

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 18 September 2018 at 2.00 pm.

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

Councillor WANN, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Miss Lesley Hood, Mrs Liz Howson, Mr Mike Callaghan and Mrs Anna Cheyne.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Myles declared an interest in items 9 and 10 as he had been approached by a number of constituents and had attended a number of public meetings in relation to the closure of the schools. He indicated that he had made no commitment as to the possible outcome and as such would participate in any discussion and voting on the items.

Councillor Braes declared an interest in item 9 as he had attended a number of meetings with the Parents Group. He indicated that he had offered no opinion and as such would participate in any discussion and voting on the item.

Councillor Wann declared an interest in item 9 as he had met with a resident of Tarfside. He indicated that he had offered no opinion and as such would participate in any discussion and voting on the item.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 August 2018 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 7 AUGUST TO 4 SEPTEMBER 2018

There was submitted Report No 277/18 by the Strategic Director - People providing key information to members with regard to services delivered in the Children and Learning Directorate for the period 7 August to 4 September 2018 relating to:-

- Education Scotland Inspection of Mattocks Primary School and Nursery Class (Schedule 1)
- Education Scotland Inspection of Woodlands Primary School and Nursery Class (Schedule 2)
- Care Inspectorate Inspection of Strathmore Centre Care Home Service (Schedule 3)
- Care Inspectorate Inspection of Carseburn Road Care Home Service (Schedule 4).

Having heard the Convener and a number of members congratulate the staff, pupils and families of Mattocks and Woodlands Primary Schools and Nurseries on such excellent inspection reports (Schedules 1-2), and Councillors Speed and Bell welcome the positive Care Home Inspections (Schedules 3-4), the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

5. ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT AND PLAN

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 17 August 2017, there was submitted Report No 278/18 by the Chief Education Officer summarising the progress made with regard to the first Annual Education Plan and setting out the new Plan for school session 2018-2019.

The Report indicated that the majority of actions included within the first Angus Annual Education Plan had been completed or overtaken, and an analysis of the current performance

had indicated that good progress had been made in meeting the strategic priorities of the National Improvement Framework. The self-evaluation process had highlighted however where more, or different work was needed. The Plan for session 2018-2019 highlighted planned educational improvement activity for the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 with a Report on progress being brought back to a meeting of this Committee in September 2019.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress summarised in relation to the Annual Education Plan 2017-2018, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (ii) to approve the Annual Education Plan 2018-2019 and implementation of the plan and its priorities, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (iii) to instruct provision of the approved Plan to Scottish Ministers, as required in Section 3F(2) of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000;
- (iv) to note that the Annual Education Plan outlined improvement activity for the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019;
- (v) to instruct the Chief Education Officer to ensure that an evaluation report on progress with the Annual Education Plan be presented to a meeting of this Committee in September 2019; and
- (vi) to instruct the Chief Education Officer to ensure that an information report on interim progress with the Annual Education Plan be presented to a meeting of this Committee in January 2019.

6. FULL YEAR EVALUATION OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL WEEK

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 January 2018, there was submitted Report No 279/18 by the Head of Schools and Learning providing a full year review of the changes to the secondary school week.

The Review took account of the views of young people, parents and staff together with a variety of other data summarised within the Report, and provided a summary of the outcomes of the full year evaluation review together with detailed proposals for future action.

Having heard a number of members welcome the positive Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcomes of the full year review of the changes to the secondary school week, as detailed in Section 4 of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the proposals for future action, as detailed in Section 5 of the Report.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF A KINSHIP CARE POLICY

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 January 2016, there was submitted Report No 280/18 by the Strategic Director – People seeking approval for the implementation of a new kinship care policy which would support kinship carers to look after their children.

The Report indicated that the kinship care scheme had been reviewed in light of changes in legislation outlined by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and it was now necessary to consider the additional responsibilities in terms of kinship care assistance available to kinship carers. The 2014 Act specified the types of court order that would be recognised as a Kinship Care Order for the purposes of receiving kinship care assistance and set out the duties of local authorities to make arrangements to ensure that assistance was made available to kinship carers who were seeking, had obtained, or were holders of a kinship care order and to children and young people who were subjects of such an Order. Under the proposed scheme all kinship applications and reviews, and kinship care eligibility assessments would be presented to the Adoption and Fostering Panel which would now include kinship. This would ensure a consistent approach to kinship related matters.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the enhanced support available to kinship carers in line with the requirements contained in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014; and
- (ii) to approve the implementation of the kinship care policy from 1 October 2018, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

8. EDZELL PRIMARY SCHOOL EXTENSION CONSULTATION

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 February 2018, there was submitted Report No 281/18 by the Strategic Director – People providing a summary of the consultation outcome in relation to the proposal to extend Edzell Primary School and seeking approval for the proposed extension.

Consultation on a number of proposed design options had taken place between March and August 2018 when initial designs had been shared for comments at drop in events and engagement activities. Where possible, comments received had been taken into account in the preferred design which minimised the loss of useable outdoor space, met the early years expansion needs and was in line with the aspirations for Angus schools for the future, including an area for community use.

In order to allay the concerns of parents regarding the building process, it was proposed to transfer the temporary classroom currently at Muirfield Primary School to Edzell Primary School for the period of construction. This would allow a full decant of the existing school while retaining access to the existing playing fields and playground areas not affected by the construction.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the construction of the proposed extension at Edzell Primary School; and
- (ii) to approve the transfer of the temporary classroom accommodation from Muirfield Primary School to Edzell Primary School.

9. CLOSURE OF TARFSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND AMENDMENT OF THE CATCHMENT AREA OF EDZELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 February 2018, there was submitted Report No 282/18 by the Strategic Director – People seeking approval to close Tarfside Primary School, and to amend the catchment area of Edzell Primary School to take in the current catchment area of Tarfside Primary School.

The Report indicated that the consultation for the proposed closure of Tarfside Primary School had been carried out in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

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

- (i) to approve the closure of Tarfside Primary School, Tarfside, Glenesk, Brechin and to amend the catchment area of the current Edzell Primary School to include the catchment area of Tarfside Primary School; and
- (ii) to refer this decision to Scottish Ministers in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Councillor Myles, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 16(11)(ii), requested that his dissent be recorded from the foregoing decision.

10. CLOSURE OF LETHNOT PRIMARY SCHOOL AND AMENDMENT OF THE CATCHMENT AREA OF EDZELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 February 2018, there was submitted Report No 283/18 by the Strategic Director – People seeking approval to close Lethnot Primary School, and to amend the catchment area of Edzell Primary School to take in the current catchment of Lethnot Primary School.

The Report indicated that the consultation for the proposed closure of Lethnot Primary School had been carried out in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the closure of Lethnot Primary School, Bridge End, Glen Lethnot, Brechin and to amend the catchment area of the current Edzell Primary School to include the catchment area of Lethnot Primary School; and
- (ii) to refer this decision to Scottish Ministers in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.