

Educational Services Committee
18 August 1999

Irvine, 18 August 1999 - At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Peter McNamara, Thomas Barr, John Reid, John Bell, Jacqueline Browne, Gordon Clarkson, Ian Clarkson, David Gallagher, Samuel Gooding, Jane Gorman, Alan Hill, James Jennings, Father Matthew McManus, David Munn, David O'Neill, Samuel Taylor, Christine Welch and Richard Wilkinson.

In Attendance

J Travers, Corporate Director (Educational Services); A Herbert, Assistant Chief Executive (Finance); B Gardner, Head of Educational Resources; F Keddily, J Leckie, L Owens and J Tulips, Heads of Service; J McHarg, Principal Community Education Officer (Educational Services); M Hewitt, Corporate Policy Officer and S Paxton, Administration Officer (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Mr McNamara in the Chair.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 2 June 1999, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. School Transport

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the eligibility criteria and contractual arrangements for school transport together with proposals for an agency agreement with Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT). A presentation was given on the current position.

The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 requires Education authorities to make appropriate provision to assist pupils to access education and the Council's policy is more generous than that required by statute. Where large numbers of pupils are involved, the Council works with Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT) in the provision of school transport. SPT make all contractual arrangements with operators and monitor the provision of school transport on behalf of the Council. It is proposed that this arrangement now be formalised in an agency agreement. An annual fee is paid to SPT for this service.

A number of issues relating to school transport were raised including the definition of a "home" address within the current policy and the inspection of private hire vehicles.

After a full discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to enter into an agency agreement with Strathclyde Passenger Transport for the provision of school transport; and (b) that the School Transport Policy be reviewed taking into account the comments made and a report submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

3. Community Development Grants 1999/2000

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on applications for grants in financial year 1999/2000.

The Committee agreed to the award of grants as detailed in Appendix EDS1.

4. Community Programme Officer

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on proposals to appoint a Community Programme Officer on a partnership basis with the Inverclyde Scottish National Sports Training Centre.

The former Cunninghame District Council had introduced a short-term programme with the Sports Centre whereby a Community Sports Development Officer was appointed and funded by the District Council to introduce a Community Sports Programme at the facility. The initiative had been successful and resulted in an increased level of activity at the Centre.

The Committee agreed to the appointment of a Community Programme Officer.

5. Garnock Valley: Tennis Pavilions

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the proposed demolition of Tennis Pavilions in the Garnock Valley and the former public toilets in Dalry Public Park.

Concerns were expressed over the impact of the proposed demolitions on the public parks at Dalry, Beith and Kilbirnie and the possibility of retaining the tennis facilities was discussed.

The Committee agreed to continue consideration of this proposal pending further discussion with the local members.

6. Curling Development Partnership

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on a proposal to contribute towards the funding of a Curling Development Officer for Ayrshire.

The Curling Development Officer would develop coaching links with ice-rinks and Clubs throughout Ayrshire to increase participation. The officer would be employed by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Other partners in the venture would be the World Curling Federation, Bank of Scotland, The Galleon Centre, Ayr Curling Club

and South Ayrshire and East Ayrshire Councils. The overall cost of the project will be £24,000 in year 1 with the Council's contribution being £5,000, rising to £5,368 in year 3.

The Committee agreed to approve the proposal to contribute towards the funding of a Curling Development Officer.

7. Irvine: Magnum Leisure Centre: Bodyzone

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on proposals to revise the membership structure of the Bodyzone at the Magnum Leisure Centre, from a single category to two member categories, namely Bodyzone Member and Bodyzone Premier Member, together with details of the applicable fee structures.

The Committee agreed the revised membership structure and fees for the Bodyzone.

8. North Ayrshire Council Childcare Partnership

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on proposals for the continued operation of the North Ayrshire Childcare Partnership and the appointment of a new Chair of the Partnership.

The Childcare Partnership was established in November 1998 by expanding the remit of the Early Years Forum which had been established in March 1997. The Vice-Chair of the Education Committee Chaired the Childcare Partnership and membership of the Group was expanded to include further representation from parents and employers.

The Committee agreed to appoint Councillor Thomas Barr as Chair of the Childcare Partnership.

9. North Ayrshire Leisure Trust

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the North Ayrshire Leisure Trust including the timetable for the formation of the Trust; the proposed composition of the Board of Management; employee transfer issues; and arrangements for employee consultation.

The Committee (a) noted (i) the proposed timetable with an effective transfer date of 1 February, 2000; and (ii) the employee issues identified; and (b) agreed (i) the composition of the Board of Management, subject to approval by the Inland Revenue; and (ii) that two employee meetings be held in August and a ballot of employees be held in the week commencing 6 September 1999.

10. Targets for Pupils with Special Educational Needs

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the latest developments in the Quality Initiative in Scottish Schools for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Since the launch of Raising Standards by Setting Targets Initiative in March 1998 considerable work has been undertaken regarding setting targets for schools. These are set within the 5-14 programme in reading, writing and mathematics. Primary and Secondary schools also set targets for improving attendance levels. It had always been intended to include children with Special Educational Needs within the initiative and the report explained the structure and methodology of target setting for SEN pupils which had been set out in a document issued by the Audit Unit of HM Inspectorate of Schools. The Scottish Executive Education Department has been advised that four schools in North Ayrshire, John Galt Primary, Irvine, Largs Academy, James McFarlane School, Ardrossan and James Reid School, Saltcoats have been identified as volunteers for participation in the 1999/2000 Pilot phase.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the setting of targets for pupils with Special Educational Needs in North Ayrshire schools; and (b) the proposed participation of the four North Ayrshire Council schools in the Pilot phase for the programme in 1999/2000.

11. Careers Service: Contract Renewal

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on (a) the outcome of negotiations with the Scottish Executive regarding the revised arrangements for the renewal of the Careers Service contract in Ayrshire; and (b) the transfer of the Careers Service staff, associated property and equipment from the Council to the Careers Service Company.

The Committee (a) noted the changes required by the Scottish Executive for the renewal of the Careers Service contract in Ayrshire; and (b) agreed to the transfer of staff, property and equipment associated with the Careers Service from North Ayrshire Council to the Careers Service Company.

12. Budgetary Control

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the budgetary control position for Educational Services as at 31 July 1999, projections for the financial year 1999/2000, and management action taken to date to address the anticipated shortfalls.

The Committee agreed that the Corporate Director (Educational Services), in consultation with the Chair of the Educational Services Committee, continue to monitor the financial position to determine measures to reconcile expenditure with the agreed budget and report back to the Committee on any further action which may

be required

13. Service Plans 1999/2000

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the Service Plans for Educational Services and Leisure Services 1999/2000. Copies of the plans had previously been circulated.

The Committee agreed the Service Plans for Educational Services and Leisure Services for the period April 1999 to April 2000.

14. Appointment of Third Church Representative to the Educational Services Committee

The Chair intimated that the Council is continuing to seek a third representative of a church or denominational body to be appointed to the Educational Services Committee. Applications from religious denominations throughout North Ayrshire are currently being invited.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.35 p.m.

**Educational Services Committee
18/08/99**

Appendix No
EDS1

AWARD OF GRANTS 1999/2000
ANNUAL REVENUE GRANTS

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>DECISION</u>
Broomlands and Bourtreehill Age Concern Drop-in	The overall running costs of the organisation are £25,000 per annum	Nil
Duke of Edinburgh Award North Ayrshire Association	£3,000	£1,000
Irvine and Dreghorn Brass Band	£5,329	Refer to Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Committee
Boys Brigade North Ayrshire Battalion	£500	Nil
North Ayrshire Deaf Club	£400	£400
North Ayrshire Forum on Disability	£800	£800
Fairlie Bowling Club	£3,000	Nil
Focus Liaison Group	£5,728	Refer to Three Towns and Arran Committee
Caledonia Award	£1,910	£360

One Plus	£3,700	£3,700
Glasgow and South West Scotland Boys and Girls Clubs	£1,000	£500
Woodcraft Folk	£1,000	Nil
Scottish Civic Trust	£576.93	£300
The Council for Music in Hospitals	£7,800	Nil
Ayrshire Branch Multiple Sclerosis Society	£325	£200
Scottish Refugee Council	£500	Nil
Sense Scotland	£3,000	£800
Doors Open Day	£1,500	£500