

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 20 September 2016 at 2.00 pm.

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

Teacher

Representatives: Mr JOHN PRATTI

Councillor WELSH, Convener, in the Chair.

1. **ROCK CHALLENGE**

Members welcomed pupils and staff from Arbroath High School who gave a presentation on their success at the 2016 Be Your Best Rock Challenge Northern Premier Final. This year's winning performance was a story set around the 2016 Rio Olympics and the pupils had been named the overall winners having also received a number of excellence awards. Members noted that the competition involved a number of schools throughout Angus, and that having won the Scottish final on several occasions, Arbroath High School had been promoted to the Premier Competition.

Having watched the performance, members congratulated the dedicated, talented and inspirational pupils on their outstanding achievement, and thanked them for their attendance and excellent presentation.

2. **APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor David May with Councillor Craig Fotheringham substituting. Apologies for absence were also intimated on behalf of Mr Bill Simpson and Mrs Anna Cheyne.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Smith declared an interest in item 7, Report No 346/16, as his children attended Muirfield Primary School. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting.

At this stage in the meeting, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, paid tribute to Mr Tim Armstrong who was leaving the post of Head of Children and Young People, and who was today attending his last meeting of the Children and Learning Committee. She thanked Mr Armstrong for all his hard work and effort for the children of Angus and wished him every success for the future.

Thereafter, the Convener referred to a recent review of teacher workload which had been undertaken as part of a range of measures aimed at reducing the workload burden on teachers following Curriculum for Excellence reforms. Angus was found to be proactive in providing guidance for teachers and were in the top category of local authorities.

4. **MINUTES**

(a) **Previous Meeting**

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 August 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 9 August 2016, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

5. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 26 JULY TO 6 SEPTEMBER 2016

There was submitted and noted Report No 344/16 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 26 July to 6 September 2016.

6. CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE – ATTAINMENT REPORT

There was submitted Report No 345/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning describing Angus schools attainment across the Broad General Education and Scottish Qualifications Authority examination diet in session 2015/2016. The Report provided two measures of attainment for the broad general education – teachers' professional judgement and the standardised assessment scores, together with information on the most recent examination data for the 2016 SQA diet.

The Report set out the current position within Angus, with the aspirational expectation that 90% of children and young people would be secure in their learning within the appropriate level at the end of P1, P4, P7 and S3 by June 2017.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the Council's progress in relation to the Broad General Education;
- (ii) to note the Council's most recent attainment in relation to the Scottish Qualifications Authority examination diet; and
- (iii) to request a further more in-depth analysis of SQA attainment in May 2017 when the national tool, Insight, had been updated.

7. ARBROATH SCHOOLS PROJECT (PHASES 2 AND 3A)

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 17 May 2016, there was submitted Report No 346/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning providing an update on the progress of the Arbroath Schools Project in relation to the replacement of Hayshead, Ladyloan and Muirfield Primary Schools, and seeking authority to carry out a formal consultation regarding a shared campus between Hayshead and St Thomas Primary Schools.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to authorise officers to develop a proposed plan for Additional Support Needs and Early Years within Hayshead, Ladyloan and Muirfield Primary Schools; and
- (ii) to authorise the Strategic Director – Children and Learning to undertake formal consultation in relation to developing a shared campus for Hayshead and St Thomas Primary Schools.