

## ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 24 February 2015 at 2.00pm.

**Present:** Councillors SHEENA WELSH, LYNNE DEVINE, COLIN BROWN, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, MARTYN GEDDES, SHEILA HANDS, JIM HOUSTON, DAVID MAY, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, DONALD MORRISON, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, MARK SALMOND, EWAN SMITH, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM 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 Councillor Margaret Thomson with Councillor Craig Fotheringham substituting. Apologies were also intimated on behalf of Mr David Adams and Mrs Georgina Mallie, Church representatives.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Houston declared an interest in item 14 as a relative had a financial interest in the matter. He indicated he would not participate in any discussion and voting and would leave the meeting during consideration of this item.

**3. MINUTES**

**(a) Previous Meeting**

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 January 2015 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

**4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 15 DECEMBER 2014 TO 9 FEBRUARY 2015**

There was submitted and noted Report No 78/15 by the Strategic Director – People providing key information to members with regard to services delivered to the People Directorate for the period 15 December 2014 to 9 February 2015.

**5. PRESENTATION FROM AUDIT SCOTLAND – SCHOOL EDUCATION**

Sarah Pollock and Kirsty Whyte from Audit Scotland gave a detailed presentation to members on the findings of the Audit Scotland Report on School Education.

The Audit had been aimed to assess how efficiently and effectively Councils were using their resources to maximise pupil achievement in schools. The three main objectives had been to examine:

- How much Councils spent on School Education and what they spent it on;
- How effectively Councils were driving forward improvements in pupil achievement;
- How efficiently Councils were using their resources to maximise pupil achievement.

Following a number of questions, Sarah Pollock and Kirsty Whyte were thanked for their interesting and informative presentation.

## **6. ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT 2013/14**

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 February 2014, there was submitted Joint Report No 79/15 by the Strategic Director – People and the Chief Social Work Officer presenting the Annual Evaluation Report for the People Directorate covering the period 2013-2014. The Report constituted Angus Council's Standards and Quality Report for Education and the Chief Social Work Officer's Assurance Report to members on social work standards.

The Report provided a summary of the People Directorate performance across all services, from early years to older people, including services which met the needs of children and young people with additional support needs. The Report provided a range of qualitative information as well as examples of good practice to demonstrate the impact of service on the people of Angus.

Having heard from the Convener regarding the statistical information on school leaver Destinations and that these figures were being queried with Skills Development Scotland, the Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the contents of the Annual Evaluation Report 2013/2014;
- (ii) to note that clarification was being sought from Skills Development Scotland in relation to the data for positive destinations as detailed in table 5 of the Report and that the outcome of this would be reported to Committee; and
- (iii) to commend all staff involved in the preparation of a very comprehensive Report.

## **7. CONSULTATION ON THE SCHOOL DAY FOR PRIMARY 1-3 PUPILS**

There was submitted Report No 80/15 by the Strategic Director – People outlining plans to consult with parents and school staff on the structure of the school day for all children in primary 1 to 3 classes.

The Report indicated that the current Council Guidelines on the length of the school day for primary pupils recommended a shorter day for primary 1 and primary 2 pupils – a day lasting four hours forty minutes. The schools had been advised to apply these guidelines so that the normal pupil week for P1 and P2 pupils was 23 hours 20 minutes, however there was variability between this within schools in terms of start and finish times for pupils at different stages.

It was proposed to consult with the parents and staff on the structure of the school day and it was anticipated that this consultation would be completed by the end of April 2015.

Having heard from a number of members and from the Convener, who confirmed that one of the options for consultation would be the status quo, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the request to proceed to consultation, as outlined in section 5 of the Report; and
- (ii) that following consultation, a full Report would be submitted to this Committee on the outcome of the consultation for change to the structure of the P1 to P3 school day.

## **8. CONSULTATION ON THE SECONDARY SCHOOL WEEK**

There was submitted Report No 81/15 by the Strategic Director – People in relation to proposed consultation on the secondary school week aimed at improving outcomes for young people.

The Report indicated that a Short Life Working Group had been set up to identify viable options and to work up proposals for a revised Angus Secondary School Curricular Framework. It was proposed that a wider consultation with regard to the model that best fitted the needs of individual schools in Angus Council would be undertaken with all stakeholders including young people, parents and staff, as required, and that information relating to the

consultation, along with the preferred outcome, would be brought back to this Committee for consideration.

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

- (i) to approve a wide and detailed consultation with all stakeholders regarding any possible changes to the structure of the secondary school week; and
- (ii) that following consultation, a full Report on the outcome for changes to the structure of the Secondary School week would be submitted to this Committee.

## **9. PRIMARY SCHOOL CAPACITIES**

There was submitted Report No 82/15 by the Strategic Director – People highlighting the need to review Angus Council's approach to determining primary school capacities in line with recently published guidance from the Scottish Government and seeking member approval to the principles of roll capping and determining reserved places in primary schools.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) that work be conducted on refreshing Angus Council's approach to determining school capacity in line with recently published Scottish Government Guidance;
- (ii) to request a future Report on the application of this methodology across all Angus Primary Schools;
- (iii) to approve the principle of reserved places within schools which had classrooms with a limited number of spaces at specific stages for Session 2015/16;
- (iv) to request the Head of Schools and Learning to present these numbers annually to reflect historical/anticipated changes such as patterns of migration, residential development and movement of families in/out of areas and any changes to school zones; and
- (v) to approve in principle to roll capping specific schools, with Reports on individual proposals being brought to this Committee as appropriate.

## **10. PRIMARY SCHOOL – TEACHING STAFFING STANDARD**

There was submitted Report No 83/15 by the Strategic Director – People providing information on the current methodology used to determine the numbers of teachers allocated to primary schools on an annual basis and giving a range of proposals for further review and improvement.

The Report indicated that a full review of management structures in primary schools was required to bring the allocation of promoted staff in line with class numbers as opposed to total pupil roll. This would be conducted by the Schools and Learning Service Manager (Primary) and would involve comprehensive consultation with stakeholders. If approved, it was anticipated that the review would be completed by May 2015 and the outcomes would be ready to be implemented in Primary Schools in August 2015.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the methodology used to determine the staffing allocation of teachers to each primary school updated from previous agreements outlined in Reports 244/06 and 1177/08;
- (ii) to approve the proposal to review primary management structures;
- (iii) to approve the proposal to review teaching staffing in schools with a shared headship; and
- (iv) to request a future Report on the outcomes of the reviews as proposed in recommendations (ii) and (iii) above.

## **11. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2015/2016**

There was submitted Report No 85/15 by the Strategic Director – People seeking approval of the proposed Service Level Agreements with the voluntary sector providers for children's services.

Entering into the Service Level Agreements, as detailed in the Report would help ensure the provision of a range of essential Social Work and Health Services in Angus. This type of partnership working brought with it a range of benefits, including a sharing of skills and expertise and the capacity to attract additional funding to Angus. Partnership working on the use of Service Level Agreements was an essential aspect of the People Directorate's delivery of best value services to the most vulnerable individuals and families in Angus.

The Committee agreed to approve the Service Level Agreements for Children's Services for 2015/16.

## **12. REQUEST TO TENDER FOR SCHOOL CONVEYANCE CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 7 March 2013, there was submitted Joint Report No 86/15 by the Strategic Director – People and the Head of Technical & Property Services seeking approval to tender for replacement school conveyance contracts for services which would terminate in July 2015 and for any additional school transport provision identified as a result of new applications received, or changing transport requirements.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the school conveyance contracts due for renewal in August 2015; and
- (ii) to undertake a contract renewal exercise, as appropriate, to secure replacement provision on the basis identified in 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 from the meeting during consideration of the following item, so as to avoid the possible disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraph 1.

*Councillor Houston, having declared an interest at Article 2 above, left the meeting during consideration of the following item.*

## **14. DECISION TO APPOINT A RELATIVE OF AN ELECTED MEMBER**

There was submitted Report No 87/15 by the Strategic Director – People seeking approval to appoint the relative of an Elected Member to the supply teaching pool register of Angus Council.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendation, as detailed in the Report.