

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 5 September 2019 at 10.00 am.

Present: Councillors DEREK WANN, LOIS SPEED, SHEILA HANDS, KENNY BRAES, IAN McLAREN, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, BEN LAWRIE, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, MARK McDONALD, MARK SALMOND, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, RON STURROCK and BETH WHITESIDE.

Church

Representative: Mr ERIC SUMMERS.

Teacher

Representative: Mr MIKE CALLAGHAN.

Councillor WANN, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Julie Bell, Colin Brown, Bob Myles and Tommy Stewart, with Councillors Sheila Hands, Ian McLaren, Mark Salmond and David Fairweather substituting respectively. An apology for absence was also intimated on behalf of Mrs Anna Cheyne, Teacher Representative.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Whiteside declared an interest in Item 4 as one of the local ward Councillors who had been in discussions with residents and also attended meetings in relation to the matter. She indicated that she would participate in any discussion and voting on the item.

Councillor Hands also declared an interest in Item 4 as one of the local ward Councillors who had been in discussions with residents and also attended meetings in relation to the matter. She indicated that she would participate in any discussion and voting on the item.

Councillor Lawrie declared a non-financial interest in Item 4 as he had received correspondence from constituents in relation to the matter. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on the item.

3. REQUESTS FOR A DEPUTATION

The Convener intimated that deputation requests had been received from Mr Colin Hunter, on behalf of Muirhead, Birkhill & Liff Community Council, and Mrs Nicola Lothian, on behalf of Liff Primary School Parent/Carer Council.

The Committee agreed to receive the deputations.

Mr Colin Hunter, Muirhead, Birkhill & Liff Community Council then addressed the meeting and urged the Council to continue dialogue with neighbouring authorities and the Scottish Futures Trust in relation to a potential joint 2-18 community learning campus.

Following a number of questions, Mr Hunter withdrew to the public benches.

Mrs Nicola Lothian, on behalf of Liff Primary School Parent/Carer Council, addressed the meeting and again urged the Council to continue dialogue with neighbouring authorities with regard to the provision of secondary education.

Following a number of questions, Mrs Lothian withdrew to the public benches.

4. UPDATE ON LEARNING ESTATE TRANSFORMATION ACROSS TAYSIDE AND MONIFIETH – OPTIONS APPRAISAL

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 14 June 2018, and Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 January 2019, there was submitted

Report No 285/19 by the Director of Schools and Learning providing an update on the potential opportunities identified for Angus, Dundee City and Perth & Kinross Councils to work in collaboration on the development of a combined learning estate, and also providing an update on collaborative opportunities for Angus and Dundee City Councils in the West Broughty Ferry/Monifieth area. The Report also provided an update on the Monifieth options appraisal for the wider learning estate.

COUNCILLOR WANN, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR SPEED, MOVED THAT THIS COMMITTEE AGREES:-

- (I) TO NOTE THE OUTCOMES OF THE RECENT INFORMAL CONSULTATION IN RELATION TO A POTENTIAL JOINT 2-18 COMMUNITY LEARNING CAMPUS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DUNDEE CITY AND PERTH & KINROSS COUNCILS;
- (II) THAT OPTION 6 OF THE MONIFIETH OPTIONS APPRAISAL HAD BEEN FULLY EXPLORED;
- (III) THAT ANGUS' INVOLVEMENT IN A POTENTIAL JOINT CAMPUS WOULD CEASE ON THE BASIS OF FEEDBACK AND ENGAGEMENT, INCLUDING OPINIONS ABOUT SCHOOL CLOSURES, AND FINANCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS;
- (IV) THAT OPTIONS 3 AND 5 OF THE MONIFIETH OPTIONS APPRAISAL WOULD NOW BE THE FOCUS OF FUTURE WORK TO DELIVER ON THE COUNCIL'S ASPIRATIONS TO IMPROVE THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE MONIFIETH CLUSTER SCHOOLS;
- (V) TO NOTE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WIDER ANGUS SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAMME AS DETAILED IN THE REPORT;
- (VI) TO APPROVE THE DRAFT TIMELINE OF ANGUS SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE ACTIVITY FOR THE COMING YEAR;
- (VII) TO NOTE THAT A REVIEW OF THE ANGUS SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE STRATEGY WAS DUE IN SEPTEMBER 2020;
- (VIII) TO NOTE THAT NO DECISION IN RELATION TO BARNHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL SECONDARY CATCHMENTS WOULD BE MADE UNTIL OPTIONS 3 AND 5 HAVE BEEN PROGRESSED.
- (IX) TO NOTE THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIS REPORT, IF AGREED, MAY BE THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION FOR ANGUS BUT MAY IMPACT ON THE DUNDEE CITY AND PERTH & KINROSS COUNCILS LEARNING ESTATES;
- (X) TO NOTE THAT ANY POTENTIAL FUTURE COLLABORATIONS WITH NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE EXPLORED; AND
- (XI) TO NOTE THE POSITIVE COLLABORATIVE WORK WITH DUNDEE CITY AND PERTH & KINROSS COUNCILS THAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN PROGRESSING THIS WORK.

Councillor Whiteside, seconded by Councillor Hands, moved as an amendment, that this Committee:-

- (i) acknowledges the strength of feeling in the affected communities and agrees that it was premature to make a decision on the tri-school project on the basis of the informal consultation;
- (ii) recognises the ambition and scale of the tri-school proposals and appreciates the support afforded in principle by the Scottish Futures Trust;
- (iii) agrees to proceed with informal consultation, in-line with local opinion, on the basis of the three councils sharing the secondary element, allowing however for flexibility depending on the agreed location of the campus; and

- (iv) requests the Council to continue discussions with Dundee City Council regarding developing the learning estate in Monifieth/Broughty Ferry.

The Committee agreed to adjourn for a ten minute period to allow members to read the detail of the circulated amendment, and for the Convener to obtain advice from the relevant officers.

The meeting re-convened at 10.37 am.

Having heard from a number of members, and having heard the Clerk remind members that as the Report was on the agenda for the meeting of Angus Council, the decision of the Committee would be subject to full Council's decision later on today, members voted:-

For the motion:-

Councillors Wann, Speed, Fairweather, Lawrie, MacMillan Douglas, McLaren, Proctor, Salmond, and Sturrock (9).

For the amendment:-

Councillors, Braes, Devine, Duff, Hands, McDonald, Whiteside and Mr Summers (7).

No vote:-

Mr Callaghan (1).

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