

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 8 FEBRUARY 2010
REPORT ON: ADDITIONAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY 2009-2010
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
REPORT NO: 78-2010

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report brings to the attention of the Education Committee a request to approve one additional day for staff development and training in all schools and establishments on June 1 2010. To make this possible, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Learning has indicated his intention to modify the number of days schools must be open using his powers under Section 133(4) of the 1980 Act.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Education Committee is recommended to:

- i. note the contents of this report;
- ii. approve one additional staff development and training day on June 1 2010;
- iii. instruct the Director of Education to make a formal request to the Cabinet Secretary for the additional day; and
- iv. instruct the Director of Education to provide parents and carers with advance notice of the additional staff development and training day.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Reference is made to Article V of the minute of the meeting of the Education Committee of 9 March 2009 where the Committee approved report no. 163 - 2009. The report requested the allocation of an additional staff development and training day to be held in each of August 2009, 2010 and 2011. This was to assist in the implementation of a Curriculum for Excellence.

4.2 The implementation of a Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) represents a major development across Scottish education. In September 2009, *Assessment for Curriculum for Excellence* set out the strategic vision and key principles with the agreement that a framework for assessment would follow later. The framework would provide guidance to teaching staff on how the new assessment system would raise standards and expectations, promote depth of understanding and improve learners' skills. The relevant framework document, *Building the Curriculum 5: A Framework for Assessment*, was published on 29 January 2010 together with an associated paper on quality assurance and moderation.

- 4.2 To support the effective implementation of the assessment framework within CfE, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Learning has approved the allocation of a further staff development and training day between April and June 2010, and has invited and encouraged all local councils formally to request it. This decision has clear implications for the work of the Education Department given our stated commitment to the successful implementation of CfE across all sectors of education. The allocation of an additional staff development day will be used to introduce staff to the new assessment framework and the ways in which the revised approaches will raise standards and expectations, promote depth of understanding and improve learners' skills.
- 4.3 Quality assurance and moderation of assessment are essential to ensure the development of robust nationally benchmarked standards. The assessment framework and the associated quality assurance paper have been agreed by the national Curriculum for Excellence Management Board. Implementation of the new framework will require significant and sustained activity and development time by local authorities and schools. The allocation of an additional staff development and training day would clearly enhance the existing time for professional development. The programme for the day will be developed by the Educational Development Service and monitored closely to ensure that the time is used to maximum effect.
- 4.4 In our view, the most suitable date on which to request the additional staff development and training day would be 1 June 2010. This would follow on from the Victoria Day holiday on 31 May 2010 and would minimise potential disruption for parents and carers in terms of childcare arrangements. Having considered alternative dates between April and June 2010, the department would consider this solution to be the most appropriate one for a number of reasons such as the need to be sensitive to the SQA examination period and the fact that, throughout June, schools will have already planned events such as residential visits, field trips and induction events for pre-school and P7 pupils.
- 4.5 Opting for the date of 1 June 2010 would provide a staff development day when staff could participate in a variety of carefully planned and relevant professional development activities at school, departmental and individual level. This would enable staff to engage in professional discussion about the new assessment framework and its implications at class and school level.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environment Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.
- 5.2 There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), the Director of Finance, Head Teachers and the teacher trade unions.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

Jim Collins
Director of Education
21 January 2010