

# ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **MONITORING GROUP** held in Training Room C, Angus House, Forfar on Tuesday 20 November 2007 at 10.00 am.

**Present:** Councillors BOB MYLES, IAN MACKINTOSH, ALEX KING, ROB MURRAY and JOHN WHYTE.

**Also Present:** Councillor MARGARET THOMSON

Councillor MYLES, Convener, in the Chair.

**Apology:** An apology was intimated on behalf of Councillor PETER NIELD.

## 1. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The [minute of meeting of this Group of 18 September 2007](#) was submitted and approved as a correct record.

*Jim Anderson, Director of Education was invited into the meeting for item 2.*

## 2. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - HMIE REPORTS

### (a) Summary Profiles

There was submitted and noted summary profiles of Glamis Primary School, Inverarity Primary School and Webster's High School.

### (b) Glamis Primary School

*Mrs. Jane Ferguson, Acting Head Teacher, Glamis Primary School was invited into the meeting for this item.*

There was submitted HMIE Report on the inspection of Glamis Primary School which highlighted the key strengths as being:-

- the wide range of learning activities and visits experienced by pupils;
- the quality of pastoral care;
- effective staff teamwork and relationships;
- strong and beneficial partnerships with parents and the local community.

The Report identified a number of areas recommended for improvement, as detailed below:

- improve attainment;
- use assessment information more effectively to inform learning and teaching;
- increase the level of pace and challenge for some pupils;
- build on recent developments in self-evaluation to ensure continued improvement in outcomes for pupils.

In addition, there was submitted an Action Plan arising from the inspection which set out against each of the recommendations the action to be taken.

Having heard from Mrs. Ferguson, the Group agreed to note the contents of the Report and Action Plan.

**(c) Inverarity Primary School**

*Mrs Morag Thomson, Head Teacher, Inverarity Primary School was invited into the meeting for this item.*

There was submitted HMIE Report on the inspection of Inverarity Primary School which highlighted the key strengths as being:-

- motivated, well-behaved and courteous pupils;
- positive steps taken to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding in health education, including healthy eating.

The Report identified a number of areas recommended for improvement, as detailed below:-

- aspects of attainment in English language and mathematics;
- the organisation of the curriculum;
- opportunities to involve pupils in decision making and develop their responsibilities;
- the level of challenge offered to pupils;
- leadership and self-evaluation.

In addition, there was submitted an Action Plan arising from the inspection which set out against each of the recommendations the action to be taken.

Having heard from Mrs Thomson, the Group agreed to note the contents of the Report and Action Plan.

**(d) Webster's High School**

*Mr. Eric Summers, Head Teachers Webster's High School, was invited into the meeting for this item.*

There was submitted HMIE Report on the inspection of Webster's High School which highlighted the key strengths as being:-

- very effective approaches to meeting pupils' needs;
- high quality of attainment in external examinations at S4 to S6;
- the positive relationships between staff and pupils;
- varied and innovative links with parents, the community and other external agencies;
- leadership for learning of the head teacher and staff;
- promotion of a healthy lifestyle across the school;
- original use of information and communications technology (ICT) to support development planning.

The Report identified a number of areas recommended for improvement, as detailed below:-

- continue to develop consistently high quality learning and teaching approaches;
- continue to develop the innovative approaches to the curriculum in S1 and S2 to provide greater challenge for pupils;
- continue to develop opportunities for pupils in S5 and S6 to experience religious and moral education.

In addition, there was submitted an Improvement Plan arising from the inspection which set out against each of the recommendations the action to be taken.

Having heard from Mr. Summers, the Group agreed to note the contents of the Report and Improvement Plan, and that Mr Summers convey to his staff the appreciation of the Group on such an excellent Report.

**(e) Education Functions of Angus Council**

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 18 October 2007, there was submitted HMIE Report on the inspection of the education functions of Angus Council which highlighted the key strengths of the authority as being:-

- the impact of the shared vision on the work of establishments and the strong leadership and direction from the Director of Education and Senior Education Managers;
- the role of the Senior Management Team and EDS staff in providing effective support and challenge, promoting a culture of continuous improvement on sharing good practice;
- the authority's success in promoting effective partnerships with parents through consultation;
- the focus on effective learning and teaching and the impact of the successful learning and teaching policy on improving learning across schools;
- the mechanisms through which key resources including funding were delivered directly to schools and establishments;
- the impact of partnership working arrangements on the quality of pupils learning, particularly in the early years sector and for pupils with a range of additional support needs.

The Report indicated that the education authority had identified the continued need to raise attainment, ensure consistency in the quality of learning and teaching across establishments and maximise the impact of joint working arrangements. The Report recommended that the authority should continue to implement fully the vocational centres within secondary schools to maximize the quality of attainment and achievement, particularly for young people at risk of not proceeding to further education, employment and training.

In addition, there was submitted a follow-up Action Plan arising from the inspection which set out against each of the recommendations the action to be taken.

Having heard from the Director of Education, the Group congratulated the Director on the excellent report and thereafter agreed to note the contents of the Report and Action Plan, for their interest.

### **3. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTING**

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Group of 1 March 2007, there was submitted Report by the Chief Executive providing elected members with an update on progress being made in delivering the Best Value Improvement Plan and the corporate priorities to 30 October 2007. The Report also sought approval to the revisions by lead officers for associated actions.

Having heard Councillor Murray express some concerns regarding the delays in progressing a number of strategies the Group agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress being made in delivering the actions in both the Best Value Improvement Plan and the Corporate Priorities;
- (ii) to approve the recommendation of the Programme Monitoring Sub-Group (PMSG) for each of the overdue actions listed in Appendices 1 and 3 in the expectation that no further extension of these timescales would be requested;
- (iii) to note the revisions made during the reporting period for those actions listed as "On Target" in the summary reports at Appendices 1 and 3; and
- (iv) to note the actions marked as "Completed" during the reporting period.

### **4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed.