

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 19 September 2017 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors MARK SALMOND, DEREK WANN, JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, COLIN BROWN, LYNNE DEVINE, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, IAN MCLAREN, MARK MCDONALD, BOB MYLES, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, LOIS SPEED, TOMMY STEWART, RON STURROCK and BETH WHITESIDE.

Church

Representatives: Miss LESLEY HOOD.

Teacher

Representatives: Mr MIKE CALLAGHAN.

Councillor SALMOND, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Ben Lawrie and Angus Macmillan Douglas OBE, with Councillors Craig Fotheringham and Ian McLaren substituting respectively.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. CHILDREN AND LEARNING – EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee noted that a complaint had been lodged in terms of the Social Work (Representations Procedure) (Scotland) Directions 1996. As it was not possible for the recommendations of the Complaints Review Committee (CRC) to be considered by this Committee on 19 September 2017, it was recommended that delegated authority be given to the Executive Sub-Committee to consider the recommendations of the CRC on this occasion only.

The Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Executive Sub-Committee to consider the recommendations of the CRC on this occasion only.

4. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this committee of 17 August 2017 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

5. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 AUGUST TO 5 SEPTEMBER 2017

There was submitted Report No 315/17 by the Strategic Director – People providing key information to members with regard to services delivered in the Children and Learning Directorate for the period 1 August to 5 September 2017 relating to:-

- Education Scotland Inspection of Aberlemno Primary School (Schedule 1)
- Education Scotland Inspection of St Margaret's Primary School (Schedule 2)
- Scottish National Standardised Assessments (Schedule 3)
- The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare (Schedule 4)

With regard to Schedules 1 and 2, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated the staff and pupils of Aberlemno and St Margaret's Primary Schools on the positive inspection reports and agreed that the Strategic Director – People be requested to write to the schools thanking them for all their hard work.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

6. SCHOOL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 June 2017, there was submitted Report No 316/17 by the Strategic Director – People detailing an approach for taking forward the School Investment Strategy and seeking approval to undertake pre-consultation with all school communities across Angus.

The Report indicated that the current learning estate did not fully meet the aspirations for the best quality learning environments for all children and young people that made the best use of the resources available. The pre-consultation aimed to engage constructively with communities in advance of statutory consultation and it was therefore proposed to undertake pre-consultation across the whole of the school estate to inform the implementation of the strategy which would allow consideration to be given to how changes in one school and area may impact neighbouring schools.

Pre-consultation would include the development of a questionnaire, drop-in sessions at each secondary school together with pop-up sessions delivered by head teachers. Following the pre-consultation exercise, the information received would be used to inform a further Report which would identify the priorities for formal consultation and implementation.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed pre-consultation on the whole school estate across communities of Angus;
- (ii) that the outcome of the pre-consultation and prioritised proposals be brought back to a special meeting in early 2018; and
- (iii) to approve an amended approach to planning the implementation of the strategy based on manageable phases rather than fixed term plans of 5-; 10-; and 30- years.

7. LADYLOAN AND MUIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL PROJECT UPDATE AND CONTRACT AWARD

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 February 2017, there was submitted Report No 317/17 by the Strategic Director – People providing an update in relation to the replacement of Ladyloan and Muirfield Primary Schools, seeking approval to enter into the construction contract with Hubco and to authorise the investment opportunity available through this type of contract.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Strategic Director – People and the Head of Corporate Finance to:
 - execute, deliver and preform the necessary contract documents (the Funders Direct Agreement, the Collateral Agreement, the Independent Tester Contract, the Insurance Proceeds Account Agreement, the Project Agreement and any other necessary documentation) in respect of the project on behalf of Angus Council;
 - enter into an enabling works agreement to carry out drainage alterations at Muirfield Primary School; and
- (ii) to remit the Head of Corporate Finance to enter into the subordinated debt investment opportunity created by the project (as with other permitted investments).

8. CONSULTATION ON EDUCATION GOVERNANCE: FAIR FUNDING TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY IN EDUCATION

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 January 2017, there was submitted Report No 318/17 by the Chief Education Officer highlighting an opportunity to respond to a consultation on Education Governance Arrangements for Fair Funding in Scottish Education and seeking members' views in response to the consultation.

The Report indicated that following a previous consultation on the 'Empowering Teachers, Parents and Communities to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education: A Governance Review', the Scottish Government had published a further consultation on 'Education Governance: Next Steps, Empowering our Teachers, Parents and Communities to Deliver Excellence and Equity for our Children' in June 2017.

The consultation document set out a range of measures to enhance a school and teacher-led education system that focussed on the quality of learning and teaching and supported leadership at all levels. The document also set out a vision for change with the need for new legislation and potentially significant changes to the role of Head Teachers, local and national and government in the governance of education. Alongside the 'next steps' paper, a further consultation had also been published, 'Education Governance: Fair Funding to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education' which sought views on how schools were funded and set out two future models for consideration. A draft response to the consultation was detailed in Section 5 of the Report.

The Committee agreed to endorse the Council's response to the consultation, as detailed in Section 5 of the Report.