

## ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 11 November 2014 at 2.00pm.

**Present:** Councillors SHEENA WELSH, LYNNE DEVINE, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, MARTYN GEDDES, SHEILA HANDS, JIM HOUSTON, DAVID MAY, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, DONALD MORRISON, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, MARK SALMOND, EWAN SMITH, MARGARET THOMSON, and PAUL VALENTINE.

### Church

**Representatives:** Mr BILL SIMPSON.

### Teacher

**Representatives:** Ms ELAINE FLEMING and Mr JOHN PRATTI

Councillor WELSH, Convener, in the Chair.

#### 1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr David Adams and Mrs Georgina Mallie.

The Convener, at this point, welcomed Ms Elaine Fleming and Mr John Pratti to their first meeting of the Committee in their capacity as Teacher Representatives.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

#### 3. MINUTES

##### (a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 September 2014 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 24 September 2014, a copy of which was appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

#### 4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 8 SEPTEMBER TO 27 OCTOBER 2014

There was submitted and noted Report No 440/14 by the Strategic Director – People providing key background information to members with regard to services delivered in the People Directorate for the period 8 September to 27 October 2014.

#### 5. PEOPLE DIRECTORATE MID TERM PERFORMANCE REPORT

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 August 2014, there was submitted Report No 441/14 by the Strategic Director – People presenting the mid term Performance Report for the People Directorate covering the first six months of the 2014/15 financial year.

The Report indicated that as an integral part of the Council's performance management arrangements each directorate had to prepare a mid term performance report. These Reports were designed to give members, employees and the public (who had access to the Report via the Council's web site) an update of performance within directorates during the first six months of the financial year.

Having heard from a number of members, the Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the terms of the People Directorate Mid Term Performance Report for 2014/15.

## **6. LANGUAGE LEARNING IN SCOTLAND: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL 1 + 2 LANGUAGES STRATEGY**

There was submitted Report No 442/14 by the Strategic Director – People updating members on the recent work that had been undertaken in Angus to implement a new approach to language learning in Scotland based on the European Union's 1 + 2. This model promoted opportunities for each child and young person to learn two languages in addition to their own mother tongue.

The Report indicated that a Pan - Tayside Strategy Group had been established to lead the delivery of 1 + 2 languages across Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross Councils. A copy of the Strategy Paper that had been developed and agreed by all authorities was attached as Appendix 1 to the Report.

Having heard a number of members welcome the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the joint work that had been undertaken with Dundee and Perth and Kinross Councils to implement the 35 recommendations of the National Working Group which had published on 17 May 2012 and outlined in Committee Report No 163/13 (7 March 2013);
- (ii) to approve the proposals outlined in section 5.1 to promote language learning in Angus Schools; and
- (iii) to approve the Pan-Tayside Modern Languages Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to the Report.

## **7. FLEET REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of the Social Work and Health Committee of 14 January 2014, there was submitted Report No 443/14 by the Strategic Director – People advising members of the commissioning intentions for People Directorate vehicles for 2015/16 and seeking approval to work with the Communities Directorate to procure these vehicles in the most cost effective manner.

In all proposed cases, vehicles would be replaced on a like for like basis, although alternative models which more effectively met the needs and were more cost effective would be chosen. All these contracts would continue to be made under the existing car leasing arrangements with the vehicles selected considered to best meet the requirements of the People Directorate.

Having heard Councillor Valentine urge officers, where at all possible, to engage with local businesses, the Committee, for its interest, agreed to approve the commissioning intentions for the replacement of operational fleet vehicles through Fleet Services, as detailed in section 5.2 of the Report.

## **8. RESPONSE TO THE WOOD COMMISSION REPORT JUNE 2014**

There was submitted Report No 444/14 by the Strategic Director – People setting out the progress to date and the work that would be actioned to ensure that Angus Council responded appropriately to the recommendations from the Wood Commission's Report.

The Report indicated that the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce's Final Report "Education Working for All" (known as the Wood Commission Report) had been published in 2014. The Commission had been set up in response to a national continued high rate of youth unemployment and a need to have a more joined up approach to vocational education, particularly for those leaving or about to leave school. Attached as an Appendix to the Report was Angus Council's response to the Wood Commission's Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the completed audit by the Work Related Learning Steering Group and support the actions agreed through identification of Next Steps;
- (ii) to support the request that all Council Directorates provide assistance and support to work placements and the Modern Apprentice Scheme;

- (iii) to support cross-authority working with Dundee City Council and others as part of the Strategic Leadership Development Programme; and
- (iv) to approve the proposals outlined in section 5.1 of the Report.

## **9. SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS AND REPRESENTATION PROCEDURES**

There was submitted Report No 445/14 by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services advising members of changes to arrangements regarding the consideration of recommendations from the Social Work Complaints Review Committee established to consider complaints in respect of Social Work services in accordance with Section 5B of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note that as a consequence of the implementation of the outcomes of the review of Committee structures agreed by Angus Council at its meeting on 19 November 2013:-

- (i) recommendations from the Social Work Complaints Review Committee in respect of services to children would be considered by the Children and Learning Committee; and
- (ii) recommendations from the Social Work Complaints Review Committee in respect of services provided to adults would continue to be considered by the Social Work and Health Committee.