

Motherwell, 4 March 2004 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the EDUCATION (RESOURCES) SUB-COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Morgan, Convener, Councillors Donnelly, Gray, Holloway, McAuley, McCulloch, G. Murray, Robertson and Stocks.

CHAIR

Councillor Morgan (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Officer; Head of Educational Provision; Traffic and Transportation Manager; School Travel Co-ordinator, Department of Planning and Environment; Chief Accountant, Department of Community Services and Accounting Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Curley, McKeown, Moran, Sullivan and Wallace.

SCHOOLS CATERING CONTRACT 2003/2004 - PERFORMANCE REVIEW

1. There was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated February 2004 by the Directors of Education and Community Services (1) reviewing the performance of the Schools Catering Contract for the period from April 2003 to January 2004; (2) providing an analysis of the uptake of school meals in primary and secondary schools and the budget performance for the period in comparison to 2002/2003, and (3) setting out in the Appendix to the report, sample customer care comment reports for the period.

Decided:

- (1) that the performance of the Schools Catering Contract for the period from April 2003 to January 2004 be noted, and
- (2) that further performance reports on the contract be submitted to future meetings of the Sub-Committee.

HIGHER SCHOOL BURSARIES 2003/2004 - PERFORMANCE REVIEW

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 February 2004 by the Director of Education (1) reviewing the performance of the Higher School Bursaries budget for the period from April 2003 to February 2004, and (2) providing an analysis of (a) higher school bursary applications received and processed to date for the academic session 2003/04; (b) expenditure for higher school bursaries to date, and (c) attendance figures of students in receipt of a bursary for the periods from 18 October to 31 August 2003 and 3 November 2003 to 24 January 2004, in comparison with the corresponding periods in sessions 2001/02 and 2002/03.

Decided:

- (1) that the performance of the Higher School Bursaries budget for the period from April 2003 to February 2004 be noted, and
- (2) that further performance reports on the Higher School Bursaries budget be submitted to future meetings of the Sub-Committee.

SCHOOL SECURITY

3. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 18 January 2001 when, *inter alia*, it had been agreed that an annual audit of security provision in schools be undertaken as part of the "Towards Safer Schools" policy, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated February 2004 by the Director of Education (1) outlining the measures taken to ensure safety in schools and comply with the guiding principles of the Accounts Commission as set out in its report "A Safer Place: Revisited"; (2) seeking approval for the proposals identified therein for the year 2004/05; (3) outlining the background to the initiative, an audit of progress, a summary of proposals and the Director's recommendations thereon, and (4) containing in an Appendix to the report an analysis of the security monitoring checklist in relation to (a) management and awareness raising; (b) entrances to buildings; (c) security outwith the building; (d) annexe buildings and detached huts; (e) multi user buildings; (f) access outwith school hours, and (g) response to incidents.

Decided:

- (1) that the results of the audit and of the effectiveness of security measures in schools be noted;
- (2) that the proposals outlined for 2004/05 be approved, and
- (3) that further reports on school safety and security including an annual audit be submitted to future meetings of the Sub-Committee.

BUILDINGS AND SITE SURPLUS TO EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS AT FORMER LANGLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated March 2004 by the Director of Education proposing that the building and site at the former Langlands Primary School be declared surplus to educational requirements.

Decided:

- (1) that the buildings and site at the former Langlands Primary School, Cumbernauld, as shown on the plans attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, be declared surplus to educational requirements, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Property) Sub-Committee with the recommendation that the Director of Housing and Property Services dispose of the land concerned in line with agreed procedures.

Prior to consideration of the following item, the Convener introduced the recently appointed School Travel Co-ordinator, Ms. L. Buchanan, to the Sub-Committee

SCHOOL TRAVEL CO-ORDINATOR POST - PROGRESS

5. Under reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of the Planning and Environment (Roads and Transport) Sub-Committee of 13 August 2003 in so far as it related to the appointment of a School Travel Co-ordinator for a temporary period of three years, there was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated 19 February 2004 by the Directors of Education and Planning and Environment (1) confirming the appointment of the School Travel Co-ordinator as part of a Scottish Executive Initiative; (2) advising that the main aims of the Initiative were (a) to promote more sustainable and environmentally friendly travel choices for school related trips; (b) to reduce the volume of school related vehicular trips, and (c) to address problems such as congestion and road safety; (3) providing a summary of the strategic objectives of the post, and (4) indicating that progress on the implementation of the Initiative would be submitted to the Sub-Committee.

Thereon the School Travel Co-ordinator was heard in relation to the remit of the post and initiatives which she hoped to develop.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress of the school travel project, be noted, and
- (2) that the Directors of Education and Planning and Environment submit further reports on the progress of the Initiative to future meetings of the Sub-Committee.

REVIEW OF SCHOOL MEAL PRICES 2004/05

6. There was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated 20 February 2004 by the Directors of Education and Community Services outlining proposals for the annual price review of the schools meals service from 1 April 2004 (1) recommending (a) that the price for the traditional two course meal should remain at the current price level of £1.45 in primary schools and £1.50 in secondary schools; (b) that, in light of recommendations contained in the Scottish Executive's "Hungry for Success" report, the price of less healthy food items be increased, and (c) that the price of milk in primary schools should remain at the current price level of 10p, and (2) setting out in the Appendix to the report details of revised prices for primary and secondary school meals and drinks to reflect the annual review of charges.

Decided: that the review of prices for the school meals service for 2004/05, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be approved.

DISABILITY ACCESS AUDITS - APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIALIST CONSULTANT

7. Under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 18 December 2003 when, inter alia, the Director of Education had been authorised to enter into negotiations with the Institute of Public Finance Limited to undertake computerised disability access audits in schools and to develop software which would be fully interactive with the Council's existing IT systems for school estate management planning, there was submitted a report (tabled) dated 1 March 2004 by the Director of Education (1) advising that, following negotiations with the Institute of Public Finance Limited for Phase 1 of the contract which included schools which had been identified as being a high priority in terms of the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, the cost for 18 priority schools was £58,500 plus an allowance of £15,000 for associated software together with a contingency of £26,500 for further audits if required; (2) indicating that funding for Phase 1 of the project would be spread over 2003/04 and 2004/05, and (3) intimating that the Director of Education had accepted the terms negotiated with the Institute of Public Finance Limited for Phase 1 of the project.

Decided: that the action taken by the Director of Education in accepting the negotiated tender with the Institute of Public Finance Limited for Phase 1 of the project involving computerised disability access audits in 18 high priority schools at a total cost of £100,000 be homologated.

DELINEATION OF UDDINGSTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL - SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated March 2004 by the Director of Education (1) advising that South Lanarkshire Council had recently approved the delineation of all secondary schools within its boundaries; (2) intimating that South Lanarkshire Council's proposals had implications for schools who transfer pupils to Uddingston Grammar School; (3) stating that, with effect from 8 September 2003, only those pupils who live in the delineated area of Uddingston Grammar School would be eligible to transfer to that school, and (4) indicating that, as a result of the changes, Uddingston Grammar School would have a delineated catchment area consisting of the combined areas of Aitkenhead, Burnhead and Tannochside Primary Schools, North Lanarkshire, and two primary schools within South Lanarkshire.

Decided: that the revised arrangements for the primary to secondary school transfer from North Lanarkshire schools associated with South Lanarkshire Council's Uddingston Grammar School, be noted.

SCHOOL BUILDING MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS - ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS

9. There were submitted reports by the Director of Housing and Property Services (1) providing details of tenders received for various school building contracts, and (2) advising that following consultation with the Convener, the Director of Administration had arranged for acceptance of the lowest tender for each of the projects, all in terms of his delegated powers and as detailed below:-

- (a) the lowest tender for Phase 2 of the Project for the Upgrading to Science Laboratories at Various Schools was, after checking, that submitted by Daniel Campbell & Sons (Contractors) Limited, Strathaven in the sum of £163,569.60, and
- (b) the lowest tender for the Phase 1 of the Rationalisation of St. Aidan's High School, Wishaw was, after checking, that submitted by Alltech Limited, Glasgow in the sum of £135,347.12.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the reports by the Director of Housing and Property Services be noted, and
- (2) that the action taken by the Director of Administration, following consultation with the Convener, in accepting each of the tenders, as detailed in the reports, be noted.