

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services

Children's Services Committee: 16 August 2006

Subject: Resource Management for Schools: Review of Resource Management Arrangements and Scheme of Delegation

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1** This report informs Members of the outcome of a limited review of arrangements for Resource Management for Schools (RMS) being West Dunbartonshire Council's scheme of devolved school management (DSM).

2. Background

- 2.1** A working group was set up in November 2000 by the Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED) with the purpose of reviewing arrangements for schemes of DSM across Scotland and making recommendations to the Executive and individual authorities.
- 2.2** Amongst these recommendations was the proposal that DSM arrangements should be reviewed on an annual basis and that, in particular, the Scheme of Delegation, which is the set of guidelines used day to day by schools in managing their budgets, should be reviewed and revised as necessary. It was recognised that, in most years, this should take the form of a limited review of the scheme's fitness for purpose.
- 2.3** In a report to this committee dated 17 May 2006, the Director of Education and Cultural Services indicated that the annual review was underway and that the outcome would be reported to the August meeting of the Children's Services Committee.

3. Outcomes of the 2006 Review of RMS

- 3.1** The limited review of the operation of the scheme took the form of a survey of head teachers of all primary, secondary and special schools, inviting them to consider the fitness for purpose of the RMS arrangements and the Scheme of Delegation and to indicate any issues or aspects of the operation of the scheme which required to be revised or reconsidered.
- 3.2** There was a very low response rate to the survey and all responses indicated satisfaction with the scheme as it currently operates.

3.3 In light of the above, it is concluded that the scheme does not require to be adjusted in the current year.

3.4 In response to Scottish Executive initiatives, there will be significant changes in school staffing levels over the coming months and it is likely that this will result in changes to the staffing standard for schools. This, in turn, is likely to result in a need for changes in RMS and the Scheme of Delegation and these will be reported to this committee when a further review is conducted one year from now.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial issues resulting from this review of resource management for schools, since the review indicates that present arrangements are satisfactory.

6. Recommendations

6.1 Members are requested:

- (i) to note the contents of this report; and
- (ii) to seek a further report from the Director of Education and Cultural Services after an interval of approximately 1 year, reporting on a further review of RMS and the Scheme of Delegation.

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Director of Education & Cultural Services

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Background Papers: Resource Management for Schools: Report to the Children's Services Committee, 17 May 2006
Review of Resource Management for Schools: Report to Children's Services Committee, 20 April 2005

Wards Affected: All Wards