

# EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday 29 January 2008  
at 10.30am in Council Offices, English Street, Dumfries

## Present

### Members

<b>Sandra McDowall</b> (Chairman)	-	Mid Galloway
<b>Gail MacGregor</b> (Vice Chairman)	-	Annandale North
<b>Ivor A Hyslop</b> (Leader)	-	Lochar
<b>John A Charteris</b>	-	Lochar
<b>Brian Collins</b>	-	Castle Douglas & Glenkens
<b>James H Dempster</b>	-	Mid & Upper Nithsdale
<b>Michael Dickie</b>	-	Annandale North
<b>Gillian Dykes</b>	-	Mid & Upper Nithsdale
<b>Jack Groom</b>	-	Nith
<b>Jeff Leaver</b>	-	Lochar
<b>Ian Lindsay</b>	-	Annandale East
<b>Jane S Maitland</b>	-	Dee
<b>Sean W Marshall</b>	-	Annandale South
<b>John Martin</b>	-	Nith
<b>Lorna McGowan</b>	-	Lochar
<b>Ronnie Nicholson</b>	-	North West Dumfries
<b>Doug Snell</b>	-	North West Dumfries
<b>David Stitt</b>	-	Abbey
<b>Alastair Witts</b>	-	Nith
<b>Canon Robin Paisley</b>	-	Church Representative
<b>Robert McQuistan</b>	-	Church Representative

### Officials

<b>Colin Grant</b>	-	Service Director Schools Services
<b>Stewart Atkinson</b>	-	Group Manager Community Services
<b>Sheila Armstrong</b>	-	Business Manager, Community Services
<b>Gordon Christie</b>	-	Project Director PPP
<b>Bill Harrow</b>	-	Operations Manager Architectural and Engineering Design Services
<b>Paul Garrett</b>	-	Operations Manager Accountancy
<b>Carol Henshall</b>	-	Service Manager, Committee and Member Services
<b>Chris McHardy</b>	-	Service Manager Property Services
<b>Peter Nelson</b>	-	Service Manager – ESWCS Property
<b>Caroline Taylor</b>	-	Group Business Manager
<b>Rhona Wells</b>	-	PPP Project Manager
<b>Lindsay Wilson</b>	-	Service Manager Business Performance & Development, Financial Services



**Apologies**

- Ian Blake** - Abbey
- Timothy Birrell** - Secondary Teacher Representative
- Ted Brown** - Annandale North
- Ian B Carruthers** - Annandale South
- John Dougan** - Stranraer & North Rhins
- Patsy Gilroy** - Dee  
(Convener)
- Thomas Jacques** - Dee
- Mgr Peter Magee** - Church Representative
- Elizabeth Ross** - Primary Teacher Representative

**Alex Haswell**

Group Manager Corporate Support & Governance

**20 Members present****0.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- Ivor A Hyslop declared an interest in Item 4 "Community Services Budget Savings Proposals 2008/09" in respect of the reduction to Third Section Organisations – Sports Councils and left the meeting for this item.
- Ronnie Nicholson declared an interest in item 8 "Third Sector Funding 2006/2007 to 2008/2009: Dumfries and Galloway Befriending Project" and left the meeting for this item.
- Lorna McGowan declared an interest in Item 9 "Money Advice Service – Continuity Arrangements" and left the meeting for this item.

**1. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 6 DECEMBER 2007****Decision****AGREED****2. EDUCATION, SOCIAL WORK AND COMMUNITY SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2011** - Report dated 21 January 2008 by Service Director Schools Services and Group Manager Community Services.**VOTE**

**2.1 MOTION** by **JANE S MAITLAND**, seconded by **SEAN MARSHALL** to agree to change the wording on page 24 of the Education, Social Work and Community Services Strategic Plan 2008-2011 at Key Task 5 to "Best Value – to achieve best value in service delivery."

**2.2 AMENDMENT** by **IVOR A HYSLOP**, seconded by **SANDRA McDOWALL** to agree that the wording on page 24 of the Education, Social Work and Community Services Strategic Plan 2008-2011 at Key Task 5 should remain as "Integrated Services – to bring together the strengths of the individual business units of Cultural Services to enhance public service and to achieve best value in service delivery."

**2.3** On a vote being taken by roll call, Members voted as follows:-

**Motion – 13 votes being:-**

Brian Collins, James H Dempster, Gillian Dykes, Jeff Leaver, Ian Lindsay, Jane S Maitland, Sean W Marshall, John Martin, Lorna McGowan, Ronnie Nicholson, Doug Snell, David Stitt and Alastair Witts.

**Amendment – 5 votes being:-**

Sandra McDowall, Gail MacGregor, John Charteris, Michael Dickie and Ivor Hyslop.

**Abstentions – 2 being:-**

Robert McQuistan and Canon Robin Paisley.

**Decision**

2.4 **AGREED** to change the wording on page 24 of the Education, Social Work and Community Services Strategic Plan 2008-2011 at Key Task 5 to "Best Value – to achieve best value in service delivery";

2.5 **APPROVED** the Education, Social Work and Community Services Strategic Plan, as amended, for the period 2008-11 subject to the addition of "Active energy management" to Strategic Objective - Greener on page 34 and a correction on page 38 to "charging";

2.6 **AGREED** that the Schools Services Operational Plan would encompass the Education Improvement Plan and the Inspection of Education Function of Local Authorities Action Plan: and

2.7 **NOTED** that Operational Plans would be developed for Community Services and Schools Services after the budget had been set.

**3. EDUCATION BUDGET SAVINGS PROPOSALS 2008/09** - Report dated 22 January 2008 by Service Director Schools Services.

**VOTE**

3.1 **MOTION** by **RONNIE NICHOLSON**, seconded by **JEFF LEAVER** in respect of budget saving Priority 7 – Teachers reductions due to falling school roll of £200k to agree (1) that these 8 posts be retained; (2) to request that officers present other options at the meeting in February 2008 to enable the Committee to deliver the £200k savings for 2008/09; and (3) to remit officers to formally write to Scottish Government to seek clarification on funding for the reduction in class sizes.

3.2 **AMENDMENT** by **JANE S MAITLAND**, seconded by **SANDRA McDOWALL** to agree the budget saving in respect of Priority 7 – Teachers reduction due to falling roll of £200k which has been agreed in principle by the Finance Sub Committee based on risk and impact assessments undertaken by the Corporate Management Team and by Schools Services Management Team.

3.3 On a vote being taken by roll call, Members voted as follows:-

**Motion – 6 votes being:-**

James H Dempster, Jeff Leaver, Sean W Marshall, John Martin, Ronnie Nicholson, and David Stitt.

**Amendment – 12 votes being:-**

Sandra McDowall, Gail MacGregor, John Charteris, Brian Collins, Michael Dickie, Gillian Dykes, Ivor Hyslop, Ian Lindsay, Jane S Maitland, Lorna McGowan, Doug Snell and Alastair Witts.

**Abstentions – 2 being:-**

Robert McQuistan and Canon Robin Paisley.

## Decision

### **AGREED**

3.5 the budget saving Priority 7 – Teachers reduction due to falling roll of £200k which had been agreed in principle by the Finance Sub Committee based on risk and impact assessments undertaken by the Corporate Management Team and by Schools Services Management Team;

3.6 the budget savings proposals which had been agreed, in principle, by the Finance Sub Committee based on risk and impact assessments undertaken by the Corporate Management Team and by Schools Services Management Team as follows:-

3.6.1 Priority 10 – Teachers reductions due to falling school rolls Full Year Affect of 2007/2008 of £180k;

3.6.2 Priority 12 – Central support staff reduction of £120k;

3.6.3 Priority 15 - Reduction in Childcare Review – Development of £50k;

3.6.4 Priority 20 – Full Year Affect of 2007/08 savings on the reduction of non-teaching staff of £44k; and

3.6.5 Priority 22 – Classroom materials – 2% savings procurement of £24k; and

3.7 to receive a report on the teaching establishment and the use of supply teachers.

**MEMBERS – Robert McQuistan and Canon Robin Paisley left the meeting – 18 Members present**

**4. COMMUNITY SERVICES BUDGET SAVINGS PROPOSALS 2008/09 -**  
Report dated 23 January 2008 by Group Manager Community Services.

**PROCEDURE -** Members were circulated an updated page 4 due to an error with the numbered paragraphs.

**PROCEDURE -** The Chairman intimated her intent for the Committee to consider all but the Sports Councils savings proposals in the first instance.

**PROCEDURE -** Governance advice was given in respect of Member involvement in relation to Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association and that the declared interest and the business before Members would not prevent Members from taking part in any discussion or vote.

## VOTE

4.1 **MOTION** by **JOHN MARTIN**, seconded by **JAMES H DEMPSTER** to defer consideration of the budget saving Priority 23 - Rationalise administration/clerical staffing within Cultural Services, in order to receive further information to the February 2008 meeting appreciating the need for the report to also identify a range of other options to achieve the savings of £24k.

4.2 **AMENDMENT** by **SANDRA McDOWALL**, seconded by **GAIL MACGREGOR** to agree the budget saving Priority 23 - Rationalise administration/clerical staffing within Cultural Services, which have been agreed in principle by the Finance Sub Committee based on risk and impact assessments undertaken by the Corporate Management Team and by Community Services Management Team, subject to a

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proposed implementation plan for the savings of £24k to be presented to the February meeting.

4.3 On a vote being taken by roll call, Members voted as follows:-

**Motion – 8 votes being:-**

James H Dempster, Gillian Dykes, Jeff Leaver, Sean W Marshall, John Martin, Ronnie Nicholson, David Stitt and Alastair Witts.

**Amendment – 10 votes being:-**

Sandra McDowall, Gail MacGregor, Ivor Hyslop, John Charteris, Brian Collins, Michael Dickie, Ian Lindsay, Jane S Maitland, Lorna McGowan and Doug Snell.

### **Decision**

#### **AGREED**

4.4 the budget saving Priority 23 - Rationalise administration/clerical staffing within Cultural Services, which had been agreed in principle by the Finance Sub Committee based on risk and impact assessments undertaken by the Corporate Management Team and by Community Services Management Team, subject to a proposed implementation plan for the savings of £24k to be presented to the February 2008 meeting;

4.5 the budget savings proposals which had been agreed in principle by the Finance Sub Committee based on risk and impact assessments undertaken by the Corporate Management Team and by Community Services Management Team as follows:-

4.5.1 Priority 17 – Leisure and Sport Management Restructure of £35k;

4.5.2 Priority 18 – Savings on Strategic Support of £28k;

4.5.3 Priority 28 – Reduce Travel costs of £10k; increase in sponsorship target set by Leisure and Sport of £5k; remitted to officers to find an additional £2k sponsorship and to exclude the £2k reduction in floral decorations at Gretna Registration Office;

**MEMBER – Alastair Witts left the meeting – 17 Members present**

4.5.4 **AGREED** budget saving Priority 33 – Reduce Arts Development Fund to £17,600 of £7k;

**MEMBERS – Ivor A Hyslop declared an interest and left the meeting for consideration of this item and Sean Marshall left the meeting - 15 Members present**

#### **AGREED**

4.5.4 budget saving Priority 34 – Reduction in Third Sector Sports Council grants of £4k;

4.5.5 budget saving Priority 34 – Reduction in support of Kirkcudbright Swimming Pool of £2k;

4.5.6 budget saving Priority 34 – Reduction in the Cultural Services Partnership Funding of £5k; and

4.5.7 budget saving Priority 34 – Reduction to Annandale and Eskdale Sports and Leisure Trust management fee in line with the Leisure and Sport savings target across the other three areas of the region of £5k.

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**PROCEDURE – Jane S Maitland requested that her dissent be recorded in respect of decision 4.5.5.**

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING –** The meeting was adjourned at 12.35pm and reconvened at 1.00pm with 17 Members present being:-

Sandra McDowall, Gail MacGregor, John Charteris, Brian Collins, James H Dempster, Michael Dickie, Gillian Dykes, Ivor Hyslop, Jeff Leaver, Ian Lindsay, Jane S Maitland, Sean W Marshall, John Martin, Ronnie Nicholson, David Stitt, Doug Snell and Alastair Witts.

**5. SCHOOLS SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2007/08 -** Report dated 21 January 2008 by Corporate Director of Corporate Services.

**MEMBERS - Jack Groom and Lorna McGowan entered and James H Dempster, Michael Dickie and Gillian Dykes left the meeting – 16 Members present**

#### **Decision**

5.1 **NOTED** the physical and financial progress on the Schools Services Capital Programme to date and in particular the Schools Fund Programme;

5.2 **APPROVED** the proposed additional projects for inclusion in the Schools Fund programme;

5.3 **AGREED** that it was inappropriate, outwith the existing School Devolved School Management approval processes currently in place, for Head Teachers to make their own arrangements to utilise local tradesmen to carry out repairs and maintenance work to schools; and

5.4 **NOTED** the update on the structural issues at Dumfries High School and agree to receive a further report in February 2008.

**MEMBERS – Lorna McGowan and Alastair Witts left the meeting – 14 Members present**

**6. COMMUNITY SERVICES - CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PROPERTY ISSUES – JANUARY 2008 -** Report dated 17 January 2008 by Group Manager Community Services.

#### **Decision**

6.1 **NOTED** the ongoing project management of Community Services Capital Programmes for 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10;

#### **AGREED**

6.2 the changes in the Capital Maintenance Block;

6.3 that the Net and Projected costs for each funding block within 2007/08; and

6.4 **NOTED** that the proposed changes were reflected in the updated full Capital Programme.

**7. THIRD SECTOR FUNDING 2008/09 TO 2010/2011: FUNDING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED** - Report dated 15 January 2008 by Group Manager Community Services.

**Decision**

**NOTED**

- 7.1 funding applications received for 2008/09 to 2010/11 inclusive;
- 7.2 applications passed to Area Committees;
- 7.3 the return of applications that were ineligible for Third Sector Strategic Budget and Area Committee funding support;
- 7.4 that a more comprehensive report would be presented for the annual decision making meeting on 6 March 2008; and
- 7.5 that there was an opportunity for Members to seek dispensations relating to the eligible funding applications, in advance of the annual decision making meeting on 6 March 2008.

**MEMBER – Ronnie Nicholson declared an interest and left the meeting – 13 Members present**

**8. THIRD SECTOR FUNDING 2006/2007 TO 2008/2009: DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY BEFRIENDING PROJECT** - Report dated 10 January 2008 by Service Director Social Work Services.

**Decision**

- 8.1 **NOTED** the positive findings in respect of Dumfries and Galloway Befriending Project following a successful review of their services; and
- 8.2 **AGREED** that Dumfries and Galloway Befriending Project, following a successful review of their services, be awarded £28,211 for 2008/09.

**MEMBER – Ronnie Nicholson re-entered the meeting – 14 Members present**

**9. MONEY ADVICE SERVICE – CONTINUITY ARRANGEMENTS** - Report dated 22 January 2008 by Group Manager Community Services.

**Decision**

**AGREED**

- 9.1 that the current contract for the Money Advice Service be extended to 30 September 2008 in order to allow for the budget-setting and tendering processes;
- 9.2 that the new Money Advice Service contract may, at the discretion of officers, contain a clause to the effect that, subject to satisfactory performance monitoring and Committee approval, the contract may be extended at the end of the three year period, for a maximum of one year; and
- 9.3 to receive a further report after the budget-setting process for 2008/09, to consider budget levels for the Money Advice Service for the duration of the three year contract.



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**10. LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS MEETING OF 12 JUNE 2007**

**Decision**

NOTED

**11. LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS MEETING OF 24 OCTOBER 2007**

**Decision**

NOTED

**12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973**

**Decision**

**AGREED** to adopt a resolution to exclude the public from the meeting in terms of Section 50A (4) of and paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

**13. 2A SCHOOLS - CARGENBRIDGE, TROQUEER AND LINCLUDEN - REPORT ON TENDERS** – Report dated 25 January 2008 by Service Director Schools Services.

**VOTE**

13.1 **MOTION** by **JEFF LEAVER**, seconded by **RONNIE NICHOLSON** to agree (1) that “green items” to the value of £273, 415 are included; and (2) to recommend to Finance Sub Committee on 7 February 2008 that the additional funding of £2,211,033 be released from the PPP Sinking Fund.

13.2 **AMENDMENT** by **SANDRA McDOWALL**, seconded by **JOHN CHARTERIS** to agree (1) that “green items” to the value of £273,415 are excluded on the basis of extended uneconomic payback period; and (2) to recommend to Finance Sub Committee on 7 February 2008 that the addition funding of £1,937,618 excluding “green items” be released from the PPP Sinking Fund.

13.3 On a vote being taken by roll call, Members voted as follows:-

**Motion – 7 votes being:-**

Brian Collins, Jeff Leaver, Sean W Marshall, John Martin, Ronnie Nicholson, Doug Snell and David Stitt.

**Amendment – 7 votes being:-**

Sandra McDowall, Gail MacGregor, John Charteris, Jack Groom, Ivor Hyslop, Ian Lindsay and Jane S Maitland.

There being an equality of votes, the Chairman exercised her right to a casting vote which fell in favour of the amendment.

**Decision****AGREED**

13.1 that "green items" to the value of £273,415 were excluded on the basis of an extended uneconomic payback period;

13.2 to recommend to Finance Sub Committee on 7 February 2008 that the additional funding of £1,937,618 excluding "green items" be released from the PPP Sinking Fund;

**NOTED**

13.3 that, if approval was given, it was anticipated that work would commence on site in March 2008 with the duration of 18 months to completion; and

13.4 that Ecological Management reports were being developed for each of the three schools.