

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **EDUCATION COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 28 August 2008 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors PETER NIELD, MARGARET THOMSON, MAIRI EVANS, IAIN GAUL, DAVID LUMGAIR, DAVID MAY, DONALD MORRISON, PETER MURPHY, ROBERT MYLES, HELEN OSWALD, JOHN RYMER, MARK SALMOND, PAUL VALENTINE and SHEENA WELSH.

Church Representatives: 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

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Alison Andrews and Rob Murray with Councillor Murphy substituting for Councillor Andrews.

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 5 June 2008](#) 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 28 May 2008](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (APPENDIX I).

(c) School Attendance Sub-Committee

The [minutes of meeting of the School Attendance Sub-Committee of 4 and 11 June 2008](#), copies of which are appended hereto, were submitted and noted (APPENDICES II and III respectively).

4. SERVICE MAPPING AND NEEDS OF MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 5-18 YEARS IN ANGUS

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of the Social Work and Health Committee of 14 August 2008, there was submitted [Joint Report No 688/08](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health and the Director of Education advising members that a comprehensive Service Mapping and Needs Assessment of Mental Health and Wellbeing in Children and Young People Aged 5 - 18 years had recently been undertaken in Angus.

The review, commissioned by the Joint Management and Commissioning Group for Children's Services and conducted by a research team from Dundee University's School of Nursing and Midwifery was wide ranging and had implications for both the Council and NHS Tayside in considering the future development and/or service redesign in this area.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and the Service Mapping and Needs Assessment Report, together with its Executive Summary, which had been placed in the Members' Lounge;
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health and the Director of Education to liaise with colleagues from NHS Tayside to identify relevant actions arising from the Report and bring forward a further Report as soon as possible; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Education to establish a policy to support children and young people admitted to hospital with mental health needs.

5. ABOLITION OF UNRULY CERTIFICATES: SECTION 51(1)(BB) AND SECTION 51(3) CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT 1995

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of the Social Work and Health Committee of 14 August 2008, there was submitted [Joint Report No 689/08](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health and the Director of Education together with a copy of the response and the consultation paper and the response on views sought by the Scottish Government to abolish the legislation which allowed children appearing on a charge in the Criminal Justice System to be remanded to a Young Offenders' Institution.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the response to the consultation paper which had been submitted by the Director of Social Work and Health and the Director of Education.

6. ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT AND BUSINESS PLAN 2007/2008

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of the Social Work and Health Committee of 14 August 2008, there was submitted [Joint Report No 692/08](#) by the Chief Executive, the Director of Social Work and Health, the Director of Education and the Director of Neighbourhood Services presenting the Annual Report and Business Plan of the Angus Child Protection Committee for 2007/2008.

The Report indicated that the Annual Report and Business Plan was the twelfth produced since local government reorganisation and detailed the work and activity of the Child Protection Committee and member agencies. The Report also detailed the work of the three sub-committees, namely the Policy Sub-Committee, the Practice Sub-Committee and the Training Sub-Committee.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the contents of the Angus Child Protection Committee Annual Report and Business Plan for 2007/2008.

7. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PAPER: "SAFEGUARDING OUR RURAL SCHOOLS AND IMPROVING SCHOOL CONSULTATION PROCEDURES"

There was submitted [Report No 774/08](#) by the Director of Education advising members of the recently published consultation paper issued by the Scottish Government "Safeguarding our Rural Schools and Improving School Consultation Procedures - Proposals for Changes to Legislation".

The Report indicated that the Consultation Paper had been issued to a wide range of agencies and a response was required to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 19 September 2008.

Having heard Councillor Welsh, who proposed that there should be a robust mechanism for addressing allegations of factual inaccuracies (paragraph 8.2 of the response refers), the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Education to discuss with Councillor Welsh the most suitable wording for paragraph 8.2 of the response; and
- (iii) to endorse the draft response, as appended to the Report, subject to amended wording at paragraph 8.2 as the Council's views on the Consultation Paper.

8. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 May 2005, there was submitted [Report No 775/08](#) by the Director of Education seeking endorsement of a whole-Council Parental Involvement Strategy.

The Report indicated that the strategy represented the results of several consultation exercises with parents and specifically with Parent Councils and their representatives.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to endorse the proposed Parental Involvement Strategy, as appended to the Report.

9. SEAVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL: STOPPING UP OF A SECTION OF FOOTPATH AND SURPLUS LAND/PROPERTY

With reference to Article 27 of the minute of meeting of the Infrastructure Services Committee of 26 August 2008, there was submitted [Joint Report No 776/08](#) by the Director of Education, the Director of Infrastructure Services and the Director of Corporate Services seeking approval to promote a Footpath Diversion Order to divert a length of footpath at Seaview Primary School, Montrose and to declare surplus to the requirements of the Council the Nursery building at the school and associated ground.

Having heard Councillor Oswald, who urged that the Community Learning and Development facilities in Monifieth be allocated a fair share of the capital receipt from the sale of the surplus building/land on this site, the Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the contents of the Report.

10. EDUCATION REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD TO 31 MARCH 2008

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 6 March 2008, there was submitted [Joint Report No 777/08](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Corporate Services advising members of the net revenue expenditure compared to budget for the financial year to 31 March 2008 and providing comment on the more significant variances arising.

The Report indicated a net underspend of £422,000 which included elements of the budget not under the direct control of the Education Department with a net controllable underspend of £8,000.

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 and provide periodic updates to ensure that the most effective use was made of available resources.

11. SCHOOL CONVEYANCE CONTRACTS - REVIEW OF CONTRACT PRICES

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 30 August 2007, there was submitted [Joint Report No 778/08](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Infrastructure Services advising members of the inflationary increase applied from 1 July 2008 to school conveyance contracts and in addition, on an interim basis, advising that arrangements had been put in place for a quarterly review of contract prices in respect of increased fuel costs.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the revised index to be used to calculate inflationary increases to school conveyance contracts;
- (iii) to note the inflationary increase applied to school conveyance contracts at 4.56%, with effect from 1 July 2008;
- (iv) to note the interim arrangements which had been put in place for a quarterly review of contract prices in respect of increased fuel costs; and
- (v) to note that quarterly reports detailing all delegated decisions would be submitted to future meetings of this Committee.

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

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 30 August 2007, there was submitted [Joint Report No 779/08](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Infrastructure Services detailing the results of tendering for school conveyance contracts for home to school transport requirements which had been awarded.

The Committee agreed to note the award of contracts made by the Director of Education and the Director of Infrastructure Services in terms of their delegated powers under Section 16.1 paragraph 5 of the Council's Financial Regulations, as detailed in the Report.

13. FORFAR/CARNOUSTIE SCHOOLS PROJECT - PROGRESS REPORT

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 11 January 2007, there was submitted [Report No 780/08](#) by the Director of Education advising members of current progress in respect of the Forfar/Carnoustie Schools Project and providing an update of major issues which had arisen during the course of the construction phase of the Project.

The Report indicated that the construction works were now overall 70% complete with the four Phase 1 Primary Schools all operational and construction activities progressing as expected in order to achieve the re-occupation of Carlogie Primary School towards the end of 2008.

The full occupation of the Carnoustie High School new building was expected by January 2009; the occupation of the new Langlands Primary School by the new school term in Spring/Summer 2009 and thereafter the completion of the Carnoustie High School demolition and external works by the start of the new school term in August 2009.

Mr McHardy, who commended the success of the project to date stressed that it could not have been achieved without the dedication and hard work of the Headteachers and staff involved in the schools affected. He also indicated that the scale of future decants and moves which were required as a result of the project would place enormous strain on all staff and pupils and he asked the Committee to consider applying to the Scottish Government for an Exceptional Closure of up to two days in respect of the schools concerned.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report with regard to the position with four Phase 1 and Phase 2 Primary Schools;
- (ii) to note the additional works required at Langlands Primary School;
- (iii) to approve the Council taking possession of the Carnoustie High School new facility from 1 December 2008, assuming all works had been properly completed and certified by that time;
- (iv) to authorise the Head of Law and Administration to sign the necessary contract documents for the Tayside Contracts Cleaning Sub Contract variation to the Project, on behalf of the Council. and
- (v) to instruct the Director of Education to apply to the Scottish Government for an Exceptional Closure of the schools for two days.

14. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 February 2008, there was submitted [Report No 773/08](#) by the Director of Education, together with a copy of the 2007/2008 Annual Report for the Education Department.

Report No 773/08 reminded members of changes to the format of departmental service plans and while some refinements still required to be made to improve the presentation of these service plans, for future years the sole concentration of the plans would remain major actions in respect of the forthcoming year.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the Education Department Annual Report 2007/2008; and
- (ii) to note that a standard format had been adopted for annual reports to ensure consistency of approach across the Council.