

EDUCATION EXECUTIVE

At a meeting of the Education Executive, held within Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, on Wednesday 13 December 2000 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Andrew White, Daniel McCafferty, Anthony Devine, Duncan McDonald, Connie O'Sullivan and Margaret McGregor; Mr Ronald Alexander, Mrs Barbara Barnes, Miss Ellen McBride, Miss Sheila Rennie and Ms Margaret Wallace.

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Eric Walker, Director of Corporate Services; Stephen Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services; Neil McKechnie, Head of Educational Development; Frank Newall, Head of Children's Services and Bob Cook, Head of Resource Development.

Apologies for absence Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors John Trainer and James Flynn

Councillor Andrew White in the Chair

MEETING OF THE EDUCATION EXECUTIVE HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2000

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 22 November 2000 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

It was noted that one item from that meeting, namely Absence Cover Budgets – Review of Budgetary Requirements, had been called in for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee.

STAFF WELFARE SERVICE FOR TEACHERS

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services containing an account and evaluation of the first 9 months of operation of the Staff Welfare Service for Teachers. Appended to the report was the original report by the Director to the Education Committee of 23 June recommending the set up of the service on a pilot basis and the Evaluation Review by Teachers dated December 2000.

The Education Executive noted the satisfactory results contained in the evaluation review and agreed as follows:-

- (a) that the Staff Welfare Service for Teachers be made permanent;
- (b) that the basis upon which the Staff Welfare Officer for Teachers will be filled be the subject of further consideration involving the Head of Personnel Services;
- (c) that any extension of the Staff Welfare Service be in accordance with the corporate template on Staff Welfare; and

- (d) that a further report be submitted to the Education Executive giving a more detailed analysis on the information contained within the report.

NEW DEAL FOR SCHOOLS - CAPITAL GRANT 2001/2002

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services outlining the Department's proposals for the New Deal for Schools Capital Grant 2001/2002.

The Education Executive noted that in 2000/2001 the Capital Grant had been used to address a range of vital Health and Safety requirements, to effect repairs to the roof of St Patrick's Primary School and to support Phase 3 of the National Grid for Learning in line with the Council's ICT Strategy.

It was noted that the proposals for 2001/2002 required to be forwarded for approval to the Scottish Executive by 31 December 2000.

After discussion, the Committee agreed as follows:

- (a) to approve the spending proposals for projects identified within the Appendix to this minute for funding from the New Deal for Schools Capital Grant for 2001;
- (b) to authorise the Director of Education and Cultural Services to submit these proposals to the Scottish Executive, prior to 31 December 2000 ; and
- (c) that the foregoing delegated powers require to be exercised urgently in accordance with Standing Order 36(c). Accordingly, this decision will not be eligible to be called in for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee.

DRAFT GUIDANCE - STANDARDS IN SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS ETC. ACT 2000 ; GUIDANCE ON SECTION 15 - REQUIREMENT THAT EDUCATION BE PROVIDED IN MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services on his proposed response to the Scottish Executive Draft Guidance - Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000; Guidance on Section 15 - Requirement that Education be provided in Mainstream Schools.

It was noted that the Act introduces a new duty on Education Authorities to provide education in mainstream schools under certain specified circumstances and that this new duty relates principally to children with special educational needs and is consistent with the policy of Inclusion which underpins West Dunbartonshire Council's policy for Special Educational Needs, "Meeting the Challenge : Making the Changes".

After discussion, the Committee:-

- (a) noted that an additional report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee; and
- (b) approved the terms of the response to the Scottish Executive as contained within the report.

DRAFT GUIDANCE - LENGTH OF SCHOOL WEEK IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services on his proposed response to the Scottish Executive Draft Guidance - Length of School Week, Pupils in Special Schools and Units.

After discussion, the Committee approved the terms of the response to the Scottish Executive as contained within the report.

SURPLUS PROPERTY – TIED HOUSE

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services seeking approval to declare the Clydemuir Primary School House, 55A Ottawa Crescent, Dalmuir surplus to requirements with the sole purpose of selling the property to the janitor as sitting tenant.

After discussion, the Education Executive agreed to recommend to the Executive as follows:-

- (a) that the property outlined above 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;
- (b) that, as a result of the specific circumstances, the normal procedures of offering the property to other Council departments be set aside in this instance; and
- (c) that the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services be authorised, in consultation with the appropriate elected member of the Education Executive, to carry out a valuation of 55A Ottawa Crescent, Dalmuir and thereafter to refer the sale to the Head of Legal and Administrative Services to conclude the transaction subject to such legal conditions as are considered appropriate.

The meeting closed at 10.40 a.m.

**SPENDING PROPOSALS FOR NEW DEAL FOR SCHOOLS CAPITAL GRANT
2001/2002**

National Grid for Learning, Phase 4	£250,000
Additional Council finance to augment the funding made available Under Improvement Plan 9 of the Excellence Fund for Schools	
Kilbowie Primary School – Noise Reduction Programme	£ 35,000
Excess noise at Kilbowie Primary School has been a problem since the School was built. An acoustics expert has suggested measures which Will absorb sound and improve the quality of the learning experience for Pupils.	
Braidfield High School – Window Replacement Programme	£150,000
Essential replacement of seriously degraded window frames.	
Our Holy Redeemer Primary School – Roof Repairs	£ 15,000
2 sections of the roof have already been replaced. Replacement of the central portion of the roof will complete the renewal programme and resolve the problems of continued water ingress.	
Vale of Leven Academy – Window Replacement (Gymnasium)	£100,000
Essential replacement of seriously degraded window frames.	
TOTAL	<u>£550,000</u>