The following papers are attached for this meeting—

AGENDA

PE 114 by Julia Clarke
Note by the Clerk on PE 114  ED/00/13/1

PE 122 by St. Mary's Episcopal Primary School
Note by the Clerk on PE 122  ED/00/13/2
(Both Agenda item 2)

Note by the Clerk on appointment of adviser
(Agenda item 3)  ED/00/13/3

The following papers are issued for information—

PE 108 by Mr Frank Harvey
Note by the Clerk on PE 108

PE 117 by Mr Alexander Donald
Note by the Clerk on PE 117

PE 120 by Mr Frank Harvey
Note by the Clerk on PE 120
EDUCATION CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

AGENDA

13th Meeting, 2000

Wednesday 5th April 2000

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in the Edinburgh Festival Theatre, 13/29 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh.

1. Standards in Scotland’s Schools etc. Bill: The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2 (Day 1).

2. Update on Committee business: The Committee will be updated on business in its current work programme.

3. Public Petitions: The Committee will consider the following petitions—
   
   PE 114 by Julia Clarke on after-school care clubs
   
   PE 122 by St. Mary’s Episcopal Primary School – Request for the school to be given grant-aided status

4. School Infrastructure Inquiry: The Committee will consider proposals for the appointment of an adviser to the Committee for this inquiry.

Gillian Baxendale
Clerk to the Committee
Room 2.7 Committee Chambers
Ext. 85204
Email gillian.baxendale@scottish.parliament.uk

Please note there will be a meeting of the Education, Culture and Sport Committee at 10.00am on Wednesday 5th April in the Edinburgh Festival Theatre, 13/29 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh.

The meeting will be open to the public. The meeting will be sound recorded. Official Report will be present. There are no witnesses for this meeting.

The Committee will consider 4 items of business.

The external EMAIL address is: education.committee@scottish.parliament.uk

There are no Special Needs flagged.

There are no translation needs flagged.

If there are any queries, or anything you wish to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact myself or any member of the Education, Culture and Sport Team.

Gillian Baxendine
Education, Culture and Sport Clerk
Committee Chambers Room 2.7
Ext. 85204
gillian.baxendine@scottish.parliament.uk
EDUCATION CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

Petition PE 114: Julia Clarke

1. The Public Petitions Committee referred this petition to the Committee on 20 March 2000 and asked that it consider the issues raised. It recommends the Committee consults with the Scottish Executive as appropriate.

The Petition

2. The petitioner considers that current policies on child-care, employment, social inclusion and the benefits system should be “joined up” so as to assist women into the workplace by giving them other options for child-care. She requests that the Parliament establishes a working group to analyse the cost of converting primary schools into after-school care clubs at the end of the school day; and calls on the Executive to designate a Minister with lead responsibility for taking forward this policy on completion of a Parliamentary report.

3. The Committee will note that some of the areas mentioned by the petitioner are reserved matters.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that in the first instance the Clerk writes to the Scottish Executive seeking:

   • their comments on the petitioner’s proposals as they relate to after schools clubs;
   • confirmation of their policy in this area; and
   • their views on the appointment of a lead Minister.

5. The Committee may also want to consider whether it wishes to seek the views of the Equal Opportunities Committee.

David McLaren
Senior Assistant Clerk
March 2000
1. The Public Petitions Committee referred this petition to the Committee on 20 March 2000 and asked that it be taken into account together with the evidence it has already taken on St Mary’s as part of its consideration of the Standards in Scotland’s Schools etc. Bill.

The Petition

2. The petition which has been signed by members of the Board of Management of St Mary’s School asks the Parliament to consider their request that St Mary’s be given grant-aided status. They consider that this would “redress the Parliament’s unjust treatment of the School’s parents and pupils, and recognise that they have equal rights to the parents and pupils of Jordanhill School in Glasgow”.

3. Ministers have written to the School rejecting their request for grant-aided status.

Committee’s consideration to date

4. The Committee heard oral evidence from St Mary’s School, and members will recall the correspondence with Stirling Council which followed. The Committee, in its report on Stage 1 of the Bill, agreed the general principle that self-governing schools be returned to local authority control (although Mr Monteith dissented).

Recommendation

5. Clearly there is an opportunity during stages 2 and 3 of the Bill for members of the Committee and other MSPs to lodge amendments in relation to the relevant sections of the Bill. It is recommended that the Clerk writes to the petitioner on this basis, but stressing that the Committee (apart from Mr Monteith) has already agreed the general principle in the Bill.

David McLaren
Senior Assistant Clerk
March 2000
Education Culture and Sport Committee

School infrastructure inquiry: appointment of Committee adviser

1. The Committee recently agreed a remit for its inquiry on school buildings and infrastructure and issued a call for written evidence, to be received by 19th May.

2. Given the technical nature of some of the issues, it is proposed that the Committee should appoint an adviser to assist with the inquiry. Annex A suggests a remit for the adviser.

3. The Committee is invited to agree in principle to the appointment of an adviser. We will then seek agreement in principle from the Bureau before approaching possible candidates.

Gillian Baxendine
Clerk to the Committee

30 March 2000
DRAFT REMIT FOR ADVISER

1. The Education, Culture and Sport Committee of the Scottish Parliament has launched a major inquiry into the current state of school buildings and infrastructure. The Inquiry will:

   - Review the current state of school buildings and other school infrastructure across Scotland and the investment required to bring schools up to an acceptable level
   - Consider the adequacy of the standards and specifications applied by authorities to school buildings and other infrastructure
   - Consider the impact and value of public private partnerships in financing the building, renovation and repair of schools
   - Seek views about the adequacy of provision in specific areas of concern such as sports, arts, community use, libraries and new technology

2. The Committee has issued a general invitation for written evidence and has also sent a short questionnaire to all local authorities in Scotland. The Committee has now agreed that an adviser should be appointed to assist with the Inquiry. The adviser should have expertise in relevant technical areas, particularly private finance.

3. The adviser would be responsible for:

   - Analysing the written evidence, providing a report to the Committee on the findings and making an oral presentation to the Committee if required (3 days)
   - Analysing the responses to the local authority questionnaire and reporting to the Committee as above (2 days)
   - Arranging a briefing seminar for the Committee to hear from experts in the area of PFI/PPP, including legal, financial and architectural expertise (2 days)
   - Proposing (and where appropriate, attending) a series of Committee visits and oral evidence taking if required on the basis of the written evidence, the questionnaire responses and the briefing seminar (3 days)
   - Drafting a report of the Inquiry including draft recommendations for the Committee to discuss (5 days)

Written evidence is to be received by 19 May 2000 and the Inquiry is due to report by December 2000. It is envisaged that the Adviser will work for a total of 15 days during this period. Actual dates will depend on Committee and Adviser availability.

Sue Morris, SPICe
March 2000
EDUCATION CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

Petition PE 117: Alexander Donald

1. The Public Petitions Committee referred this petition to the Transport and Environment Committee on 20 March 2000 and asked that it seek the views of the Executive on the matters raised. It has also passed the petition to the Education Culture and Sport Committee to note for information.

2. For that reason the petition has not been included as an agenda item. However if any member thinks it merits consideration during a meeting of the Committee, they should inform the Convener or me.

The Petition

3. The petitioner is concerned about the lack of adequate road safety measures to prevent the injury and death of children in the vicinity of ice-cream vans, and has campaigned for a number of years on this issue. He has called for the Parliament to produce a new film on ice cream van safety; to allow these vans to use their hazard lights when stopped; and that the speed limit when passing an ice-cream van should be 5-10 miles per hour.

4. The Committee has been asked to note the petition in view of any possible implications which the proposals may have on road safety education in schools.

David McLaren
Senior Assistant Clerk
March 2000
For Information

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

Petition PE108: Mr Frank Harvey

1. The Public Petitions Committee referred this petition to the Education, Culture and Sport Committee on 20 March 2000. The Public Petitions Committee have made clear that the petition was referred so that it could be noted, but with no request for further consideration by the Committee unless that is thought necessary.

2. For that reason, this petition has not been included as an Agenda item but is circulated only as a “paper for information”. However, if any Member thinks it merits consideration during a meeting of the Committee, they should inform the Convener or me.

David McLaren
Senior Assistant Clerk

March 2000
1. The Public Petitions Committee referred this petition to the Education, Culture and Sport Committee on 20 March 2000. It was also referred to the Rural Affairs Committee. The Public Petitions Committee have made clear that the petition was referred so that it could be noted, but with no request for further consideration by either Committee unless that is thought necessary.

2. For that reason, this petition has not been included as an Agenda item but is circulated only as a “paper for information”. However, if any Member thinks it merits consideration during a meeting of the Committee, they should inform the Convener or me.

David McLaren
Senior Assistant Clerk
March 2000