

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **EDUCATION COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 27 August 2009 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors PETER NIELD, MARGARET THOMSON, ALISON ANDREWS, MAIRI EVANS, JEAN LEE, ALEX KING, DAVID MAY, DONALD MORRISON, ROBERT MYLES, HELEN OSWALD, JOHN RYMER, MARK SALMOND, PAUL VALENTINE and SHEENA WELSH.

Church Representatives: Mr DAVID ADAMS, Mrs PATRICIA MILLAR and Mr BILL SIMPSON.

Councillor NIELD, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Iain Gaul, Rob Murray, Mr Philip Jackson and Mr Brian McHardy with Councillors Jean Lee and Alex King substituting for Councillors Gaul and Murray, respectively.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee agreed to note that no declarations of interest were made.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 3 June 2009](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Angus Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers

The [minute of meeting of the Angus Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers of 27 May 2009](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

(c) Staffing Sub-Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Staffing Sub-Committee of 3 June 2009](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX II**).

(d) School Attendance Sub-Committee

The [minutes of meetings of the School Attendance Sub-Committee of 4 June](#) and [12 August 2009](#), copies of which are appended hereto, were submitted and noted (**APPENDICES III & IV respectively**).

(e) Appointments Sub-Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Appointments Sub-Committee of 24 June 2009](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX V**).

Arising therefrom and having heard the Convener, the Committee agreed that Mr Neil Logue, Senior Education Manager, be appointed Acting Director of Education on an interim basis until Mrs S Seilz started as Director of Education.

4. DELINEATED AREAS OF CARNOUSTIE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 April 2009, there was submitted [Report No 604/09](#) by the Director of Education outlining responses received to a recent consultation exercise and recommending that changes should take place to the existing delineated area of Woodlands Primary School and neighbouring primary schools in Carnoustie.

The Report indicated that responses to the consultation exercise had been received from Woodlands and Monikie Parent Councils and individual parents.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the responses to the recent consultation exercise on the delineated areas of Carnoustie Primary Schools;
- (ii) to note the commentary relating to these responses as contained within the Report;
- (iii) to formally approve, in principle, the amendment of delineated areas of primary schools in Carnoustie with effect from 1 January 2010 as follows:-
 - (a) area 1 to transfer from the delineated area of Woodlands Primary School to the delineated area of Burnside Primary School as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report;
 - (b) area 2 to transfer from the delineated area of Woodlands Primary School to the delineated area of Burnside Primary School as detailed in Appendix 2 of the Report;
 - (c) area 3 to transfer from the delineated area of Woodlands Primary School to the delineated area of Burnside Primary School as detailed in Appendix 3 of the Report;
 - (d) area 4 to transfer from the delineated area of Woodlands Primary School to the delineated area of Monikie Primary School as detailed in Appendix 4 of the Report; and
 - (e) area 5 to transfer from the delineated area of Woodlands Primary School to the delineated area of Newbigging Primary School as detailed in Appendix 5 of the Report;
- (iv) to instruct the Acting Director of Education to seek Ministerial approval for the foregoing amendments;
- (v) to note that further informal consideration and consultation would continue to be given to the possibility of making some further minor amendments relating to area 6 as detailed in Appendix 6 of the Report; and
- (vi) to confirm that Priority Category 1 status for future enrolment into Woodlands Primary School be accorded to all children currently living in any one of the five affected areas and already enrolled in the Woodlands Nursery Class, and on any children living in one of the five affected areas who already had older siblings attending Woodlands Primary School or Woodlands Nursery Class.

5. DELINEATED AREAS OF WHITEHILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND LANDLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 April 2009, there was submitted [Report No 605/09](#) by the Director of Education outlining responses received to a recent consultation exercise and recommending that changes should take place to the existing delineated areas of Whitehills Primary School and Langlands Primary School, Forfar.

The Report indicated that seven responses had been received, all from parents of pupils living in the affected area.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the responses to the recent consultation exercise;
- (ii) to note the commentary relating to these responses as contained within the Report;

- (iii) to formally approve, in principle, the amendment of delineated areas of Whitehills Primary School and Langlands Primary School, with effect from 1 January 2010, in order that the area detailed in the Report was transferred from the delineated area of Whitehills Primary School into the delineated area of Langlands Primary School, in accordance with the original proposal on which the consultation had taken place;
- (iv) to instruct the Acting Director of Education to seek Ministerial approval in respect of the foregoing amendment; and
- (v) to confirm that Priority Category 1 status for future enrolment into Whitehills Primary School be accorded to all children currently living in the affected area and already enrolled in Whitehills Nursery School, and of any children living in the affected area who already had older siblings attending Whitehills Primary School or Whitehills Nursery Class.

6. ANGUS INTERGRATED PLAN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES 2009-2012

With reference to Article 19 of the minute of meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee of 20 August 2009, there was submitted [Joint Report No 519/09](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health, the Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Director of Education advising members of the nature and focus of the Angus Integrated Plan for Children and Young People's Services 2009-2012, together with the Summary of Partnership Improvement Actions as appended to the Report.

The Report indicated that in building upon the well established practices of partnership working across Angus Children's Services, the Plan outlined the various partners' continued commitment to improve outcomes for all Angus children and young people.

Having heard Councillor Welsh, the Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and the Summary of Partnership Improvement Actions contained within the Angus Integrated Plan for Children and Young People's Services 2009-2012; and
- (ii) to note that the whole area of continued support for looked after children after full-time education would be considered by the Children's Services Partners.

7. CHILDREN'S HEARINGS (SCOTLAND) BILL

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Social Work and Health Committee of 13 August 2009, there was submitted [Joint Report No 520/09](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health and the Director of Education advising members that the draft Children's Hearings (Scotland) Bill had been published on 26 June 2009 and scheduled for introduction to the Scottish Parliament in Autumn 2009, contained proposals to reinforce and modernise the Children's Hearings System.

The Report summarised the key proposals of the Bill which included:-

- creation of a new national body to be entitled the Scottish Children's Hearings Tribunal;
- changes in functions and practice of the Children's Hearings system;
- changes to legal and procedural practices.
- transfer of the function of Panel Chairs and Children's Panel Advisory Committees to 'Area Support Teams'.

The Report also summarised the potential implications for the Council with the removal of the support function to Children's Hearings.

Members were then advised that, since publication of Joint Report No 520/09, the Scottish Government had announced that introduction of the Bill was to be delayed as Ministers required more time to consider the proposals in view of the wide range of comments received.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to instruct the Acting Director of Education in consultation with the Director of Social Work and Health to monitor and review the impact of any new legislation and bring forward further reports as required;
- (iii) to authorise the Convener to write to the Minister for Children and Young People, in the strongest possible terms, expressing concern at the contents of the draft Bill; and
- (iv) to ask Councillor Myles to raise similar concerns at the next appropriate COSLA meeting.

8. REVIEW OF ANGUS INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIPS

There was submitted [Report No 606/09](#) by the Director of Education providing members with an overview of the main findings and recommendations of the report of a Multi-Agency Working Group following a major review of the work of Angus Integrated Community School Partnerships.

The Report indicated that the importance of effective joint working across children's services in promoting the wellbeing and in realising the potential of all Angus children and young people had been highlighted in key partnership improvement actions within the 2009-2012 Angus integrated plan for Children and Young People's Services.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report, in particular the list of the Review Group's recommendations as detailed in the Appendix to the Report;
- (ii) to note the intention to re-designate existing partnerships as "Integrated Children and Young People's Services" partnerships; and
- (iii) to note that arrangements had been made to issue copies of the Report of the Multi-Agency Working Group to all Angus schools and to other children's services and partner agencies.

9. SCHOOL CONVEYANCE CONTRACTS - REVIEW OF CONTRACT PRICES

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 November 2008, there was submitted [Joint Report No 607/09](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Infrastructure Services recommending a school conveyance contract inflationary price increase of 1.91% with effect from 2 July 2009.

The Report indicated the basis for calculating the annual review of tendered local bus service contract prices which had resulted in the recommendation of a 1.91% increase.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve a 1.91% inflationary contract price increase for eligible school conveyance contracts, with effect from 2 July 2009.

10. EDUCATION REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 August 2008, there was submitted [Joint Report No 608/09](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Corporate Services advising members of the net revenue and capital expenditure compared to budget in respect of the Education Department for the financial year to 31 March 2009 and providing comment on the more significant variances arising.

The Report indicated a net underspend of £263,000 which included elements of the budget not under the direct control of the Education Department.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note that the Acting Director of Education and the Head of Finance would continue to monitor the position closely to ensure the most effective use was made of available resources, in conjunction with Financial Regulations.

11. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 August 2008, there was submitted [Report No 609/09](#) by the Director of Education, together with a copy of the 2008/2009 Annual Report for the Education Department.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Education Department Annual Report 2008/2009; and
- (ii) to express thanks and appreciation to all staff involved in the production of the Annual Report.