

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **EDUCATION COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 6 March 2008 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors PETER NIELD, MARGARET THOMSON, ALISON ANDREWS, MAIRI EVANS, IAIN GAUL, DAVID LUMGAIR, DAVID MAY, DONALD MORRISON, JOHN RYMER, PAUL VALENTINE and SHEENA WELSH.

Church Representative: Mr BILL SIMPSON.

Teacher Representative: Mr BRIAN McHARDY.

Councillor NIELD, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr David Adams, Mrs Patricia Millar and Mr Philip Jackson and Councillors Rob Murray, Robert Myles, Helen Oswald and Mark Salmond with Councillors Alex King, David Fairweather, Glennis Middleton and Colin Brown substituting, 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 24 January 2008](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) School Attendance Sub-Committee

The [minute of meeting of the School Attendance Sub-Committee of 23 January 2008](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

(c) Special Cases Sub-Committee

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

(d) Angus Joint Negotiating Committee For Teachers

The [minute of meeting of the Angus Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers of 6 February 2008](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX III**).

4. PERFORMANCE INFORMATION AND CELEBRATING SUCCESS

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 June 2007, there was submitted [Report No 233/08](#) 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, in addition to information on:-

- Attainment Levels in Angus primary and secondary schools compared with the group of five comparator authorities whose socio-economic profiles were considered to be closest to that of Angus, being Dumfries & Galloway; Highland; Moray; Scottish Borders and South Yorkshire

- SQA examination results
- School leaver destinations
- Pupil attendance and absence levels for session 2006 – 2007 compared with national and comparator group figures
- Visits to Glamis, Inverarity, Newbigging, Friockheim and Southesk Primary Schools and Websters High School by HM Inspectors of Education
- Follow-through reports on Cortachy, Eassie and Inverarity Primary Schools by the Education Department and Mattocks Primary School and Brechin High School by H.M. Inspectors of Education
- Schools, pupils, young people and staff who had achieved noteworthy success.

The Committee heard the Convener, Councillors May, Welsh and Glennis Middleton and Mr McHardy who each expressed some concern at the tendency, particularly of H.M. Inspectors of Education to focus too narrowly on academic attainment of pupils, only, when a wider range of indicators ought to be considered.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Education to ask H.M. Inspectors of Schools to continue to look at as wide a range of indicators as possible when inspecting schools and not to focus too narrowly on academic attainment, only; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Education to continue to make available to members of this Committee information which would in any case be in the public domain, but to begin to look for ways of reporting to Committee on the wider achievements of schools.

5. BEST VALUE REVIEW: RESIDENTIAL PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

With reference to Article 10 of the Social Work and Health Committee of 21 February 2008, there was submitted [Joint Report No 182/08](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health and the Director of Education advising members that a full Best Value Review of Residential provision for Children and Young People had recently been undertaken. The Review, which had taken place between early 2006 and November 2007, was wide ranging and had implications for the Council and NHS Tayside.

The Report indicated that a number of key issues had been considered with regard to the cost of caring for accommodated children outwith Angus and had acknowledged the good work and effective practice which had been evidenced within the Angus area but noted that issues, outwith the control of those who provided services in Angus, had now impacted on the effective delivery of services to all children.

Having heard Councillors Glennis Middleton, May and Welsh who advised that, as a result of this Review there now existed excellent prospects for looked after children to reach their full potential, the Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and the detailed Best Value Report which had been placed in the Members' Lounge; and
- (ii) to endorse the proposed action plan arising from the Best Value Review.

6. MAISONDIEU PRIMARY SCHOOL – PROPOSED EXTENSION

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 June 2007, there was submitted [Joint Report No 234/08](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Corporate Services outlining proposals to extend the main building of Maisondieu Primary

School to enable the pre-school provision to be relocated to the main building, which would enhance facilities for pupils and provide more opportunities for integrating provision.

The Committee, having considered three options detailed in the Report agreed, for its interest:-

- (i) to approve an extension to Maisondieu Primary School and thereafter relocate the school's pre-school provision from the current building into the main school building, as detailed at Option 3 in the Report; and
- (ii) to declare the current nursery building surplus to educational requirements when the extension was completed.

7. EDUCATION REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD TO 31 DECEMBER 2007

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 November 2007, there was submitted [Joint Report No 235/08](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Corporate Services advising members of the projected revenue expenditure in comparison to budget in respect of the Education Department for the period to 31 December 2007 and providing comment on the more significant variances arising.

The Report indicated a projected underspend of £209,000, following an agreement to carry forward specific ring fenced amounts into 2008/2009, as approved by the Strategic Policy Committee on 5 February 2008.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note that the Director of Education and the Director of Corporate Services would continue to monitor the position closely to ensure that the most effective use was made of available resources.

8. TRAVELLING AND SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES FOR TEACHERS

With reference to Article 19 of the minute of meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee of 11 September 2007, there was submitted [Report No 236/08](#) by the Director of Education seeking endorsement of a recent Angus Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers Agreement on travelling expenses and subsistence allowances for teachers.

The Report indicated that in recent months, discussions and negotiations had taken place within the Angus Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers and agreement had been reached on the arrangements detailed in the appendix to the Report which would involve all staff within the Council being governed by essentially the same conditions of service so far as travelling and subsistence expenses were concerned, including the opportunity for teachers to participate in the Council's Car Leasing Scheme.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to endorse the proposed new scheme of travelling and subsistence expenses for teachers, as detailed in the appendix to the Report, with effect from 1 April 2008.

9. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HEAD TEACHERS AND DEPUTE HEAD TEACHERS

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 30 August 2007, there was submitted [Report No 237/08](#) by the Director of Education seeking endorsement of a recent Angus Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers Agreement with regard to the appointment of Head Teachers and Depute Head Teachers.

The Report indicated that, following adoption of the interim procedures, further discussions had taken place with a Working Group of parents and the Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers while the interim procedure proposals remained, the consultations had been very useful in clarifying a number of detailed points.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to endorse the JNCT Agreement with regard to arrangements for the appointment of Head Teachers and Depute Head Teachers, as detailed in the Appendix to the Report; and
- (iii) to express support to the Director of Education on the way in which Head Teacher and Depute Head Teacher appointments had been administered.

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTING

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 November 2007, there was submitted [Report No 199/08](#) by the Director of Education providing members with an update on progress being made by the Education Department in implementing the actions set out in the Service Plan and seeking approval of revisions to deadline for service plan actions.

The Committee agreed to note the progress being made in delivering the actions in the Education Service Plan and in particular the actions marked as 'Completed' during the reporting period, as detailed in the appendix to the Report.