

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 19 April 2018 at 2.00 pm.

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: Miss LESLEY HOOD and Mrs LIZ HOWSON.

Teacher

Representatives: Mr MIKE CALLAGHAN and Mrs ANNA CHEYNE.

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.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. THIRD CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE

The Committee noted that Mrs Liz Howson had been nominated by the Episcopal Church as the Third Church Representative on the Children and Learning Committee.

4. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 February 2018 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Special Meeting

The minute of Special meeting of this Committee of 15 February 2018 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

5. RECEPTION OF A DEPUTATION

The Convener intimated that a request for a deputation had been received from Mr Malcolm Simpson in relation to the home to school transport policy.

The Committee agreed to receive the deputation following which Mr Simpson expressed concerns regarding the use of a public bus service to transport those pupils living in a rural area to school.

Mr Simpson then withdrew to the public benches.

In accordance with Standing Order 37(2), the Committee agreed that following the deputation, the order of business be varied from that published and was considered in the following order.

6. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY

There was submitted Report No 129/18 by the Head of Schools and Learning outlining an updated policy statement for home to school transport for school communities in Angus.

The Report indicated that transport provision within rural authorities was continually evolving from both a parent/carer expectation and the requirements of contract law, and it was therefore necessary to have clear policies and guidance for the transportation of in excess of 3,000 pupils per day. A review of the home to school transport policy had been undertaken, with an appeals procedure now included within the policy.

The Committee agreed to approve the updated policy statement, as detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

7. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 6 FEBRUARY TO 3 APRIL 2018

There was submitted Report No 124/18 by the Strategic Director - People providing key information to members with regard to services delivered in the Children and Learning Directorate for the period 6 February to 3 April 2018 relating to:-

- The 4-4-2 Reading Challenge (Schedule 1);
- Brechin High School HMIE Inspection - February 2018 (Schedule 2);
- Connect (Scottish Parent Teacher Council) – Maisondieu Primary School (Schedule 3);
- Learning and Development for Support Staff (Schedule 4);
- 'Employable Me' Engagement Event – 12 February 2018 (Schedule 5); and
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) (Schedule 6).

Having heard a number of members welcome the valuable work and progress made by the Directorate as detailed within Schedules 1-6, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

8. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 6 FEBRUARY TO 3 APRIL 2018

There was submitted Report No 125/18 by the Head of Finance and Legal providing key information to members with regard to services delivered in the Place Directorate for the period 6 February to 3 April 2018 in relation to:-

- Council Tax Exemption for Care Leavers (Schedule 1)

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

9. ANGUS SECONDARY SENIOR PHASE SCHOOL ATTAINMENT 2016-17

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 June 2017, there was submitted Report No 126/18 by the Chief Education Officer providing members with a summary of the attainment outcomes in Angus Council Secondary Schools in the Senior Phase for academic session 2016-17 following the release of the Insight data in February 2018.

The Report indicated that improvements in attainment had been demonstrated across almost all indicators detailed within the Report. The improvements in raising attainment in Angus could be attributed to leadership in our schools; improvements in learning and teaching; the systems used for monitoring and tracking young people's progress; the considerable support from staff, parents and partners, and the hard work of the young people.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the attainment results detailed in the Report, following the February Insight update;
- (ii) to acknowledge the achievements of our young people and the support provided by staff, parents and partners; and
- (iii) to request further attainment reports annually following the February Insight update.

10. PRIMARY SCHOOL CAPACITIES

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 April 2016, there was submitted Report No 127/18 by the Strategic Director – People providing details of the

planning and working capacities and the projected rolls of primary schools for 2018/19, and seeking approval to extend or remove the caps on Warddykes, Timmergreens, Whitehills and Woodlands primary schools.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to remove the roll cap from Warddykes primary school, as outlined in Section 5.1.1 of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the roll capping of Timmergreens, Whitehills and Woodlands primary schools, as outlined in Sections 5.1.4-5.1.13 of the Report.

11. EARLY YEARS EXPANSION PROGRAMME

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 February 2018, there was submitted Report No 128/18 by the Strategic Director – People providing members with details of local plans to implement the Scottish Government’s commitment to expand the provision of early learning and childcare to 1140 hours per child per year by August 2020.

The Report indicated that following a comprehensive review of both the capital plans and proposed revenue costs, a revised Angus proposal had been submitted to the Scottish Futures Trust on 2 March 2018. The proposal outlined the significant capital investment required for physical expansion, as well as the revenue funding required to achieve the expansion and development of the workforce and to improve the sustainability of the external provider market. The funding allocation for Angus was not expected to be confirmed until May 2018.

The programme for delivery had been divided into 3 main workstreams, namely Capital Expansion, Workforce Expansion and Development, and Childminder Market Development. All of the activities to be undertaken within the workstreams were subject to confirmation of the funding available to deliver expansion. Further details of the proposals, along with the associated projections were contained within the delivery plan, detailed at Appendix 1.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the Angus Council Early Learning & Childcare Blueprint for Expansion to 1140 Hours Delivery Plan, as detailed in the Appendix to the Report;
- (iii) to note that the proposals contained within the Report and Appendix were subject to confirmation of the Angus allocation of Scottish Government funding; and
- (iv) to note that a number of the proposals, such as capital projects, would be the subject of additional Reports to this Committee over the life of the expansion programme.

12. MONIFIETH CLUSTER SCHOOLS OPTIONS APPRAISAL

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of Special meeting of this Committee of 30 January 2018, there was submitted Report No 130/18 by the Strategic Director – People presenting the proposed options to engage with children, young people, families, staff and citizens about Monifieth High School and all primary schools within the Monifieth cluster, including the provision of leisure facilities.

A number of options had been identified as available to improve the existing estate in the Monifieth cluster and it was proposed to consult on options 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 as detailed in Section 5 of the Report.

COUNCILLOR SALMOND, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WANN, MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE AGREES:-

- (I) TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED ENGAGEMENT FOR MONIFIETH HIGH SCHOOL AND ALL PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITHIN THE MONIFIETH CLUSTER, INCLUDING LEISURE FACILITIES;

- (II) TO APPROVE THE SCOPE OF THE OPTIONS APPRAISAL AS DETAILED IN SECTION 5 OF THE REPORT, SPECIFICALLY TO CONSULT ON OPTIONS 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 AND 8; AND
- (III) THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION AND PRIORITISED PROPOSALS BE BROUGHT BACK TO A MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE ON 6 NOVEMBER 2018.

Councillor Whiteside, seconded by Councillor Devine, moved as an amendment, that the Committee agrees:-

- (i) to approve recommendations (i) and (iii), as detailed above; and
- (ii) to approve the scope of the options appraisal as detailed in Section 5 of the Report and to specifically consult on options 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

On a vote being taken, the members voted:-

For the motion:-

Councillors Salmond, Wann, Brown, Moore, Macmillan Douglas, Myles, Proctor, Stewart and Sturrock (9).

For the amendment:-

Councillors Bell, Braes, Devine, McDonald, Speed, Whiteside and Miss Hood and Mrs Howson (8).

No Vote:-

Mr Callaghan and Mrs Cheyne (2).

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