

## 7. REVISED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STRATEGY

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Corporate Plan Output: Childcare	

The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's endorsement of the revised Early Childhood Education Strategy.

### BACKGROUND

The Council adopted an Early Childhood Education (ECE) Strategy in November 1999. The purpose of the Strategy was to provide some operational detail for the Early Childhood Education Policy which was adopted in August 1998.

The Council's three childcare centres (Tuam Street Early Learning Centre, QEII Pre School, and Pioneer Early Learning Centre) were reviewed in 2000 as part of the Outputs and Standards Review. As a result, the Council confirmed the current level of service in December 2000. The review identified that, although the ECE Policy includes the provider role for the Council, the ECE Strategy was silent on this point. During their consideration of the review report, the Community Services Outputs and Standards Special Committee agreed that the ECE Strategy should be revised to include the current provision of services, as confirmed by the Council.

Mary Richardson, Policy Analyst, has revised the ECE Strategy based on the above feedback from the review. The revised document has also been considered and accepted by the ECE Working Party which developed the original ECE Strategy in 1999 (members include Councillor Sally Thompson, Councillor Ingrid Stonhill, Lyn Campbell, Children's Advocate, Denise Galloway, Community Development Adviser, and Sally Latham, Community Adviser).

The revised ECE Strategy is attached.

### KEY CHANGES

The key changes to the revised ECE Strategy are:

- Amendments to the Background section (1.1) to include a section on the benefits of quality early childhood education
- Additions to the Policy and Strategic Fit section (1.3) to include the Council's three childcare centres
- The addition of a section on "Council Provision of Early Childhood Education" (2.1)

There have also been some cosmetic changes to the document such as the addition of a contents page and some re-ordering of the contents.

**Recommendation:** That the Committee endorse the revised ECE Strategy.

### Chairman's

**Recommendation:** That the Committee recommend to the Council adoption of the revised ECE Strategy.