

## ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of **ANGUS COUNCIL** hosted at Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar and held remotely on Thursday 16 July 2020 at 11.00am.

**Present:** Provost RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, Councillors JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, DAVID CHEAPE, BRADEN DAVY, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, BRENDA DURNO, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, SHEILA HANDS, ALEX KING, BEN LAWRIE, DAVID LUMGAIR, IAN McLAREN, RICHARD MOORE, BOB MYLES, GAVIN NICOL, MARK SALMOND, LOIS SPEED, RON STURROCK, DEREK WANN and BETH WHITESIDE.

PROVOST RONNIE PROCTOR, in the Chair.

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Brian Boyd, Angus Macmillan Douglas OBE, and Mark McDonald.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

*At this stage in the meeting the Provost intimated that as members would be aware, Report No 187/20 had not been in the public domain the required "3 clear days" before the meeting.*

*However, he had determined that in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 11(1) (vii) the matter could be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances as revised funding arrangements had to be in place before the start of the school term 2020/21.*

Thereafter, the Director of Legal and Democratic Services advised members that recommendation (iii) of the report included a proposal to amend the purpose of the £926,000 funding approved by the Special Arrangements Committee of 23 June 2020, so as to extend the temporary contracts for teachers and support staff so they are for the whole school year. As the report provided that whilst this was an alteration of a decision made within the last six months, there had been a material change in circumstances arising from the Deputy First Minister's announcement on 23 June 2020 which was to ensure that probationer teachers could secure a teaching post for the whole of the next school year. In terms of Standing Order 26 (2), it was for the Provost to be satisfied that there has been a material change in circumstances so that it was appropriate for the issue to be reconsidered.

*Having heard from the Director, the Provost indicated that he was satisfied that there had been a material change of circumstances and accordingly he so ruled.*

### 3. RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE – EDUCATION CURRENT AND INDICATIVE COSTS

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of the Special Arrangements Committee of 23 June 2020 there was submitted Report No 187/20 by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning providing the Council with information on the current and future financial and logistical implications for Education and Lifelong Learning arising from the on-going response to, and the planned recovery from, Covid-19 and requesting funding as required to cover such implications as well as noting and approval of other related matters.

Councillor Wann, seconded by Councillor Speed moved that the Council agree to:

- (i) Note that Angus Council would claim a grant of up to £227,000 from Scottish Government for continued provision of free school meals during the summer holiday period;
- (ii) Note the acceptance of, and proposals to spend, a grant of up to £441,541 capital funding and £75,982 revenue funding from the Connecting Scotland Fund to tackle digital exclusion amongst children and young people;
- (iii) Authorise an amendment to the purpose of the £926,000 funding approved by Special Arrangements Committee of 23 June 2020, so as to extend the temporary contracts for teachers and support staff as outlined in section 4.4, and approves additional funding of £1.374m to cover additional costs, should this be required, as more fully detailed in section 4.4 below;
- (iv) Authorise additional funding of up to £870,000 until October 2020 to meet potential additional costs arising from the provision of school transport under current physical distancing measures, as outlined in section 4.5;
- (v) Approve the variation of existing contracts with school transport providers as detailed in section 4.5 of the report to ensure that any additional arrangements for transport with physical distancing measures could be provided from the start of term in August 2020;
- (vi) Note the offer of temporary parental contracts for transport, as set out in the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, if required, the cost of which would fall within the £870,000 outlined at (iv) above;
- (vii) Authorise the temporary re-prioritisation of access to places on school transport until October 2020 as outlined in section 4.5;
- (viii) Note the repurposing of Education and Lifelong Learning budgets to fund up to £70,000 for the provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) and essential hygiene and safety items in accordance with public health guidance, including hand sanitiser, required to re-open schools in August 2020;
- (ix) Note a potential increase in costs arising from the provision of cleaning, facilities management and catering services to school during the COVID 19 pandemic; and
- (x) Approve the proposed carry forward of £200,000 to fund four one year fixed term Social Worker posts, to increase capacity within the Education Service and Children, Families and Justice Service to respond timeously to a projected increase in child protection and/or other emerging concerns once children and young people return to education in school, as outlined in section 4.7 of the Report.

Having heard from a number of members who commented on various aspects of the Report and who also commended the Director and her staff for the comprehensive nature of the Report given the challenging timescales, the Council resolved to approve the recommendations, as detailed in the Report.