

## ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **EDUCATION COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 5 June 2008 at 4.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillors PETER NIELD, MARGARET THOMSON, ALISON ANDREWS, MAIRI EVANS, IAIN GAUL, DAVID LUMGAIR, DAVID MAY, DONALD MORRISON, ROB MURRAY, 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.

**Teacher Representatives:** Mr PHILIP JACKSON and Mr BRIAN McHARDY.

Councillor NIELD, Convener, in the Chair.

### 1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies intimated.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A number of members declared that they had received e-mails and approaches in connection with the future of Eassie Primary School. They indicated that they proposed to take part in the discussion and voting on the Report by the Director of Education.

### 3. DEPUTATION - EASSIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Committee agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12, to hear a deputation from Eassie Primary School Parent Council on the subject of the future of Eassie Primary School.

On behalf of the deputation, Mr G Durston and Mr B Pattullo Chairman and member, respectively, of the School Parent Council addressed the meeting and urged members to adopt option 2 in [Report No 551/08](#) by the Director of Education that Eassie Primary School should remain open.

They asked that the points made by them at the meeting of this Committee on 24 April 2008 be again considered and stressed the importance of good quality education being provided in local communities. They further asked that in the event of a decision being taken not to close the school, an assurance be given by the Council that it could not be seeking closure in the foreseeable future.

Following questions, the members of the deputation were thanked for their attendance and withdrew to the public benches.

### 4. MINUTES

#### (a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 April 2008](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

#### (b) Staffing Sub-Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Staffing Sub-Committee of 24 April 2008](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

#### (c) School Attendance Sub-Committee

The [minute of meeting of the School Attendance Sub-Committee of 30 April 2008](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX II**).

## 5. MOTION IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER NO 24(1)

### Convener of the Education Committee

Councillor Welsh, who had given the required notice in terms of Standing Order 24(1), seconded by Councillor Valentine, moved in the following terms:-

“That this Committee has no confidence in the Convener of Education.”

COUNCILLOR MAY, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR THOMSON, MOVED AS AN AMENDMENT THAT THIS COMMITTEE HAS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN THE CONVENER OF EDUCATION.

On a vote being taken, the members voted:-

For the motion:-

Councillors Evans, Gaul, Morrison, Murray, Oswald, Valentine and Welsh (7).

For the amendment:-

Councillors, Nield, Thomson, Andrews, Lumgair, May, Myles, Rymer and Salmond and Mr Adams (9).

No vote:-

Mrs Millar, Mr Simpson, Mr Jackson and Mr McHardy.

The amendment was declared carried and became the finding of the meeting.

## 6. EASSIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 April 2008, there was submitted [Report No 551/08](#) by the Director of Education providing an account of the consultation exercise recently undertaken with regard to Eassie Primary School and outlining arguments both in favour of the closure and against closure of the school.

The Report detailed two options for consideration, namely (a) adopt the proposal on which the formal consultation had been undertaken that Eassie Primary School should close; or (b) resolve that the school should remain open, that the provision of physical education for pupils there should be kept under review in the context of plans to construct a new village hall and that the building's fitness for purpose generally should continue to be considered within the context of keeping the School Estate under review.

COUNCILLOR NIELD, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR THOMSON, MOVED THAT THIS COMMITTEE ADOPT OPTION 2 AS DETAILED IN THE REPORT.

Councillor Gaul, seconded by Councillor Welsh, moved as an amendment, that this Committee:-

- (i) adopt Option 2 as detailed in the Report; and
- (ii) instruct that a further Report detailing the works necessary to bring Eassie Primary School to full standard along with indicative costings and proposals for funding of the necessary works be brought back to this Committee in time to be considered for inclusion the Capital Plan as part of the upcoming 2009/2010 Budget Setting Process.

On a vote being taken, members voted:-

For the motion:-

Councillors Nield, Thomson, Andrews, Lumgair, May, Myles, Rymer and Salmond and Mrs Millar, Mr Adams, Mr Jackson and Mr McHardy (12)

For the amendment:-

Councillors Evans, Gaul, Morrison, Murray, Oswald, Valentine and Welsh and Mr Simpson (8).

The motion was declared carried and the Committee agreed to recommend to the Council accordingly.

## **7. PERFORMANCE INFORMATION AND CELEBRATING SUCCESS**

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 6 March 2008, there was submitted [Report No 552/08](#) by the Director of Education, being the latest of a series, drawing the Committee's attention to a range of performance information and to individual successes on different areas of attainment and success achieved by Angus schools, staff and pupils with specific detail as follows:-

- Follow-through report on Brechin High School by HM Inspectors of Education;
- Follow-through report on Kilry and Seaview Primary Schools by the Education Department;
- post appeal results of SQA examinations for each of the eight Angus secondary schools;
- schools, pupils, young people and staff who had achieved noteworthy success.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

## **8. KINGSPARK SCHOOL, DUNDEE - REPLACEMENT**

There was submitted [Joint Report No 553/08](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Corporate Services outlining proposals by Dundee City Council to replace Kingspark School.

The Report indicated that a number of pupils from Angus currently attended Kingspark School and a continuing need for this service was forecast. A partnership agreement with Dundee City Council was proposed to enable Angus pupils to continue to attend the replacement Kingspark School and to access the full range of nursing and therapeutic services available.

The Report further indicated that, from an educational and best value perspective, the preferred option was to work in partnership with Dundee City Council and to contribute to the development of a replacement Kingspark School as this would provide stability for Angus pupils currently enrolled and provide an excellent purpose built facility to form a substantial provision for at least the next thirty years.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to adopt option 1 as detailed in the Report, namely:-
  - to approve in principle an agreement with Dundee City Council to replace Kingspark School;
  - to agree to a capital contribution of between £1.1million and £1.2million to be made towards the project with the Financial Plan to be amended at its next review, based on the lower level contribution assumption;
  - to instruct the Director of Education and the Director of Corporate Service to finalise negotiations with Dundee City Council based on the parameters outlined in section 3.3 of the Report.

## **9. ESTABLISHMENT OF CHILDCARE FACILITIES IN A SMALL NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

There was submitted [Report No 554/08](#) by the Director of Education seeking approval of a proposal to establish childcare facilities in three Angus burgh primary schools, initially on a pilot basis.

The Report indicated that the key focus of the publication "Meeting the Childcare Challenge - A Childcare Strategy for Scotland" was the need to promote and support accessible, affordable quality childcare. At present, the majority of extended childcare arrangements for

children aged 3-5 were provided in the private sector, most of which worked in partnership with the Council in order to deliver pre-school education, but that there was currently no childcare provision in any Angus schools.

The Report also indicated that introduction of extended childcare arrangements for pre-school children in Angus primary schools would take account of the six key factors which were detailed in the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the proposal to introduce, initially on a pilot basis, the provision of extended childcare arrangements for pre-school children in primary schools in Arbroath, Carnoustie and Forfar, with effect from 20 October 2008; and
- (iii) to note and approve the charging proposals as detailed in paragraphs 3.2 and 6.1 of the Report.

#### **10. EARLY YEARS AND EARLY INTERVENTION: A JOINT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND COSLA POLICY STATEMENT**

With reference to Article 11 of the Social Work and Health Committee of 22 May 2008, there was submitted [Joint Report No 486/08](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health and the Director of Education advising members of the production of a Joint Policy Statement by the Scottish Government and COSLA focussing on early years and early intervention.

The Report indicated that the Scottish Government and COSLA believed development of a national performance of framework assisted them to set out targets that future policies could in turn target in more detail.

The consultation period on this proposed policy had ended on 18 April, having only commenced in early March 2008 and a copy of the full response from the Council was appended to the Report.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to homologate the Council's response to the consultation with regard to the development of a national performance framework.

#### **11. EDUCATION SERVICE PLAN 2008 - 2009**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 June 2007, there was submitted [Report No 555/08](#) by the Director of Education describing the arrangements which had been made to finalise the 2008-2009 Education Service Plan and advising members of the arrangements being made for the submission of school improvements plans for 2008-2009.

The Report indicated that the draft Plan had been favourably received and was considered by respondents to be appropriately comprehensive and well structured. As in previous years, the overview of the Service's priorities had been seen to be helpful by Head Teachers and Parent Councils.

The Report also indicated that, in preparing their improvement plans, schools had been asked to take due account of the specific improvement priorities of the Angus Education Service which had been highlighted in Section 3 of the Service Plan and that schools had been asked to submit their Improvement Plans by 27 June 2008.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note that the finalised 2008-2009 Education Service Plan had been issued to schools and services on 29 May 2008; and

- (iii) to note the arrangements which had been made for the submission and consideration of the 2008-2009 School Improvement Plans.

## **12. RESULTS OF TENDER FOR SCHOOL CONVEYANCE CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS 2008-2011**

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 June 2007, there was submitted [Joint Report No 556/08](#) by the Director of Education and Director of Infrastructure Services outlining the results of the recent school conveyancing tendering exercise undertaken in the Brechin and Montrose areas, together with some contracts for the transport of pupils with additional support needs.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to the re-tendering of contracts B2, B24, ASP/10B and ASP/32;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Education to award these contracts under delegated powers, in terms of Section 16.1 of Financial Regulations, the results to be reported back to the next meeting of this Committee; and
- (iii) to the award of all other contracts as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report.

## **13. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The Committee resolved, in terms of Standing Order 27(2), that the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following item, so as to avoid the disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraph 1.

## **14. PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF RELATIVE OF A SENIOR OFFICER**

There was submitted [Report No 557/08](#) by the Director of Education seeking approval, in accordance with Standing Order No 49, to the appointment of a relative of a senior officer of the Education Department to the post of Education Support Officer (Science).

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the appointment of a relative of a senior officer of the Education Department to the post of Education Support Officer (Science).