful for the committee to be aware of parental opinions on the issues discussed.
- 3.3 It would therefore seem appropriate that parents should continue to be represented on the committee from May 2012 onwards.
- 3.4 The method previously chosen for the selection of parents is straightforward and transparent and could easily be replicated for the new committee.

4. People Implications

There are no personnel issues arising from this report.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The cost of organising an election would be small and would be covered from within existing budgets within Educational Services.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1 The only risk identified would be that no nominees would be forthcoming for parental representation on the committee. However, since there is no legal requirement to have parent representatives on a council's Education Committee, the risks associated are minimal.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 7.1 No significant equalities issues were identified in relation to this report.

8. Strategic Assessment

- 8.1** Having parents represented on the Education Committee should mean that Education policies are subject to additional levels of scrutiny. This should help the Council to deliver fit for purpose education services.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 9.1** Having parent representatives on the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee has worked well and has added an additional dimension to the work of the committee.
- 9.2** The methods previously chosen for selecting parent members were transparent and simple to administer.
- 9.3** It is therefore recommended that
- (1) There should be 2 parent members on the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee, or whatever committee deals with educational matters after the Local Government Elections, from May 2012;
 - (2) That 1 parent member of the committee should be chosen from the Parental Involvement Strategy Group and the other should be chosen by election from the chairs of parent councils; and
 - (3) A nomination should be sought for 1 parent member from the Parental Involvement Strategy Group and an election should be organised for 1 parent member to be chosen from the chairs of the parent councils, with both parent members serving on the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee or its successor committee from May 2012 until the next Local Government Election, subject to annual confirmation of these nominations by the Parental Involvement Strategy Group and the chairs of the parent councils.

Terry Lanagan
Executive Director of Educational Services

Person to Contact: Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services
Department of Educational Services, Council Offices,
Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU
Telephone No. 01389 737301
E-mail: terry.lanagan@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices:

Background Paper: Report on Parent Membership of Education and Lifelong Learning Committee presented to committee on 12 May 2010.

Wards Affected: All wards