

**Motherwell, 30 May 2001 at 2 pm.**

**A Meeting of the EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Gray, Convener; Councillors McKeown and Morgan, Vice-Conveners; Provost McCulloch; Councillors Brady, Cefferty, Clarke, Curley, Curran, Donnelly, Glavin, Grant, Hebenton, Holloway, Jones, Logue, Love, McCallum, McGhee, McKinlay, Mathieson, Moran, G. Murray, M. Murray, Scott and Sullivan; Mr. A. Quinn and Rev. B. Talbot, 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 Quality and Support Services and Accounting Manager.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Barrie, Griffin, H. McGuigan and Wallace.

**SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION PARTNERSHIP - PRESENTATION**

1. With reference to paragraph 25 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 31 August 2000, the Convener advised the Committee that Mr. Jim Sinclair, Development Officer with the Scottish Football Association (SFA) was present at the meeting to make a presentation on non-trophy football for young people under the age of 12.

Thereafter, Mr. Sinclair was heard in relation to (1) the philosophy of the small sided football game for under 12s; (2) the concept of non-trophy football, and (3) the SFA Coach Education Structure. Mr. Sinclair then responded to members' questions.

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

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE EDUCATION (RESOURCES) SUB-COMMITTEE**

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Education (Resources) Sub-Committee held on 17 May 2001.

**Decided:** that the terms of the Minute be approved.

**SEX EDUCATION IN SCOTTISH SCHOOLS**

3. There was submitted a report dated April 2001 by the Director of Education (1) summarising and commenting on three Scottish Executive guidance documents on Sex Education in Scottish Schools, namely (a) Summary of National Advice; (b) Effective Consultation with Parents and Carers, and (c) A Guide for Parents and Carers; (2) advising that these documents were to be used in conjunction with other current publications on the subject, including the Scottish Executive Circular on Standards in

Scotland's Schools Etc. Act 2000: Conduct of Sex Education in Scottish Schools and the Summary of National Advice on Sex Education; (3) recommending that the national guidelines set out in each of the three documents be endorsed as the Council's policy on sex education in North Lanarkshire establishments, and (4) proposing that a Working Group be established to review and offer advice to schools on appropriate material for inclusion in Sex Education Programmes.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the national guidelines contained in the three Scottish Executive documents on Sex Education in Scottish Schools, namely (a) Summary of National Advice; (b) Effective Consultation with Parents and Carers, and (c) A Guide for Parents and Carers, be endorsed as the Council's policy on sex education in North Lanarkshire establishments, and
- (2) that the Director of Education be authorised to set up a Working Group to review and offer advice to establishments on appropriate material for inclusion in Sex Education Programmes.

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

4. There was submitted a report dated May 2001 by the Director of Education advising of current departmental spending levels for the period from 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001 by the Department of Education and providing details of the provisional budget outturn and a comparison with the approved budgets excluding loan charges, central administration recharges and central repairs account.

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

**ABSENCE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS**

5. With reference to paragraph 40 of the Minute of the meeting of the Personnel Services Committee held on 4 April 2001 when that Committee had (1) noted the terms of a report dated 14 March 2001 by the Head of Personnel Services which (a) provided absence statistics together with a commentary detailing the breakdown of the figures within departments of the Council for the period from October to December 2000 for manual/craft employees, non-manual staff and teachers and providing a comparison with the statistics for April to December 1999, and (b) advised of a new statutory performance indicator which had been introduced by the Accounts Commission and the action taken by the Corporate Management Team regarding the Council's position in the league tables, and (2) remitted the report to this Committee for its interest, there was submitted the said report by the Head of Personnel Services.

**Decided:** that the absence statistics for the Department of Education for the period from October to December 2000 for manual/craft employees, non-manual staff and teachers be noted.

**SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIPS - UPDATE**

6. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Inclusion Committee held on 29 March 2001 when, *inter alia*, that Committee had (1) approved recommendations with regard to a series of projects considered by the Social Inclusion Partnership Management Committees as set out in a report dated 19 March 2001 by the Chief Executive; (2) remitted the report to this Committee (a) for its interest in respect of the success of the Department's bids for funding from the Social Inclusion Partnership Fund for the implementation of a Joint Support Group Project and a Healthy Options Project at each of the new Community Schools known as Old Monklands Primary School and St. Monica's Primary School, Coatbridge, and (b) for consideration of the proposals for the creation of

temporary posts of a Project Co-ordinator and two Administrative Assistants to support the Healthy Options Project, and (3) remitted the report to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration of the staffing implications of the Healthy Options Project, there was submitted the said report by the Chief Executive.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the success of the Department's bids for funding from the South Coatbridge Social Inclusion Partnership for the implementation of a Joint Support Group Project and a Healthy Options Project at each of the new Community Schools known as Old Monkland Primary School and St. Monica's Primary School, Coatbridge, be noted, and
- (2) that the proposals to create temporary posts of a Project Co-ordinator, at salary grade AP5/PO1, and two Assistants, at salary grade GS1/2, to support the Healthy Options Project, be approved subject to ratification by the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee.

**PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 2000/2001**

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated May 2001 by the Director of Education (1) advising that in the year 2000 the Audit Commission for Scotland had introduced the Performance Management and Planning (PMP) Audit process for local authorities to review their progress in implementing the Best Value framework and to check that appropriate management arrangements were in place for authorities to secure Best Value from resources available; (2) intimating that a PMP Audit of the Department of Education had been carried out by Messrs. Price WaterhouseCoopers, Auditors, between August 2000 and March 2001; (3) containing an executive summary of the Audit Report, and (4) setting out in the Appendix to the report an Audit Action Plan for the Department.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Executive Summary of the Performance Management and Planning Audit of the Department of Education by Messrs. Price WaterhouseCoopers be noted, and
- (2) that the Audit Action Plan for the Department of Education, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be approved.

**DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE**

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 April 2001 by the Director of Education (1) advising that in 1998 the Scottish Executive had set up an Action Group on languages to secure the place of modern languages within the curriculum, to improve the quality of modern languages at standard grade and to ensure a greater degree of continuity in language learning in schools; (2) summarising and commenting on the findings and recommendations set out in the Action Group's report entitled "Citizens of a Multi-Cultural World", and (3) detailing an Action Plan for development of modern languages in North Lanarkshire schools.

**Decided:** that the Action Plan for the development of modern languages in North Lanarkshire Schools, as detailed in the report be approved.

**MANAGING CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR**

9. With reference to paragraph 20 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 14 March 2000 when the Director of Education had been requested to monitor the level of pupils excluded or at risk of exclusion from school and the level of attainment of such pupils, there was submitted a report

(docketed) dated April 2001 by the Director of Education (1) outlining in the Appendix to the report a range of strategies, programmes and initiatives to support young people who present challenging behaviour within schools and to reduce the levels of disruption in schools and exclusion from education; (2) providing data on the pupil exclusion rate for special, primary and secondary schools for 2000/2001 together with comparable data for 1998/99 and 1999/2000; (3) indicating that, in terms of the Standards in Scottish Schools Etc. Act 2000, local education authorities were required to ensure that any young persons who were excluded from schools would be able to continue to benefit from education; (4) advising that there was a need to review the Council's approach to alternatives to exclusion with a view to ensuring strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation of existing initiatives in relation to the resources available, and (5) recommending that a Working Group be established to review school discipline and the Council's approach to alternatives to exclusion.

**Decided:** that the Director of Education be authorised to establish a Working Group to review school discipline and the Council's approach to alternatives to exclusion from school.

#### **EDUCATION FOR CITIZENSHIP IN SCOTLAND - CONSULTATION BY LEARNING AND TEACHING SCOTLAND**

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated April 2001 by the Director of Education (1) advising that a Consultation Paper had been received from Learning and Teaching Scotland entitled "Education for Citizenship in Scotland" which sought the Council's views on certain key issues in relation to the concept of the teaching of citizenship; (2) setting out in the Appendix to the report the response to Learning and Teaching Scotland on its consultation, and (3) indicating that when Learning and Teaching Scotland publish a national statement and guidelines on education for citizenship, a report thereon would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the comments set out in the Appendix to the report be endorsed and homologated as the Council's formal response to Learning and Teaching Scotland on its consultation on "Education for Citizenship in Scotland", and
- (2) that it be noted that when Learning and Teaching Scotland publish a national statement and guidelines on education for citizenship, the Director of Education would submit a report thereon to a future meeting of the Committee.

#### **COATBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL - EXTERNAL REPAIR WORKS**

11. There was submitted a report dated 10 May 2001 by the Director of Housing and Property Services advising (1) that the lowest tender for external repairs at Coatbridge High School was that of Makers UK Limited, Runcorn, in the sum of £29,672.87, and (2) that the Director of Administration was progressing the matter in terms of his delegated powers.

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

#### **CATHEDRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, MOTHERWELL - CLASSROOM EXTENSION**

12. With reference to paragraph 18 of the Minute of the meeting of the Education (Resources) Sub-Committee held on 15 March 2001 when the Director of Housing and Property Services had been authorised to negotiate a tender with Gilchrist and Lynn Limited, Airdrie, for the construction of a classroom extension at Cathedral Primary School, Motherwell, there was submitted a report dated 10 May 2001 by the Director of Housing and Property Services (1) intimating that the cost of the

tender negotiated with Gilchrist and Lynn Limited for the work was £331,444.05, and (2) advising that the Director of Administration was progressing the matter in terms of his delegated powers.

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

#### **VISUAL IMPAIRMENT NETWORK TEAM - POST OF MOBILITY OFFICER**

13. There was submitted a report dated 4 May 2001 by the Director of Education (1) advising that in the period since the inception of the Council, mobility training for school children with visual impairments within North Lanarkshire had been provided by services supplied by the City of Glasgow Council which were part funded by this Council, and (2) recommending that, as access to these services were no longer available and given the complex needs of pupils with visual impairment, a post of Mobility Officer and a 0.5 FTE post of Clerical Assistant be created for placement with the Visual Impairment Network Team located at Knowetop Primary School, Motherwell.

**Decided:**

- (1) that a post of Mobility Officer, at salary grade AP3/4, be created;
- (2) that a 0.5 FTE post of Clerical Assistant, at salary grade GS1/2, be created, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

**The Chair being of the view that the item of business at paragraph 14(8) below was urgent, authorised its consideration in view of the timescale involved.**

#### **CONFERENCES ETC.**

14. There were considered invitations from:-

- (1) Barnardo's Scotland to attend a seminar entitled "Better Education, Better Futures: Research, Practice and the Views of Young People in Public Care" held in Edinburgh on 1 May 2001;
  - (2) Children in Scotland to attend a conference entitled "Supporting Children and Young People in Schools" held in Dundee on 11 May 2001;
  - (3) QMW Public Policy Seminars to attend a seminar entitled "Transforming Secondary Education" held in London on 15 May 2001;
  - (4) The University of Strathclyde to attend a conference entitled "Educating the Whole Child" to be held in Glasgow on 4 June 2001;
  - (5) Scottish Enterprise and the University of Strathclyde to attend a conference entitled "New Challenges - Old Solutions: The Benefit of Older Workers for the Scottish Economy" to be held in Glasgow on 11 June 2001;
  - (6) Comunn na Gaidhlig to attend the Comhdeil AGM 2001 to be held in Edinburgh on 12 June 2001;
  - (7) The Robert Gordon University to attend a conference entitled "Tackling the School Run: New Initiatives for the Journey to School" to be held in London on 18 June 2001, and
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- (8) Neil Stewart Associates to attend a conference entitled "Further Education - Leading Change in Lifelong Learning" to be held in Glasgow on 14 and 15 June 2001.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the attendance of Councillor Burns at the conference entitled "Supporting Children and Young People in Schools" held in Dundee on 11 May 2001 be homologated;
- (2) that it be noted that there had been no elected Member representation at the seminars (a) "Better Education, Better Futures" held in Edinburgh on 1 May 2001, and (b) "Transforming Secondary Education" held in London on 15 May 2001;
- (3) that Councillor Gray be authorised to attend a conference entitled "New Challenges - Old Solutions" to be held in Glasgow on 11 June 2001;
- (4) that Councillor Gray be authorised to attend the Comhdeil AGM 2001 to be held on Edinburgh on 12 June 2001;
- (5) that Councillors McKeown and Morgan be authorised to attend the conference entitled "Tackling the School Run: New Initiatives for the Journey to School" to be held in London on 18 June 2001, and
- (6) that otherwise no attendance be authorised.