

**EXCERPT OF MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 1999**

**SCHOOLS FOR THE MILLENNIUM: REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION IN CUMBERNAULD AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATION**

14. With reference to paragraph 17 of the minutes of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 20 October 1998 when, *inter alia*, that Committee had
- (1) noted an analysis of primary school provision and the opportunities which existed for consolidation thereof;
  - (2) approved review priorities; and
  - (3) authorised the Director of Education to prepare consultative documents setting out proposals in respect of the priority issues approved for review,
    - (A) a report (docketed) dated October 1999 by the Director of Education was submitted
      - (i) summarising the issues associated with current primary school provision in the Cumbernauld area;
      - (ii) advising of informal discussions regarding the future provision of primary education in that area and the views expressed in those discussions;
      - (iii) summarising the options proposed to be contained in formal consultation papers;
      - (iv) proposing arrangements for the consultative process; and
      - (v) recommending that the Committee (a) note the issues associated with current primary school provision in Cumbernauld; (b) note the views expressed in the informal consultation process; (c) approve the broad proposals for future primary school provision in Cumbernauld; and (d) approve the submission of formal consultation papers covering these proposals; and
    - (B) six reports (docketed) dated October 1999 by the Director of Education were submitted (1) containing consultation documents relating to the Education provision for, respectively, primary age non-denominational pupils in the Abronhill area of Cumbernauld, primary age denominational pupils in the Seafar, Carbrain and Kildrum areas of Cumbernauld, primary age non-denominational pupils in the Greenfaulds and Carbrain areas of Cumbernauld, primary age non-denominational pupils in Cumbernauld Village and areas north of the A80, primary age denominational pupils in Cumbernauld Village and areas north of the A80, and primary age pupils living in rural areas outwith the town of Cumbernauld; (2) recommending that the Committee (a) adopt, for consultation, the proposals contained in the consultative documents, (b) approve the issue of the consultative documents, (c) agree that all interested parties be asked to make written representations on the proposals not later than 30 November 1999 and (d) instruct the Director of Education to prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

Councillor Gray, seconded by Councillor McKeown, moved that the Committee (1) note the issues associated with current primary school provision in Cumbernauld; (2) note the views expressed in the informal consultation process; (3) approve the broad proposals for future primary school provision in Cumbernauld; and (4) approve the submission of formal consultation papers covering those proposals.

Councillor Gordon Murray, seconded by Councillor McCallum, moved, as an amendment, that the review of primary school provision in Cumbernauld be continued for

- (1) A fuller examination of the current Primary School provision in Cumbernauld, to ensure that at the end of the review, there is a balanced and fair provision of Primary Education in each part of Cumbernauld, with adequate local Nursery provision for all 3 and 4 year old pupils without subjecting parents to unacceptable transport costs;
- (2) To enable a realistic design capacity for each school to be established. The present accepted figures based on 30 Primary pupils per class (including composite classes) is not a realistic desired option as we enter the 21st Century, especially with a Government elected on a Policy of "EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION". It is reasonable to allow up to 3 classrooms per Primary School from Nursery and Special Educational requirements. This means in a normal 2-stream, 14 classroom school, the desirable effective capacity should be 11 classrooms with 25 pupils, ie 275 places per Primary School;
- (3) These proposals express the clear views of the parents at the informal consultation process;
- (4) There is accordingly no need to proceed at this meeting with consultation for an irresponsible programme of undesirable school closures. Closures which will lead to unacceptable problems in achieving the higher educational standards which will be necessary for our communities to flourish in the 21st Century, and
- (5) The statistics and proposals presented to the Education Committee are fundamentally flawed and biased against the residents of Cumbernauld.

On a vote being taken, six members voted for the amendment and twenty one members for the motion.

Thereon Councillor G. Murray, seconded by Councillor Lyle, moved in terms of paragraph 4(c)(D) of the Council's Scheme of Administration that the power delegated to the Education Committee be not exercised in respect of this item and that the matter be referred, for determination, to the Council.

Councillor Gray, seconded by Councillor McKeown, moved that the Committee exercise its delegated powers.

On a vote being taken, six members voted to require that the delegated power be not exercised and the matter under discussion be referred for determination to the Council and eighteen members voted for the exercise of delegated power.

One quarter of the members present and voting having required that the delegated power be not exercised and that the matter under discussion be referred for determination to the Council, the matter was referred accordingly.