

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 21 May 2019 at 2.00 pm.

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

Teacher

Representatives: Mr MIKE CALLAGHAN and Mrs ANNA CHEYNE.

Councillor WANN, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Ben Lawrie and Tommy Stewart, with Councillor Ian McLaren substituting for Councillor Stewart. Apologies for absence were also intimated on behalf of Miss Lesley Hood, Mrs Liz Howson and Mr Eric Summers, Church Representatives.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Devine declared a non-financial interest in Item 5, Schedule 3 as she was the Secretary to the Pitstop Youth Project. She indicated that she would participate in any discussion and voting on this item.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 April 2019 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Staffing Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Staffing Sub-Committee of 25 April 2019, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

4. PRESENTATION – HAYSHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL VEX ROBOTICS TEAM

The Convener introduced Aaron, Greg, Rhys and Sean from Hayshead Primary School Robotics Team who had taken part in the VEX IQ 2019 Challenge. The team had travelled to Telford International Centre and were one of 60 teams, with Hayshead being the only Scottish primary school to compete in the event.

The children presented an overview of the event and demonstrated their robots which they had programmed and built themselves.

Following questions and answers, members congratulated the team on their success and thanked them for their attendance and excellent presentation and demonstration.

5. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 9 APRIL TO 7 MAY 2019

There was submitted Report No 154/19 by the Depute Chief Executive providing key information to members with regard to services in the Schools and Learning Service for the period 9 April to 7 May 2019 relating to:-

- No Safe Place: Restraint and Seclusion in Scotland's Schools (Schedule 1)
- Education Scotland Inspection of Murroes Primary School & Nursery Class (Schedule 2)
- Angus Council Communities Team Youth Work Report 2018 (Schedule 3)

Having heard from the Convener and a number of members, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

6. SCHOOL CONVEYANCE CONTRACTS – PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY REQUEST

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 January 2017, there was submitted Joint Report No 156/19 by the Director of Schools and Learning and the Director of Infrastructure seeking homologation of the decision taken by the Director of Infrastructure to procure school conveyance contracts which were due for renewal in August 2019.

The Report indicated that school conveyance contracts were generally tendered on a three-yearly basis with an option to extend on an annual basis for up to a maximum five years. Contracts in the Arbroath, Carnoustie, Monifieth and Sidlaw areas were due for renewal in August 2019 as were a number of contracts for children with additional support needs.

The estimated total cost for the provision of home to school conveyance contracts as detailed in the Report was in the region of £10million over the whole life of the contracts, including any option to extend, based on the previous relevant expenditure.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to homologate the decision of the Director of Infrastructure to procure the school conveyance contracts due for renewal in August 2019, at an indicative estimated value of £10million for a full five year period, as detailed in the Report;
- (ii) to note that the Director of Legal & Democratic Services, in consultation with the Director of Infrastructure, would award the contracts on the terms and conditions deemed acceptable in accordance with Financial Regulations.

7. TOWARDS AN EMPOWERED LEARNING SYSTEM

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 30 January 2018, there was submitted Report No 157/19 by the Director of Schools and Learning providing the policy context towards empowerment and outlining the responsibility of the local authority in supporting the process.

The Report indicated that the Scottish Government's 2017 consultation 'Empowering Schools: A consultation on the provisions of the Education (Scotland) Bill' set out clear aims and objectives in relation to the Education Bill: improving the education and life chances of our children and young people, closing the unacceptable gap in attainment between the least and most disadvantaged children and raising attainment for all. The Bill sought to establish a Head Teachers' Charter which would set out the rights and responsibilities of the Head Teacher as the leader of learning in their school.

The Education Reform Programme, subsequent priorities emerging from the Scottish Government and COSLA Education Reform Joint Agreement, as well as the related draft agreed Head Teachers' Charter and Devolved School Management (DSM) guidance, detailed the evolving role of the Head Teacher and full details of the proposals were outlined in Section 5 of the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) that Angus Head Teachers be granted greater flexibility to lead collaborative work to co-design and develop a curriculum which best meets the needs of all learners in their local context;
- (ii) to note and support the proposal that Angus Head Teachers lead change and improvement, reflecting and informing the local improvement plan;
- (iii) to note and support the proposal that Angus Head Teachers play an active role in designing and reviewing recruitment and staffing approaches; design a staffing structure which best supports the school's curriculum and leadership requirements and be integral in the appointment of staff;
- (iv) to note that a review of Devolved School Management was planned for Autumn 2019; and

- (v) to note that development work was in progress with Head Teachers to develop a system of 'networked autonomy' that supported all Angus' learners.

8. EARLY YEARS EXPANSION PROGRAMME – GRANT APPLICATION SCHEME

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 6 November 2018, there was submitted Report 158/19 by the Director of Schools and Learning advising members of the results of the grant application scheme administered as part of the early years expansion programme.

The Report indicated that there were 13 indications of interest in the grant scheme with a total of 10 grant applications received from private and voluntary providers. A summary of the applications received were detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

The Committee agreed to note the results of the grant application scheme as detailed in Section 4 of the Report.

9. REPORT ON THE ADOPTION AGENCY AND THE FOSTERING PANEL – ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 22 May 2018, there was submitted Report No 159/19 by the Director of Children, Families and Justice advising members of the production of the Angus Adoption Agency and Fostering Panel Annual Report.

The Report highlighted the Council's ability to provide an effective service for children, foster carers and adoptive parents and noted the demand on the resources, as well as services provided.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the Angus Adoption Agency and Fostering Panel Annual Report, as appended to the Report;
- (ii) to support the future plans, as detailed within the Annual Report; and
- (iii) to note that the Report would be made publically available on the Council's Website.