

## **ANGUS COUNCIL**

MINUTE of HYBRID MEETING of the **FAMILY, EDUCATION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 9 January 2024 at 2.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillors LYNNE DEVINE, BRIAN BOYD, CHRIS BEATTIE, JULIE BELL, BILL DUFF, LINDA CLARK, ROSS GREIG, MARK McDONALD, GEORGE MEECHAN, LLOYD MELVILLE, LOUISE NICOL, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, LOIS SPEED, DEREK WANN and BETH WHITESIDE.

### **Church**

**Representative:** Mrs JACKIE WILSON.

Councillor DEVINE, Convener, in the Chair.

### **1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Martin Shepherd and Kenny Braes with Councillors Brian Boyd and Bill Duff substituting respectively. An apology for absence was also intimated by Councillor Gavin Nicol.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY**

Councillor Duff made a statement of transparency in relation to Item 5, Report No 01/24 as his granddaughter attended one of the nurseries mentioned within the report.

Councillor Greig made a statement of transparency in relation to Item 5, Report No 01/24 as one of his relatives was a teacher at Letham Primary School.

Councillor Louise Nicol made a statement of transparency in relation to Item 5, Report No 01/24 as her child attended one of the nurseries mentioned within the report.

### **3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 November 2023 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

### **4. APPOINTMENT OF CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE**

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 26 May 2022, the Committee were advised that the Church of Scotland had proposed Reverend Christine Hay, Minister at Arbroath West Kirk as their nominee to represent the Church on the Family, Education and Justice Committee.

The Committee agreed to approve the appointment of Reverend Christine Hay as the Church of Scotland Representative on the Family, Education and Justice Committee.

### **5. ANGUS SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORTS**

There was submitted Report No 01/24 by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning advising members on the recent publication of reports on Education Scotland inspection activity in Angus schools.

Between September and November 2023 Education Scotland published five Inspection Reports for Angus Council primary schools and nursery classes, namely: Borrowfield Primary School, Lochside Primary School, Carmyllie Primary School, Strathmore Primary School and Letham Primary School.

Appendix 1 attached to the Report provided a summary of the five inspections, including the areas for strength, areas for improvement, evaluations of the quality indicators and an expression of confidence in each school's capacity to improve.

Mr Lowden, Service Leader, Education and Lifelong Learning introduced the report which showcased the findings from the five different schools following which the Head Teachers from the 5 schools concerned answered members' questions.

Having heard the Convener thank the headteachers for their attendance, the Committee agreed :-

- (i) to note the areas of strength identified in each school's inspection report;
- (ii) to note the areas for improvement identified in each school's inspection report;
- (iii) to note the evaluation of the Quality Indicators for each school; and
- (iv) to note the expression of confidence in each school's capacity to improve.

## **6. PRIMARY SCHOOL MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES**

There was submitted Report No 2/24 by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, setting out proposals for management structures in all primary schools which would ensure best value, equity and transparency.

The Service Leader introduced the report which was data driven in how to best meet needs of schools and learners while reflecting local and national requirements. A review of class configuration was undertaken each year to ensure the most efficient class composition had been achieved, with the staffing allocation agreed thereafter.

Members sought clarification in relation to any possible implications due to the restructure and if there would be a negative impact due to this.

Having heard from the Service Leader the Committee agreed :-

- (i) to approve the proposals to amend the staffing allocation for promoted staff in primary schools;
- (ii) to approve the proposals to amend the management allocation for promoted staff in shared headship schools;
- (iii) to approve the proposals to implement Principal Teachers (Inclusion) in 'specifically resourced' schools; and
- (iv) to approve proposals to amend the allocation of staffing to schools in relation to excellence and equity.