

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 20 February 2018 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors MARK SALMOND, DEREK WANN, JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, COLIN BROWN, LYNNE DEVINE, BEN LAWRIE, GAVIN NICOL, MARK McDONALD, BOB MYLES, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, LOIS SPEED, TOMMY STEWART, RON STURROCK and BETH WHITESIDE.

Teacher

Representatives: Mrs ANNA CHEYNE.

Councillor SALMOND, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Angus MacMillan Douglas OBE, with Councillor Gavin Nicol substituting. An apology for absence was also intimated on behalf of Miss Lesley Hood.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Myles declared an interest in Item 6 as he had attended meetings and spoken with members of the community and parents of pupils who attended Stracathro Primary School. He indicated that he had shown no bias and would take part in any discussion and voting on the item.

Councillor Nicol declared an interest in Item 6 as he had attended meetings with parents of pupils who attended Stracathro Primary School and as he had also spoken with members of the community regarding the proposals. He indicated that he would take part in any discussion and voting on the item.

Councillor Braes declared an interest in Item 6 as he had attended meetings with parents of pupils who attended Stracathro Primary School. He indicated that he would take part in any discussion and voting on the item.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 January 2018 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Special Meeting

The minute of special meeting of this Committee of 30 January 2018 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 12 DECEMBER 2017 TO 6 FEBRUARY 2018

There was submitted Report No 66/18 by the Strategic Director - People providing key information to members with regard to services delivered in the Children and Learning Directorate for the period 12 December 2017 to 6 February 2018 relating to:-

- Care Inspectorate Inspection of Bramble Cottages Care Home Service (Schedule 1)

Having heard from the Head of Service – Children and Young People in relation to Schedule 1 and the improvements and progress made to date, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

5. EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE 2020 EXPANSION

With reference to Article 5 (Schedule 4) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 September 2017, there was submitted Report No 67/18 by the Strategic Director - People updating members on local preparation for the planned increase of free entitlement to early learning and childcare by 2020.

The Report indicated that the Angus 'Blueprint for expansion to 1140 hours' was being revised in line with additional guidance and would detail what was required to deliver the expansion by 2020. Significant capital investment would be needed and this was reflected in the Council's capital plan but it was not yet clear how much Scottish Government funding would be made available to support this and whether or not it would be sufficient to deliver 1140 hours aspirations.

During consideration of the required expansion, a review of the payment rate to partnership providers had been completed. There was a gap between what was currently paid for three and four year old places and the Scottish average proposed rate for 2020. The review had concluded that to encourage partner providers to increase the number of funded early learning and childcare places they made available, the Council would require to move towards the Scottish average. This would support the development of a range of early learning and childcare services and promote flexibility.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve an hourly rate of £6.51 to partner providers in the private, voluntary and child minding sectors for eligible two year olds, as detailed in Section 5.1 of the Report;
- (iii) to approve an increase of the rate paid to partner providers for all other funded places to £3.92 per hour from 1 April 2018, as detailed in Section 5.1 of the Report;
- (iv) to note that the Strategic Director – People would develop the Angus Blueprint in line with the proposal detailed at Section 4.4 of the Report; and
- (v) to note that further progress reports would be presented to future meetings of this Committee as required.

6. ANGUS SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE: CONSULTATION PROPOSALS FOR RURAL SCHOOLS IN BRECHIN CLUSTER

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of special meeting of this Committee of 30 January 2018, there was submitted Report No 68/18 by the Strategic Director - People presenting proposal documents for changes to the provision of rural schools in the Brechin cluster.

The Report indicated that it was proposed that consultation on the closure of Lethnot, Tarfside and Stracathro Primary Schools would commence on Monday 26 February 2018 and would continue until Friday 20 April 2018. Thereafter, a consultation report would be prepared, Education Scotland would undertake their review of the consultation exercise and a Report with the recommendations would be presented to this Committee on 18 September 2018. Each of the closure proposals would be a separate process and proposal documents had been prepared on that basis. The proposal documents were appended to the Report for approval.

It was also proposed to consult on the planned extension of Edzell Primary School with children, parents/carers, staff and the wider community associated with the school regarding the design and planning process.

Having heard from the Head of Quality and Performance, and a number of members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the consultation proposal for the closure of Lethnot Primary School and adjustment to catchment area for Edzell Primary School (Appendix 1);

- (ii) to approve the consultation proposal for closure of Tarfside Primary School and adjustment to catchment area for Edzell Primary School (Appendix 2);
- (iii) to approve the consultation proposal for closure of Stracathro Primary School and adjustment to catchment area for Edzell Primary School (Appendix 3); and
- (iv) to approve the consultation with the Edzell school community for the expansion and redevelopment of the current school building.