

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 13 January 2015 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors SHEENA WELSH, LYNNE DEVINE, IAN MCLAREN, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, MARTYN GEDDES, MAIRI EVANS, 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 Councillors Colin Brown and Sheila Hands, with Councillors Ian McLaren and Mairi Evans substituting respectively. Apologies were also intimated on behalf of Mr David Adams and Mrs Georgina Mallie, Church 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 11 November 2014 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Staffing Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Staffing Sub-Committee of 11 November 2014, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

(c) Angus Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers

The minute of meeting of the Angus Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers of 19 November 2014, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX II**).

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 27 OCTOBER TO 15 DECEMBER 2014

There was submitted and noted Report No 5/15 by the Strategic Director – People providing key information to members with regard to services delivered to the People Directorate for the period 27 October to 15 December 2014.

In relation to the Education Scotland Inspection of Maisondieu Primary School, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated the Head teacher, staff, pupils and parents on the very satisfactory Inspection Report.

*** 5. REVIEW OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SERVICE**

There was submitted Report No 6/15 by the Strategic Director – People summarising the outcome of a recent review of Angus schools Instrumental Music Service (IMS) and seeking approval for recommended changes to service delivery.

The Report indicated that an Instrumental Music Review Group had been established in 2014 to review the service with a variety of models being worked up to analyse the impact of service delivery with a service cohort of 7, 9 and 11 FTE music instructors. The recommended option involved the prioritisation of instrumental disciplines and redesigning the service as proposed would deliver budget savings of £198,500 which represented a reduction of 36%.

COUNCILLOR WELSH, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR DEVINE, MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE APPROVES THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN SECTION 5 OF THE REPORT TO REDESIGN THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SERVICE.

Councillor Fairweather, seconded by Councillor Thomson, moved as an amendment, that the Committee:-

- (i) agrees to defer consideration of the proposal to the Special Council meeting in February when these proposals could be considered as part of the overall budget discussions; and
- (ii) as part of these discussions alternative saving proposals be investigated.

On a vote being taken the members voted:-

For the motion:-

Councillors Welsh, Devine, McLaren, Evans, Houston, Middleton, Morrison, Valentine and Mr Bill Simpson (9).

For the amendment:-

Councillors Fairweather, Geddes, May, Proctor, Salmond, Smith and Thomson (7).

No votes:-

Mr John Pratti and Ms Elaine Fleming (2).

The motion was declared carried and the Committee resolved accordingly.

6. AMENDMENTS TO PRE-SCHOOL ENROLMENT ARRANGEMENTS

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 22 April 2010, there was submitted Report No 7/15 by the Strategic Director – People setting out proposals to amend the current arrangements for application and enrolment in pre-school provision.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the revised start dates for pre-school provision, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (ii) to approve the revised priority categories for pre-school eligibility, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the Report;
- (iii) that the nomenclature of “pre-school” be replaced with “Early Learning and Childcare” in line with the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014; and
- (iv) to approve the revision of Primary 1 “settling in” period moving from half days to full days for a shorter period of two weeks.

7. 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.

8. DECISION TO APPOINT A RELATIVE OF A CHIEF OFFICER

There was submitted Report No 27/15 by the Strategic Director – People seeking approval to appoint the relative of a Chief Officer to the supply teaching pool register of Angus Council.

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