

## ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 30 January 2018 at 10.00 am.

**Present:** Councillors MARK SALMOND, DEREK WANN, JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, COLIN BROWN, LYNNE DEVINE, RICHARD MOORE, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, MARK McDONALD, BOB MYLES, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, LOIS SPEED, TOMMY STEWART, RON STURROCK and BETH WHITESIDE.

### **Church**

**Representatives:** Mr DAVID ADAMS.

### **Teacher**

**Representatives:** Mr MIKE CALLAGHAN.

Councillor SALMOND, Convener, in the Chair.

### **1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Ben Lawrie with Councillor Richard Moore substituting. An apology for absence was also intimated on behalf of Miss Lesley Hood.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Braes declared an interest in item 4 as he had received a number of representations from local constituents and as he had met with parents of pupils who attended Stracathro Primary School. He indicated that he would take part in any discussion and voting on the item.

Councillor Myles declared an interest in item 4 as he had been contacted by a number of parents in relation to the proposals and as he had relations that attended a number of Angus schools. He indicated that he would take part in any discussion and voting on the item.

### **3. RECEPTION OF A DEPUTATION**

The Convener intimated that a request for a deputation had been received from Mrs Lee Ann Waddell, Vice Chairperson of Stracathro Parent Council in relation to the proposal to consult on the closure of Stracathro Primary School.

The Committee agreed to receive the deputation following which Mrs Waddell urged the Committee to remove the closure of Stracathro Primary School from the consultation proposals.

Following questions, Mrs Waddell withdrew to the public benches.

### **4. SCHOOL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2017-2047**

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 September 2017, there was submitted Report No 36/18 by the Strategic Director - People providing feedback on the recent pre-consultation activities relating to the School Investment Strategy and presenting proposals for addressing the needs in Angus Schools over a 30 year period.

A pre-consultation exercise had been undertaken across Angus during November 2017 to inform the prioritisation of proposals for the School Investment Strategy for 2017-2047. The Report highlighted the output of the pre-consultation exercise and presented prioritised proposals for consideration. Throughout the pre-consultation process, it had been emphasised that the School Investment Strategy was not simply a programme for building new schools but about making sure that learning environments were the best they could be to support our children, young people and communities in their learning. To do this, a systematic programme to address issues with the school estate over a 30 year period would be established.

To ensure that the greatest needs were addressed first and finite resources prioritised, all of the schools had been ranked. The criteria for ranking schools and the explanations, together with the ranking of schools were detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the Report. Having ranked the schools, the projects to be undertaken had been identified and were detailed in Section 6 of the Report. Each school would be dealt with once and as many issues as possible addressed. The planned activities would be reviewed every two years to ensure that prioritisation was based on the up to date information.

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

- (i) to approve the approach taken to ranking and prioritising the School Investment Strategy;
- (ii) to approve the consultation programme for 2018;
- (iii) to request that consultation proposals for Lethnot, Tarfside, Edzell and Stracathro primary schools be presented for consideration to a meeting of this Committee on 20 February 2018;
- (iv) to request that details of the options appraisal for Monifieth High School and all associated primary schools within the Monifieth cluster be presented to a meeting of this Committee on 19 April 2018;
- (v) to request that the 30 year programme be reviewed, updated and presented to a meeting of this Committee by September 2020; and
- (vi) to approve the updating of the capital plan in light of decisions taken.

#### **5. CONSULTATION ON DRAFT STATUTORY GUIDANCE: EMPOWERING SCHOOLS: A CONSULTATION ON THE PROVISIONS OF THE EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL**

There was submitted Report No 37/18 by the Chief Education Officer highlighting an opportunity to respond to a consultation related to proposed new legal duties underpinning the Scottish Government's empowering schools agenda and seeking approval for an Angus Council response to the consultation.

The Report indicated that as part of the Scottish Government's priority to raise attainment and close the poverty related attainment gap, consultation responses were being sought as to associated legislative proposals. The proposed Bill aimed to develop a school and teacher-led education system and empower schools and school leaders, to establish a Head Teachers' Charter, to improve parental and community engagement in school life and in learning outside of school, and to strengthen the voice of children and young people. The Bill would also provide the legislative underpinning for the establishment of Regional Improvement Collaboratives and would enable registration of other education professionals with the education workforce council.

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