

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 9 August 2016 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors SHEENA WELSH, LYNNE DEVINE, COLIN BROWN, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, SHEILA HANDS, JIM HOUSTON, DAVID MAY, ALEX KING, DONALD MORRISON, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, MARK SALMOND, EWAN SMITH, MARGARET THOMSON and PAUL VALENTINE.

Church

Representatives: Mrs GEORGINA MALLIE and Mr BILL SIMPSON.

Councillor WELSH, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Martyn Geddes and Glennis Middleton, with Councillors Craig Fotheringham and Alex King substituting respectively.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hands declared a financial interest in item 7 as she was employed by NHS Tayside. She indicated that she would not take part in any discussion and voting and would leave the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor Brown declared a non-financial interest in item 12 as he was a relative of the candidate recommended for appointment. He indicated that he would not take part in any discussion and voting and would leave the meeting during consideration of the item.

At this stage in the meeting, the Convener congratulated the many pupils, parents and teachers across Angus on their successes in this year's exams. A full breakdown and analysis of the results would be presented to the next meeting of this Committee.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 17 May 2016 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 25 May 2016, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

(c) Staffing Sub-Committee

The minutes of meetings of the Staffing Sub-Committee of 30 May and 27 June 2016, copies of which are appended hereto, were submitted and noted (**APPENDICES II and III**).

(d) Executive Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of 11 July 2016, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX IV**).

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 3 MAY TO 25 JULY 2016

There was submitted Report No 269/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning, providing key information to the members with regard to services delivered to the Children and Learning Directorate for the period 3 May to 25 July 2016.

Having heard from Councillor May with regard to Schedule 1 (Teacher Numbers and Recruitment – August 2016 update) and the subject areas in which there were shortages, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

5. SCHOOL HOLIDAY AMENDMENTS

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 26 April 2016, there was submitted Report No 270/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning seeking approval to change the St Andrew's Day holiday date for schools from session 2017/2018 to match the agreed Council holidays.

The Report indicated that it had been agreed that Council employees would have St Andrew's Day as one of seven public holidays but that, if it did not fall on a Friday it would be taken on the first Friday after 30 November. This was a change to the current practice of taking the public holiday on 30 November regardless of the day of the week. In order to minimise disruption and to ensure that all Council employees were on holiday on St Andrew's Day, it was proposed that school closures should match the Council's decision with regard to St Andrew's Day.

The Committee agreed to approve the changes to the already set St Andrew's Day school holiday from 2017/2018 to reflect the position agreed by Angus Council on 26 April 2016, as detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

6. CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVISION OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

There was submitted Report No 271/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning seeking approval of the proposed rates of payment and contracts for providers of early learning and childcare services (nurseries and playgroups) for 2016/2017 and for the development of a needs and market analysis and a commissioning/procurement strategy for early learning and childcare services.

The Report indicated that Angus Council was planning to increase the number of places for two year olds in local authority provision and was also investigating other models of delivery to increase flexibility across the service and further develop provision in line with Scottish Government policies.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the award of contracts to providers of early learning and childcare services (nurseries and playgroups) for 2016/2017 as detailed in the Appendix to the Report, without a tendering exercise taking place on the grounds detailed in Financial Regulation 16.24, and to authorise the Head of Quality and Performance to enter into these contracts on behalf of Angus Council; and
- (ii) to approve the development of a needs and market analysis and a commissioning/procurement strategy for early learning and childcare services and these to be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee for approval.

Having declared an interest at Article 2 above, Councillor Hands left the meeting during consideration of the following item.

7. CONTRACT FOR A SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICE

There was submitted Report No 272/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning seeking approval to award a contract to Speech and Language Therapy NHS Tayside for the provision of a speech and language therapy service to Angus Council and for the contract to be awarded without a competitive tendering exercise being undertaken.

The Report indicated that internal market intelligence had highlighted that NHS Tayside were the only single organisation with the capacity in terms of volume and breadth of services offered who could deliver this service in Angus.

The Committee agreed to approve the award of a contract to NHS Tayside for the provision of a speech and language therapy service to Angus Council, as detailed in the Report.

8. ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT 2015/2016

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 22 September 2015, there was submitted Report No 273/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning advising of the production of the Annual Evaluation Report for 2015/2016 for the Children and Learning Directorate.

The Report indicated that, as an integral part of the Directorate's arrangement for quality assurance, an evaluation report was prepared for submission to this Committee. The report was a reflection on the quality and impact of the work of the Directorate.

In previous years both an annual performance report and an annual evaluation report had been written for the Directorate and reported to Committee. However, it had been agreed to combine these reports for the 2015/2016 reporting period. The report had drawn upon the action and performance indicators for the 2015/2016 Directorate Improvement Plan.

Having noted that at Article 3.4 of Report No 273/16, 'How good is our leadership', the word 'adequate' be replaced by the word 'Good', the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated the Director and all her staff on their achievements and the considerable progress made over the past year.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to endorse the contents of the Annual Evaluation Report for 2015/2016, as appended to the Report.

9. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee resolved, in terms of Standing Order 28(2), that the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following items so as to avoid the disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraph 1.

Having declared an interest at Article 2 above, Councillor Brown left the meeting during consideration of the following items.

10. STANDING ORDER NO 49: APPOINTMENT OF A RELATIVE OF A COUNCILLOR

There was submitted Report No 274/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning seeking approval for the appointment of a candidate to the post of Early Years Practitioner in Borrowfield Primary School, Montrose.

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

11. STANDING ORDER NO 49: APPOINTMENT OF A RELATIVE OF A COUNCILLOR

There was submitted Report No 275/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning seeking approval for the appointment of a candidate to the post of Early Years Assistant in Letham Primary School.

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

12. STANDING ORDER NO 49: APPOINTMENT OF A RELATIVE OF A COUNCILLOR

There was submitted Report No 276/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning seeking approval for the appointment of a candidate to the post of Early Years Assistant in Whitehills Primary School, Forfar.

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