

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 23 February 2016 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors SHEENA WELSH, LYNNE DEVINE, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, MARTYN GEDDES, SHEILA HANDS, JIM HOUSTON, DAVID MAY, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, DONALD MORRISON, DAVID LUMGAIR, BRIAN BOYD, EWAN SMITH, MARGARET THOMSON and PAUL VALENTINE.

Church

Representatives: Mr DAVID ADAMS and Mr BILL SIMPSON.

Teacher

Representatives: Mr JOHN PRATTI.

Councillor WELSH, Convener, in the Chair.

1. **APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Colin Brown, Ronnie Proctor and Mark Salmond with Councillors Craig Fotheringham, David Lumgair and Brian Boyd substituting respectively. An apology for absence was also intimated on behalf of Mrs Georgina Mallie.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. **MINUTES**

(a) **Previous Meeting**

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 January 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 18 November 2015, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**Appendix I**).

(c) **Staffing Sub-Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Staffing Sub-Committee of 12 January 2016, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**Appendix II**).

4. **INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 14 DECEMBER 2015 TO 8 FEBRUARY 2016**

There was submitted Report No 70/16 by the Strategic Director – People providing key information to members with regard to services delivered to the People Directorate for the period 14 December 2015 to 8 February 2016.

The Convener, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated the Psychology Service on the excellent VSE report referred to in Schedule 1. In respect of Schedule 3, Councillor May requested that further information on the teacher shortages within secondary schools be provided in any future update report.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Information Report for the period 14 December 2015 to 8 February 2016.

5. AMENDMENTS TO EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE ENROLMENT ARRANGEMENTS

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 January 2015, there was submitted Report No 71/16 by the Strategic Director – People setting out proposals to amend the current arrangements for application and enrolment in a pre-school provision.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the revised start dates for pre-school provision, as detailed in Section 5 of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the annual amendment of the dates in line with the school year;
- (iii) that all two year olds, eligible under the current criteria, follow the revised start dates, as detailed within the Report; and
- (iv) that where a two year old was deemed vulnerable, or was subject to a child protection measure, they would be admitted to settings as soon as their application had been processed.

6. EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE CHARGED SESSIONS

There was submitted Report No 72/16 by the Strategic Director – People seeking approval to offer parents the option to purchase additional early learning and childcare in school nurseries in localities where local private or voluntary provision could not meet demand which would ensure a more cost-effective, efficient service with greater flexibility for parents in the early learning and childcare setting.

The Report indicated that currently the Council did not offer parents the opportunity for additional early learning and childcare within its own settings over and above the core 600 hours required by statute. Parental consultation had highlighted a demand for this within two rural school settings and a pilot had been trialled to determine the likely uptake which had been very successful. It was therefore proposed to offer early learning and childcare places over and above the core funded hours where no other private or voluntary provision was available which would be charged at a rate which covered the cost of the provision.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposal to offer additional flexible early learning and childcare provision in line with the Scottish Government requirements in settings where no other provision of this kind was offered from partners;
- (ii) to approve the proposals to charge £14.10 per session for the additional provision extending beyond the core 600 hours and the five sessions currently available; and
- (iii) that the current system of priority categorisation for early learning and childcare would apply for any additional funded places.

7. REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 February 2015, there was submitted Report No 73/16 by the Strategic Director – People setting out proposals for management structures in primary schools which would ensure best value, equity, transparency and clear processes for the number of promoted staff in every school, including those with shared headships.

The proposals, as detailed in Section 5 of the Report, set out key recommendations to align provision of promoted posts across all the primary schools which would now be calculated using a revised formula based on the number of classes and the required management time for all promoted staff. An annual review of class configuration would take place each February and would be approved by the Service Manager (Primary) to ensure that the most efficient class composition had been achieved, and staffing allocation to primary schools would be agreed by the end of May each year. Any permanent increase in the number of promoted

staff would only be considered following a full year of increased roll and in conjunction with information about future demographics. Any required reductions in the number of promoted staff would be managed at service level in line with the current government guidance.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals to amend the staffing formula for promoted staff in Angus primary schools to achieve consistency across all schools;
- (ii) to approve the proposals to amend the staffing formula for promoted staff in shared headship schools; and
- (iii) to approve the proposals to amend the allocation of additional staffing in schools in relation to deprivation and shared headships.

8. CONSULTATION TO MOTHBALL LETHNOT PRIMARY SCHOOL

There was submitted Report No 74/16 by the Strategic Director – People advising members of the intention to consult with parents on the proposal to mothball Lethnot Primary School with effect from August 2016.

The Report indicated that during session 2015/2016, there had been four pupils at Lethnot Primary School, three P7 children and one P5 child. One P7 pupil had moved schools in November 2015 and the remaining two P7 pupils would be leaving to move into Brechin High School in August 2016. The P5 child's family had recently relocated to another area within Scotland and there were now no other younger children living in the school catchment area.

It was therefore proposed to consult with parents immediately on the proposal to mothball Lethnot Primary School from August 2016 in line with the mothballing process. Consultation would take place with all families living within the catchment area regardless of whether their children currently attended the school. The decision to mothball would be reviewed in December 2016 which would include an analysis of any demand at the time that would necessitate the re-opening of the school. In the meantime, the delineated area for Lethnot Primary School would be temporarily realigned to Edzell Primary School. A further Report detailing the outcome of the consultation would be brought back to this Committee in May 2016.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the plan to consult with parents on the proposal to mothball Lethnot Primary School from August 2016; and
- (ii) to approve the Council's process for mothballing a school, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

9. REQUEST TO TENDER FOR SCHOOL TRANSPORT CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 February 2015, there was submitted Joint Report No 75/16 by the Strategic Director – People and the Head of Technical and Property Services seeking approval to tender for replacement school transport contracts for services which would terminate in July 2016 and for any additional school transport provision identified as a result of new applications received, or changing transport requirements.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to undertake a contract renewal exercise to secure replacement transport provision on the basis identified within the Report for the school transport contracts due for renewal in August 2016; and
- (ii) to approve the decision for mainstream contracts to operate under contract exemptions with the existing contractors for a further year until the revised secondary school day implications had been established.