

**Motherwell, 28 March 2001 at 2 pm.**

**A Meeting of the EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Gray, Convener; Councillors McKeown and Morgan, Vice-Conveners; Provost McCulloch; Councillors Barrie, Brady, Brooks, Burns, Curley, Curran, Donnelly, Glavin, Grant, Holloway, Jones, Love, Lyle, McCallum, McGhee, Mathieson, G. Murray, M. Murray, Scott, Stocks, and Sullivan; Mr. A. Quinn and Mr. W. Brown and Mr. A. Morrice.

**CHAIR**

Councillor Gray (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Committee Services Officer, Director of Education, Depute Director of Education, Head of Educational Provision and Head of Quality and Support Services, and Accounting Manager.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Cefferty, Griffin, Logue, H. McGuigan and Wallace.

**MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND THE EDUCATION JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

1. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings of the Education (Resources) Sub-Committee held on 15 March 2001; the Education (Joint Appeals and Bursaries) Sub-Committee held on 28 February and 20 March 2001, and the Education Joint Consultative Committee held on 28 February 2001, as detailed in the annex to this Minute.

**Decided:** that the terms of the Minutes be approved and noted.

**REVISED POLICY ON ADMISSION TO SCHOOLS - IMPLICATIONS OF THE STANDARDS IN SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS ETC. ACT 2000**

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated March 2001 by the Director of Education (1) setting out in Appendix 2 of the report the revised policy on "Admission to Schools" in light of the requirements of the Standards in Scotland's Schools Etc. Act 2000; (2) advising that as a result of a loophole in the Act, parents of children aged between 4½ and 5 years of age who submit a placing request had no right of appeal against a placing request decision; (3) intimating that the Scottish Executive were currently reviewing the issue with a view to amending the legislation, and (4) recommending that, in the interim, the Council permit parents a right of appeal against the refusal of a placing request in respect of a child under the age of five who was entitled to enrol in P1 in August 2001.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Council's responsibilities as an education authority under the terms of the Standards in Scotland's Schools Etc. Act 2000 in respect of the admission of under aged children to primary school be noted;

- (2) that the amendments to placing request procedures as required under the Act be noted;
- (3) that the revised policy on "Admission to Schools", as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved, and
- (4) that parents be permitted a right of appeal against the refusal of a placing request in respect of a child under the age of five who was entitled to enrol in P1 in August 2001.

#### **HIGHER SCHOOL AND FURTHER EDUCATION BURSARY POLICIES 2001/2002**

- C** 3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 14 March 2001 by the Director of Education (1) indicating that the Education Authorities Bursaries (Scotland) Regulations 1995 provided local education authorities with powers to award bursaries to persons in education over the school leaving age; (2) outlining the policy framework adopted by the Council for bursary awards in 2000/2001; (3) providing an analysis of bursary awards and payments made in 2000/2001; (4) proposing that the threshold for parental income applied in bursary entitlement calculations be increased by 5%, and (5) recommending revised documents on Higher School and Further Education Bursaries for the academic year 2001/2002.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the threshold for parental income applied in bursary entitlement calculations be increased by 5%, and
- (2) that the Higher School and Further Education Bursary policy documents for the academic year 2001/2002, as detailed in the report, be approved.

#### **GAELIC MEDIUM EDUCATION - SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION**

- C** 4. With reference to paragraph 17 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 17 June 1997 when the Committee, *inter alia*, had approved the establishment of Gaelic medium provision at Condorrat Primary School, Cumbernauld, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated March 2001 by the Director of Education (1) commenting on the success of the initiative; (2) advising that (a) an increasing number of parents of pupils who complete their Gaelic medium primary education wished their children to continue Gaelic studies at secondary school, and (b) to date and on an ad hoc basis, these pupils attend secondary school provision in other authorities with transport support; (3) intimating that as Gaelic studies had been identified as one of the national education priorities there was an obligation on the Council to consider secondary provision, taking account of parental wishes; (4) indicating that specific grant funding would be made available by the Scottish Executive for the establishment of Gaelic medium secondary provision; (5) outlining proposals which had been developed following consultation with parents regarding the possible extension of Gaelic medium provision to secondary school education, and (6) recommending that, in the interest of cost effectiveness and to meet the demand for Gaelic studies at secondary level (a) Gaelic medium provision be established at Greenfaulds High School, Cumbernauld, and (b) entitlement to free school transport be made available for (A) secondary aged pupils attending Greenfaulds High School for Gaelic medium education who reside more than 2 miles from the school, and (B) S2 to S6 pupils already attending Gaelic medium education in other authorities with effect from August 2001.

**Decided:**

- (1) that Gaelic medium provision be established at Greenfaulds High School, Cumbernauld, as outlined in Section 3 of the report, subject to the availability of staffing;

- (2) that, with effect from August 2001, school transport be made available free of charge for secondary aged pupils from August 2001 for (a) pupils attending Greenfaulds High School for Gaelic medium education who reside more than 2 miles from the School, and (b) S2 to S6 pupils already attending Gaelic medium education in other authorities, and
- (3) that the Director of Education submit a progress report to the next meeting of the Committee.

**REVENUE ESTIMATES 2000/2001 - FINANCIAL MONITORING STATEMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

5. There was submitted a report dated March 2001 by the Director of Education advising of current departmental spending levels for the period from 1 April 2000 to 4 February 2001 by the Department of Education and providing a projection of the budget outcome and a comparison with the approved budgets excluding loan charges, central administration recharges and the Central Repairs Account.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - SERVICE PLAN 2001/2004**

6. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 28 November 2000 when, *inter alia*, the Committee had noted the terms of the Education Service Plan 2001/2004, there was submitted a report dated March 2001 by the Director of Education (1) advising that, as a result of the Council's recent budgetary process, no significant changes were required to be made to the Service Plan, and (2) recommending that the Service Plan 2001/2004 be approved.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the terms of the Service Plan for the Department of Education for 2001/2004 be approved, and
- (2) that the Director of Education submit progress reports on the implementation of the Service Plan to future meetings of the Committee.

**EDUCATION PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) PROJECT**

7. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 29 June 2000 when it had been agreed that a Member/Officer Working Group be established to examine the review priorities in respect of primary and secondary school provision and make recommendations thereon to this Committee, there was submitted a report dated March 2001 by the Director of Education (1) advising that funds in the sum of £443,000 had been made available to the Council by the Scottish Executive to develop the early stages of Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects, and (2) intimating that following the collation of details of the building fabric and accommodation quality of all North Lanarkshire schools, including details of the future needs of the schools and the options available, a list of potential PPP projects would be formulated for consideration by the Education PPP Project Member/Officer Working Group and, thereafter, proposals would be submitted to the Committee.

**Decided:** that the progress to date in the development of Education PPP proposals for the refurbishment of schools be noted.

## ANNUAL STATEMENT OF LOCAL IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated March 2001 by the Director of Education (1) advising that in terms of the Standards in Scotland's Schools Etc. Act 2000 (a) local authorities and schools were now required to plan, monitor and report on improvement in education; (b) Scottish Ministers were required to give strategic direction to the education system by publishing National Priorities for education; (c) local authorities were required to take account of the National Priorities in preparing an annual statement of improvement objectives for publication; (d) school development plans must take account of the National Priorities and the relevant authority's Statement of Local Improvement Objectives, and (e) a number of different groups must be involved in planning processes both at school and at local authority level; (2) intimating that on 20 December 2000 the Scottish Parliament had passed an Order which set out five National Priorities for education, those being (a) Achievement and Attainment; (b) Framework for Learning; (c) Inclusion and Equality; (d) Values and Citizenship, and (e) Learning for Life, and (3) recommending that the strategic aims and key development tasks outlined in the Education Service Plan 2001/2004, which had been determined following a consultation exercise and were consistent with the National Priorities, provide the framework for the Council's Statement of Local Improvement Objectives.

### Decided:

- (1) that the National Priorities for education, as outlined in paragraph 2.3 of the report, be used as a focus for planning at authority and establishment level within the Education Service, and
- (2) that the annual Statement of Local Improvement Objectives for Education, as set out paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 of the report, be approved.

## BEST VALUE SERVICE REVIEWS

9. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 31 January 2001, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated March 2001 by the Director of Education (1) setting out in the Appendix to the report a review report and Improvement Action Plan in respect of the Council's policy on "Raising Achievement for All", and (2) advising that, due to difficulties in obtaining data, the "Early Years Staffing" Best Value Review would be carried forward into Year 4 of the timescale for the Review of Educational Services.

### Decided:

- (1) that the Improvement Action Plan in respect of the Council's policy on "Raising Achievement for All", as set out in the Appendix to the report, be approved, and
- (2) that it be noted that the "Early Years Staffing" Best Value Review would be included in Year 4 of the timetable for the Review of Educational Services and that the Director of Education would report thereon to a future meeting of the Committee.

## REVIEW OF THE CAREERS SERVICE

10. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 28 March 2001 when, *inter alia*, that Committee following consideration of a report dated 2 March 2001 by the Director of Community Services had (1) noted the publication of the Report of the Duffner Committee on its review of the role of the Careers Service in Scotland and the scope for change and development of that role in light of trends and initiatives in education, lifelong learning and the labour market, and also the terms of the response by the Scottish Executive thereon, all as outlined in the report by the Director of Community Services; (2) endorsed the comments prepared by North Lanarkshire Careers Partnership for submission to the Scottish Executive on its consultation regarding the recommendations of the Duffner Committee and the Executive's proposals, all as set

out in the Appendix to the report, and (3) remitted the matter to this Committee for its interest, there was submitted the said report by the Director of Community Services thereon.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

## **PETITIONS**

### **(1) USE OF SCHOOLS TRANSPORT BY SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS SCHOOLS**

11. With reference to paragraph 27 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 31 August 2000 when the Committee had noted (1) the receipt of a petition from members of the public and parents of pupils attending Redburn School, Cumbernauld, regarding the alleged withdrawal of the use of transport by special schools during the day, and (2) that the Director of Education would report on the findings of an Officer Working Group which had been set up (a) to examine curricular transport needs in special schools; (b) to co-ordinate use of transport, and (c) to ascertain whether costs could be reduced and the relevant charges re-allocated to a curricular budget, there was submitted a report dated 19 March 2001 by the Director of Education thereon advising that arrangements were now in place for better utilisation and management of transport resources by special schools within a devolved budgetary framework.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the action taken by the Director of Education be noted, and
- (2) that the signatories to the petitions be advised accordingly.

### **(2) ALLEGED REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF BUS PLACES AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN TRAVELLING TO ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, CUMBERNAULD**

12. There was submitted a report dated March 2001 by the Director of Education advising that a petition had been received from residents of the Seafar, Carbrain and Kildrum areas of Cumbernauld regarding allegations of a reduction in the number of places available for school transport for pupils travelling to St. Margaret of Scotland Primary School, Cumbernauld, there was submitted a report dated March 2001 by the Director of Education (1) outlining the background in relation to (a) the seating requirements included in the contract specification for free and privilege school transport for the route, and (b) the policy in operation at the time of the allocation of privilege transport, and (2) advising that the privilege places for school transport for the route would be re-allocated in accordance with the revised priorities and process for allocating privilege transport places to primary and secondary school pupils for session 2001/2002, as approved by the Education (Resources) Sub-Committee at its meeting on 15 March 2001.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the action taken by the Director of Education be noted, and
- (2) that the signatories to the petition be advised accordingly.

### **“A TEACHER’S PROFESSION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY” - CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND PAY FOR TEACHERS - THE McCRONE NEGOTIATION**

13. With reference to paragraph 16 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 31 January 2001, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated March 2001 by the Director of Education (1) summarising the main features of a document entitled “A Teacher’s Profession for the 21st Century”

which detailed the agreement which had been reached by employers, the teaching profession and the Scottish Executive to improve professional conditions of service and pay for teachers following the recommendations contained in the McCrone Report; (2) intimating that implementation of the terms of the agreement would commence from 1 April 2001; (3) advising that there would be a new national negotiating committee to be known as the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT), comprising representation from the teacher unions, COSLA and the Scottish Executive; (4) indicating that, in accordance with the terms of the agreement, local authorities were required to establish new local bargaining arrangements for teachers by April 2002, and that from August 2001 local agreements could be concluded on a range of conditions of service which were not reserved to the SNCT, and (5) outlining the timescales for the implementation of various national tasks.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the terms of the agreement by employers, the teaching profession and the Scottish Executive to improve professional conditions of service and pay for teachers be noted;
- (2) that the implementation tasks and timescales in relation to the agreement, as outlined in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 of the report, be noted;
- (3) that the Director of Education liaise with the Director of Administration to progress the establishment of a local negotiating committee for teachers to take effect from August 2001, and
- (4) that the Director of Education submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee on the progress of the tasks for 2001/2002.

**TEACHERS' PREMATURE RETIREMENT SCHEME PROPOSALS FOR 2001/2002**

14. **C** There was submitted a report (docketed) dated February 2001 by the Director of Education (1) outlining proposals for the use of the Teachers' Compensation for Premature Retirement and Redundancy (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1998; (2) proposing that no general scheme for premature retirement be made available to teachers employed in the pre-5, primary and special schools sectors during 2001/2002 and that the situation be reviewed in 2002/2003, and (3) detailing proposals for the exercise of the powers provided by the Regulations during 2001/2002 including (a) the categories within which the Director of Education would exercise his delegated powers to - agree to premature retirement, and (b) the proposal that applications for premature retirement for teachers not falling within these categories be submitted to the Personnel Services (Early Retirement) Sub-Committee for consideration.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Teachers' Premature Retirement Scheme for 2001/2002 proposed by the Director and detailed in his report be approved;
  - (2) that the Director of Education be authorised to approve applications for premature retirement in the summer of 2001 from teachers who fell within the categories as detailed with the report;
  - (3) that the Director of Education be authorised to determine the timing of individual retirements with regard to both the wishes of the individuals concerned and the interest of the service;
  - (4) that teachers with less than 20 years of actual teaching service be awarded an enhancement of not more than half of their actual teaching service, subject to the maximum detailed in the report;
  - (5) that exceptional individual applications for premature retirement be determined by the Personnel Services (Early Retirement) Sub-Committee, and
  - (6) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for approval.
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**INTERACTIVE LEARNING CENTRE, BELLSHILL - (1) TEMPORARY POSTS OF NETWORK SPECIALIST/FACILITATOR AND MULTI-MEDIA SPECIALIST/FACILITATOR AND (2) FUNDING FOR SESSIONAL WORKERS**

15. With reference to paragraph 23 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 31 August 2000, there was submitted a report dated 6 February 2001 by the Director of Education (1) proposing (a) that two temporary posts of Network Specialist/Facilitator and Multi-Media Specialist/Facilitator be created for placement at the Interactive Centre at Bellshill, and (b) that funding of £100,000 be allocated towards the employment of sessional workers at the centre to assist with the delivery of course work, and (2) advising that the posts would be funded by the Scottish Executive.

**Decided:**

- (1) that a post of Network Specialist/Facilitator, at technical grade IV, be created on a temporary basis until the end of March 2003;
- (2) that a post of Multi-Media Specialist/Facilitator, at salary scale PO8, be created on a temporary basis until the end of March 2003;
- (3) that £100,000 be allocated towards the cost of employing sessional workers to assist with the delivery of course work, and
- (4) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for approval.

**ASSESSMENT OF ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAMME - FIFTH SURVEY OF SCIENCE 1999**

16. There was submitted a report dated March 2001 by the Director of Education regarding the Scottish Executive's Assessment of Achievement Programme of continuous national surveys into the achievements of Scottish pupils in English, Mathematics and Science (1) summarising the results and key findings of the fifth survey of science which had been carried out in 1999; (2) outlining the various initiatives which had been implemented in North Lanarkshire schools to develop and improve teaching and learning materials for science programmes, and (3) advising that these initiatives had addressed many of the issues and concerns which had been highlighted in the survey.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**5-14 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - REVISED NATIONAL GUIDELINES**

17. There was submitted a report dated March 2001 by the Director of Education advising of the publication by the Scottish Executive of revised guidelines for the 5-14 Development Programme in respect of the structure and balance of the curriculum, and of Environmental Studies, Science, Social Science, Technology, Health Education and Information Communication Technology.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE STRATEGY FOR CARERS 2001/2004**

18. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 22 March 2001 when that Committee following consideration of a report dated 7 February 2001 by the Director of Social Work had (1) authorised the Director of Social Work to issue the North Lanarkshire Strategy for Carers 2001/2004 which provided a framework for the development of services to carers in the context of national priorities; (2) noted the progress made towards the development of a North Lanarkshire Carers Network by carers with support from the Director of Community services, and

(3) remitted the matter to this Committee for its interest, there was submitted the said report by the Director of Social Work thereon.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**CONFERENCES ETC.**

19. There were considered invitations from:-

- (1) The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe to attend a conference entitled "Linguistic Diversity: Challenge for European Cities and Regions" held in Croatia on 22 and 23 March 2001;
- (2) Universities Scotland to attend a seminar entitled "Action for Inclusion" held in Edinburgh on 23 March 2001;
- (3) Children in Scotland and the Scottish Local Government Information Unit to attend a conference entitled "Citizenship in Action: Involving Children and Young People in Local Government" to be held in Edinburgh on 26 April 2001;
- (4) The National Literacy Trust to attend a conference entitled "Literacy and Regeneration" to be held in London on 15 May 2001, and
- (5) The Office for Public Management to attend learning programmes on "Managing Education Services of the Future" to be held on various dates in May and June 2001.

**Decided:**

- (1) that Councillor Jones be authorised to attend a conference entitled "Citizenship in Action: Involving Children and Young People in Local Government" to be held in Edinburgh on 26 April 2001, and
- (2) that no attendance at the other four conferences etc., be authorised.

**ANNEX**

**Motherwell, 28 February 2001 at 2 pm.**

**A Meeting of the EDUCATION JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT**

Authority Side - Councillor Gray, Convener and Councillors Curran, Grant, McGhee and G. Murray.

Teachers' Side - W. Cairns; H. Glen; P. Lavery; P. McGowan; A. Morrice; A. Taylor; V. Topping and B. McLean as substitute for W. Brown.

**CHAIR**

Councillor Gray (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Committee Services Officer, Director of Education, Depute Director of Education and Head of Contracts and Provision.

**MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Education Joint Consultative Committee held on 6 December 2000.

The Committee agreed (1) with reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute relating to "ICT Development" that the word "technical" be substituted for the word "educational", and (2) that the Minute be otherwise approved.

**McCRONE IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT**

2. For the authority, the Director of Education referred to the recent ratification of the national agreement to improve teachers' pay and conditions by the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers, and (1) advised that on receipt of notification from COSLA of the pay settlement every effort would be made to secure the early implementation of the relevant salary increases; (2) intimated that the authority was currently looking at the best way to develop a framework to take forward the various elements of the agreement package, particularly (a) the establishment of a local negotiating committee for teachers, and (b) the introduction of a 35 hour week for all teachers commencing 1 August 2001, and (3) suggested that informal discussions on these matters could be arranged.

The Depute Director of Education also advised that a report summarising the agreement and illustrating how the elements might be taken forward by way of an Action Plan would be submitted to the next meeting of the Education Committee.

A. Morrice, on behalf of the teachers' side (1) welcomed the agreement and the authority's efforts in securing the early payment of the salary increases; (2) expressed interest in the early progress, at a national level, of the review of the salaries and conditions of service for psychologists and advisers and also for the application of the national formula for music instructors; (3) sought early progress on (a) meetings of the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers being convened, and (b) the development of a local negotiating committee and the determination of recognition rights; (4) advised of their intention to meet with school representatives to brief them on the key issues of the agreement,

and (5) requested that a Working Group be set up to formulate guidelines for the introduction of a 35 hour week for teachers and to report thereon to an informal meeting of the JCC Committee.

In response, the Director of Education intimated that in light of the timescales set for the implementation of the various aspects of the agreement and provided that the relevant guidance could be issued to Head Teachers by early April 2001, he had no objection to a Working Group being set up to produce a framework for discussions on issues at a local level.

The Committee noted the position.

### **EDUCATION BUDGET 2001/2002**

3. For the authority, the Director of Education referred to the Education Budget for 2001/2002 and commented on the significant increase in the funds available for expenditure.

P. Lavery, on behalf of the teachers' side (1) welcomed (a) the efforts of the authority in protecting the Education Budget over the years; (b) the decision not to review secondary school provision in 2001/2002; (c) the benefits to be derived from the move towards three year budgeting; (d) the opportunity to discuss the budget with the Leader of the Council and the Director of Education, and (2) expressed concern (a) that services, such as the provision of foreign language assistants, which were subject to budget cuts in previous years had not been reinstated, and (b) at reductions in the provision of school cleaning.

In response, the Director of Education advised that, in respect of the budget saving highlighted, there may be the possibility of funds being made available from the Excellence Fund for Schools to provide for the temporary appointment of foreign language assistants.

The Committee noted the position.

### **ICT DEVELOPMENT AND USERS' AGREEMENT**

4. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 6 December 2000, P. Lavery and A. Morrice, on behalf of the teachers' side, referred to the programme for ICT Development in schools (1) intimated that the Users' Agreement was acceptable to the teacher representatives; (2) expressed concern about the time taken to remedy computer system failures and server crashes, and (3) sought an update on the progress of the programme and on the problems encountered during the implementation process.

For the authority, the Head of Contracts and Provision (1) advised that it was anticipated that all educational establishments would be networked by June 2001; (2) commented on the arrangements for the provision of training for teachers; (3) indicated that a contract had been awarded to Scotsys to provide technical support to schools, and (4) intimated that an Officer Working Group had been set up to look at the authority's model for ICT support in comparison to the models of other authorities.

The Committee noted the position.

### **ABSENCE COVER**

5. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 6 December 2000, P. Lavery, on behalf of the teachers' side (1) reiterated concerns about problems caused by the lack of absence cover for teachers; (2) noted the action taken by the authority to date to alleviate the situation, and (3) requested that further consideration be given to the feasibility of extending the primary school cover pool and setting up a secondary school cover pool.

For the authority, the Depute Director of Education (1) reiterated the difficulties in obtaining teachers for primary school cover; (2) intimated that, in the long-term, the availability of primary school teachers should improve as it was anticipated that the college intake of students and graduates for teacher training for 2001/2002 would double; (3) indicated that the results of a recent audit of the demand for secondary school teacher cover had shown that a secondary school cover pool would not be viable, and (4) suggested that further consideration be given to the matter following the issue of national guidelines in relation to the recommendations of the McCrone Committee on teachers pay and conditions.

The Committee noted the position.

#### **DISCIPLINE IN SCHOOLS**

6. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 9 February 2000 when it had been agreed that a Working Group comprising representatives of the authority and teachers' side be established to review issues relating to discipline in schools, P. Lavery, on behalf of the teachers' side (1) reiterated concerns at (a) the perception that there was a growth in the number of incidents of indiscipline by pupils, and (b) the pressure on teachers to reduce exclusions, and (2) advised that it was the intention of the EIS to survey members on disciplinary issues, the results of which would be reported to a future informal meeting of the Committee.

For the authority, the Director of Education (1) advised that the Minister for Education had set up a Working Group to review the issues relating to the discipline in schools, and (2) suggested that it might be prudent for the authority to establish a shadow Working Group to review the material from the Ministerial Working Group from a local perspective.

The Committee noted the position.

#### **CONVENERSHIP 2001/2002**

7. The Convener intimated that, in accordance with the constitution of the Committee, the next meeting, which was scheduled to take place on 6 June 2001, would be under new convenership.

P. Lavery, on behalf of the teachers' side, thanked the Convener for his services to the Education Joint Consultative Committee during his convenership.

The Committee noted the position.