

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Education Committee, held in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank on Wednesday, 10 April 2002 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors James Bollan, Geoffrey Calvert, Mary Collins, Anthony Devine, Daniel McCafferty, Ronnie McColl, Ian McDonald, Margaret McGregor, Connie O'Sullivan, John Syme, John Trainer and Mr Ronald Alexander, Miss Ellen McBride, Miss Sheila Rennie and Mrs Janice Wardrop.

Also present: Sharleen Jacobson and Laura White, Pupil Representatives from Kilpatrick School; Angus Macdonald, Head Teacher, Braidfield High School; Lesley Robertson, Head Teacher, Aitkenbar Primary School and Susan Gray, Head of Dalmuir Nursery School.

Attending: Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Bob Cook, Head of Resource Development; Frank Newall, Head of Children's Services; Neil McKechnie, Head of Educational Development; Lynn Townsend, Manager of Special Educational Needs; Alan Douglas, Manager – Best Value and Special Projects and George Hawthorn, Administrative Officer.

Also

Attending: Tommy McKay, Independent Evaluator; Kathy Morrison, Head Teacher, Early Intervention Initiative and Elaine McIlree, Senior Teacher, Kilpatrick School.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Andrew White and Duncan McDonald and Miss Margaret Wallace.

Councillor Margaret McGregor in the Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor McGregor (Convener) welcomed Sharleen Jacobson and Laura White, Pupil Representatives from Kilpatrick School, to the meeting. It was noted that Sharleen and Laura were accompanied by Elaine McIlree, Senior Teacher, Kilpatrick School.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Education Committee held on 13 February 2002 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

Having heard Councillor Calvert, the Committee received an update from the Head of Educational Development on discussions with Clydebank College and other partners in relation to the funding of the Social Inclusion Partnership Project – Learning Works.

The Committee noted the position.

PRESENTATION ON EARLY INTERVENTION

Tommy McKay (Independent Evaluator, in attendance for this item only) gave a presentation on progress being made in respect of the Early Intervention Initiative in West Dunbartonshire and in so doing highlighted the continued success of the Initiative in achieving improved levels of literacy throughout schools in West Dunbartonshire. A leaflet entitled “Raising Achievement in West Dunbartonshire” was circulated to Members for information.

Thereafter, Kathy Morrison, Head Teacher, Early Intervention Initiative, gave a brief presentation on the work of the Home Link Team and in particular the development of an Enrolment Bag to be issued to all Primary One pupils at the start of next school term. The bag, which will contain information leaflets for parents and some writing and reading materials for children, is part of a wider initiative to encourage children to read more books at home with the assistance of their parents, who play a vital role in the learning process.

Having heard both Mr McKay and Ms Morrison in answer to Members’ questions and after discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to thank Mr McKay and Ms Morrison for their excellent presentation;
- (2) to commend the work of all staff and teachers involved in the Early Intervention Initiative;
- (3) to acknowledge the contribution made by volunteers (including sixth year pupils) in the work of the Initiative; and
- (4) to note that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee providing details on the proposed strategy to take the Initiative forward and future funding arrangements.

At this point, Mr McKay left the meeting.

GENERAL TEACHING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND: CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON CODES OF PRACTICE

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services: -

- (a) providing information on the extended role of the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) subsequent to the publication of the Standards in Scotland’s Schools etc. Act 2000; and
- (b) requesting retrospective approval to West Dunbartonshire Council’s official response to the GTCS Consultation on the General Code of Practice and the Code of Practice on the Exercise of the Council’s Disciplinary Functions.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Resource Development in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to grant retrospective approval to the draft responses on the General Code of Practice and the Code of Practice on the exercise of the GTCS Disciplinary Functions, as being West Dunbartonshire Council's formal response to this consultation exercise; and
- (2) to request the Director of Education and Cultural Services to write to the Scottish Executive again, explaining in detail the difficulties being experienced by this Authority as a result of the insufficient time given to respond to consultation documents.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE 1.6 – POLICY ON CONSULTATION

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on the Department's Policy and Procedure Document 1.6 – 'Policy on Consultation'.

The Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

SURPLUS PROPERTY – TIED HOUSE

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services seeking approval to declare surplus to the requirements of the Department, the Janitor's house at St. Mary's Primary School, Beeches Avenue, Duntocher, Clydebank, with the sole purpose of selling the property to the sitting tenant.

Having heard the Director of Education and Cultural Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Janitor's house at St. Mary's Primary School, Beeches Avenue, Duntocher, Clydebank, be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education and Cultural Services Department with the sole purpose of selling the property to the sitting tenant;
- (2) that as a result of these specific circumstances, the normal procedures of offering the property to other Council departments be set aside in this instance; and
- (3) that the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services be authorised to carry out a valuation of St Mary's Primary School House, Beeches Avenue, Duntocher, Clydebank and notify the local Member of the outcome. Thereafter, the sale should be referred to the Head of Legal and Administrative Services to conclude the transaction, subject to any legal conditions as are considered appropriate.

**‘A TEACHING PROFESSION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: MCCRONE
AGREEMENT’ REPORT FROM WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL’S
WORKING GROUP ON SUPPORT STAFF IN SCHOOLS**

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services containing information on:-

- (a) the work of the West Dunbartonshire Council’s Working Group on Support Staff in Schools; and
- (b) the posts created within West Dunbartonshire Council as a result of the McCrone Agreement.

Having heard the Head of Resource Development in answer to Members’ questions, the Committee took the opportunity to commend all the staff and trades unions involved in the implementation of the McCrone Agreement for their co-operation and assistance.

Thereafter, Councillor Calvert, seconded by Councillor Trainer, moved:-

That, in addition to recommendations (a) and (b) of the report, the following recommendation be approved:-

- (c) to instruct the Director of Education and Cultural Services to carry out a review of the grades of all the posts referred to in paragraph 3.4 of the report and that a report on the outcome of the review be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee for consideration.

As an amendment, Councillor McCafferty, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved that the recommendations of the report be approved as follows:-

The Committee agrees:-

- (a) to note the contents of the report; and
- (b) to note that a report on the recommendations of the pilot project will be made to a future meeting of this Committee.

On a vote being taken, 8 Members voted for the amendment and 4 for the motion. The amendment was declared carried.

UPDATE OF CAPITAL & REVENUE BUILDING PROGRAMME 2001/02

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing up-to-date information on the status of Education Capital and Revenue Building Projects within the Education and Cultural Services Department and drawing attention to significant issues or problems with the progress of any particular project.

Having heard the Head of Children's Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that future reports should show the budget variance, stating whether it was adverse or favourable, for each project at the end of each line; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

**DRAFT FRAMEWORK FOR PROFESSIONAL REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT:
WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH
EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION EXERCISE**

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services seeking retrospective approval for West Dunbartonshire Council's draft response to the Scottish Executive's Draft Framework for Professional Review and Development.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to grant retrospective approval to the draft response on the Draft Framework for Professional Review and Development as being this Council's formal response to the consultation exercise; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY: DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services containing information on the Development Plan submitted to the Scottish Executive by 31 January 2002 concerning the additional New Community School grant awarded to West Dunbartonshire Council.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee concerning progress on the New Community Authority approach undertaken by West Dunbartonshire Council and its partner agencies;
- (2) to recommend to Council that the Membership of the New Community Authority Steering Committee be extended to include the Convener of Social Work and Housing Services plus another place to allow for cross party representation; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The meeting closed at 11.40 a.m.