

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 17 May 2016 at 2.00 pm.

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.

Teacher

Representatives: Mrs ANNA CHEYNE and Mr JOHN PRATTI

Councillor WELSH, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs Georgina Mallie and Mr Bill Simpson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Smith declared a non-financial interest in item 14 as his children attended Muirfield Primary School. He indicated that he would take part in any discussion and voting.

Councillor Proctor declared a non-financial interest in items 10 and 11 as he had attended Parent Council meetings at Webster's High School and Southmuir Primary School. He indicated that he would take part in any discussion and voting.

3. REQUEST FOR A DEPUTATION

The Convener indicated that a request for a deputation had been received from Mr Geoff Hobson of Webster's High School Parent Council, in relation to the consultation on the secondary school week (Item 11).

THE CONVENER, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MIDDLETON, MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO NOT HEAR THE DEPUTATION, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:-

- (I) THAT THIS COMMITTEE HAD HEARD THE VIEWS OF WEBSTER'S HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL ON TWO PREVIOUS OCCASIONS;
- (II) THAT PARENT COUNCILS, PARENTS, STAFF AND PUPILS HAD BEEN FULLY CONSULTED ON THIS MATTER AND HAD CLEARLY EXPRESSED THEIR OPINION AT THAT TIME; AND
- (III) THAT IT WOULD BE DISRESPECTFUL TO ALL OTHER SEVEN PARENT COUNCILS TO HEAR FURTHER THE VIEWS OF ONE PARENT COUNCIL.

Councillor Fairweather, seconded by Councillor Smith, moved as an amendment, that this Committee hear the deputation.

On a vote being taken, the members voted:-

For the motion:-

Councillors Welsh, Devine, Hands, Houston, Middleton, Morrison and Valentine (7).

For the amendment:-

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

No vote:-

Mrs Cheyne and Mr Pratti (2).

There being an equality of votes, the Convener exercised her casting vote in favour of the motion resulting in the deputation not being heard.

4. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 April 2016 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 12 April 2016, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

5. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 28 MARCH TO 3 MAY 2016

There was submitted and noted Report No 194/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning providing key information to members with regard to services delivered to the Children and Learning Directorate for the period 28 March to 3 May 2016.

6. ANGUS ADOPTION AGENCY AND FOSTERING PANEL ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 11 August 2015, there was submitted Report No 199/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning advising members of the production of the Angus Adoption Agency and Fostering Panel Annual Report.

The Report highlighted the Council's success over several years in providing an effective service for children, foster carers and adoptive parents, and noted the demand on resources as well as the services provided.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the Angus Adoption Agency and Fostering Panel Annual Report; and
- (ii) to support the future plans, as detailed within the Annual Report.

7. FUTURE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE PROVISION

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 April 2016, there was submitted Report No 200/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning, advising members of developments within early years, and outlining the approach adopted to prepare for the expansion of early years services which would ensure that the Council was prepared to meet the Scottish Government's commitment to deliver 1,140 hours early learning and childcare by the end of the next parliamentary term.

The Report indicated that, in light of the proposed future increase in early learning and childcare, there was a need to develop a detailed strategic plan as to how the Council would meet future demand for early learning and childcare and therefore a set of key guiding principles had been developed and were detailed within section 5.1 of the Report.

The Committee agreed to approve the set of guiding principles, as detailed in section 5.1 of the Report, as the basis on which to develop a strategic plan for the future development of early learning and child care in Angus.

8. ANGUS SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTAINMENT 2014-2015

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 May 2015, there was submitted Report No 201/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning providing members with a summary of the attainment outcomes in Angus Secondary Schools in the Senior Phase for academic session 2014/2015 following the release of the final Insight data in February 2016.

The Report indicated that there was a key focus on improving attainment and accountability across the authority and head teachers were fully engaged in improving performance at school level.

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

- (i) to note the attainment results, as detailed in the Report, following the February Insight update;
- (ii) to acknowledge the continued hard work of the young people, staff and parents to support the on-going implementation of the new qualifications;
- (iii) to request further attainment reports annually in this format, following confirmation of the data in the February Insight update; and
- (iv) to approve the provision of further Insight briefing sessions.

9. PROPOSAL TO MOTHBALL LETHNOT PRIMARY SCHOOL

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 February 2016, there was submitted Report No 202/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning, seeking approval to mothball Lethnot Primary School from August 2016

The Report indicated that, following consultation, there had been no comments, queries or concerns raised about the potential mothballing of Lethnot Primary School and there were currently no enrolments or placing requests for children to attend the school from session 2016/2017. It was therefore proposed to mothball Lethnot Primary School from the end of school session 2015/2016.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the mothballing of Lethnot Primary School from August 2016; and
- (ii) to approve the proposals, as detailed in section 5 of the Report.

10. CAMPUS HEADSHIP OF WEBSTER'S HIGH SCHOOL AND SOUTHMUIR PRIMARY SCHOOL

There was submitted Report No 203/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning, summarising the outcomes of a recent informal consultation undertaken in relation to the pilot of an acting Campus Headship of Webster's High School and Southmuir Primary School.

The Report indicated that overall, feedback from all groups consulted had been positive and forward thinking, however, it was agreed that it was too early to determine how successful the acting Campus Headship approach had been. As a result, it was proposed to extend the temporary deployment of the acting Campus Head Teacher and to undertake a fuller and more formal consultation exercise.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposal to extend the acting Campus Headship of Webster's High School and Southmuir Primary School into school session 2016/2017 on a temporary basis; and
- (ii) to approve the proposal to undertake a full formal consultation in September and October 2016 with staff, pupils and parents on whether or not to develop plans for transition from the acting Campus Headship to a permanent all-through campus.

***11. CONSULTATION ON THE SECONDARY SCHOOL WEEK**

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 November 2015 and to Article 4(ii)(e) of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 10 December 2015, there was submitted Report No 204/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning presenting the findings of the detailed consultation on the secondary school week structure and seeking approval to implement the changes from August 2017.

COUNCILLOR WELSH, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR DEVINE, MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE AGREES:-

- (I) TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND ACCEPT THE FINDINGS OF THE DETAILED CONSULTATION ON THE SECONDARY SCHOOL WEEK;
- (II) THAT ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS MOVE TO A CONSISTENT AND COORDINATED THIRTY-THREE PERIOD WEEK TIMETABLE STRUCTURE FROM AUGUST 2017;
- (III) THAT THE MODEL OF FOUR SEVEN PERIOD DAYS AND ONE FOUR PERIOD DAY WHICH INCLUDED A DAILY TEN MINUTE CHECK-IN PERIOD WOULD OPERATE CONSISTENTLY IN ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS FROM AUGUST 2017;
- (IV) THAT THE SHORTER FOUR DAY PERIOD WOULD OCCUR WEEKLY ON A FRIDAY FROM AUGUST 2017;
- (V) TO REQUEST STAFF IN THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING DIRECTORATE AND SCHOOLS TO ENGAGE WITH ANGUS ALIVE, COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT, DUNDEE AND ANGUS COLLEGE SPORTS ACADEMY AND LOCAL SPORTS CLUBS TO OFFER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE SHORTER DAY (FRIDAY AFTERNOON OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT ANGUS);
- (VI) TO REQUEST STAFF IN THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING DIRECTORATE AND SCHOOLS TO ENGAGE WITH EMPLOYERS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO OFFER EMPLOYABILITY EXPERIENCES FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE SHORTER DAY (FRIDAY AFTERNOON OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT ANGUS);
- (VII) TO APPROVE THE INCREASED TRANSPORT COSTS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE CHANGE AND TO REQUEST THAT FURTHER DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS BE DEVELOPED BY THE DIRECTORATE IN CONJUNCTION WITH SCHOOL TRANSPORT;
- (VIII) THAT FURTHER WORK BE UNDERTAKEN IN SCHOOLS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES TO AGREE THE LENGTH OF THE LUNCH TIME PERIOD; AND
- (IX) THAT A FURTHER REPORT BE BROUGHT BACK TO THIS COMMITTEE OUTLINING THE PROGRESS WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION IN NOVEMBER 2016.

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

- (i) to reject the recommendations contained within the Report;
- (ii) to retain the status quo; and
- (iii) to request a further report giving further options on secondary school week arrangements that support the continuing work on Curriculum for Excellence and the Developing our Young Workforce Initiative.

On a vote being taken, the members voted:-

For the motion:-

Councillors Welsh, Devine, Hands, Houston, Middleton, Morrison, Smith and Valentine (8).

For the amendment:-

Councillors Fairweather, Geddes, May, Proctor, Salmond and Thomson (6).

No vote:-

Mrs Cheyne and Mr Pratti (2).

The motion was declared carried and became the finding of the meeting.

12. THE ANGUS OFFER FOR TEACHERS

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 January 2016, there was submitted Report No 205/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning, providing a summary of action taken to consider the possibility of the development of an ‘Angus offer’, a package to encourage teachers to work in Angus, and seeking approval to take forward a number of actions in this regard.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made in exploring potential incentives to encourage new teachers to Angus; and
- (ii) to approve the proposals as detailed in section 5 of the Report.

13. BRECHIN COMMUNITY CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION TRAINING CENTRE

There was submitted Report No 206/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning advising members of an opportunity to develop a new relationship with local employers through the building of a construction training centre which would be accessed by all stakeholders.

The Report indicated that the Developing the Young Workforce initiative had a key emphasis on creating and sustaining effective partnerships with employers and business. The proposal was to create a Construction Training Skills Programme which included the creation of a new construction training centre building to provide the primary hub on the Brechin Community Campus site. The aim of the training programme was to deliver high quality vocational education providing a better connectivity and cooperation between education and the world of work through a real partnership between Forster Group, Brechin High School and Angus Council. The Forster Group had confirmed that they would fit out the facility for use and that they would be the primary partner in delivering programmes and training.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to support the development and sustainability of the Construction Training Centre in partnership with Forster Group;
- (ii) to approve the development of a new Construction Training Centre on the Brechin Community Campus; and
- (iii) to note that the capital construction costs would be provided by the Scottish Futures Trust “Inspiring Learning Fund”.

14. ARBROATH SCHOOLS PROJECT (PHASES 2 AND 3)

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 3 October 2013, there was submitted Report No 207/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning, detailing plans to progress the replacement of Hayshead, Ladyloan and Muirfield Primary Schools as the next phase of the Arbroath Schools Project and seeking procurement authority using the appropriate East Central Territory hubco procurement arrangements.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to authorise the Strategic Director – Children and Learning to proceed with proposals to support new build replacements of Hayshead, Ladyloan and Muirfield Primary Schools;

- (ii) to authorise procurement of the proposals using the East Central Territory hubco arrangements, utilising their Design, Build, Finance and Maintain, and Design and Build models;
- (iii) to request a further report with specific information in relation to the funding position once further detail was available from the Scottish Government;
- (iv) to authorise the Strategic Director – Children and Learning to undertake consultation on the proposals for Hayshead, Ladyloan and Muirfield Primary Schools; and
- (v) to authorise the Strategic Director – Children and Learning to undertake informal consultation with pupils, staff, parents/carers and the wider community regarding a potential joint campus for Hayshead and St Thomas Primary Schools.

Following conclusion of the business, the Convener referred to recent press articles regarding the National 5 Mathematics Exam. Head Teachers had consulted with Maths Teachers and Principal Teachers and the consensus was that the paper was fair and proper and that no complaints had been received from young people.