

# ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **EDUCATION COMMITTEE** held in The Town and County Hall, Forfar on Wednesday 13 March 1996 at 6.15 pm.

**Present:** Councillors BRIAN M C MILNE, GEORGE ALLAN, HELEN ANGUS, JOHN GIBB, Mrs RENATE LAMONT, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, GEORGE NORRIE, KATHLEEN RITCHIE, RICHARD SPEIRS and SANDY WEST; Mr P Andrews and Miss A Begg

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Mrs FRANCES DUNCAN, WALLIE B LEASK, FATHER M J MILTON and Mrs E HOWSON.

Councillor BRIAN M C MILNE, Convener, in the Chair.

Before starting the business of the Committee, the Convener referred to the tragic incident which had taken place earlier this day at Dunblane Primary School where 16 Primary 1 children and their teacher had been killed and other pupils and adults had been injured.

The Committee concurred with the Convener's sentiments and agreed that a letter of sympathy be sent to the Convener of the Education Committee of Central Region.

Thereafter the Committee observed 1 minute of silence.

## 1. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 31 January 1996 was accepted as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

## 2. MINUTE OF JCC (TEACHERS) OF 15 FEBRUARY 1996

There was submitted and noted the minute of meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers) of 15 February 1996.

## 3. FORMATION OF SUB-COMMITTEES

There was submitted Joint Report No AC136/96 by the Director of Education and the Director of Law and Administration on the formation of Sub-Committees of the Education Committee.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) that the following Sub-Committees be established:
  - Education Appeal Committee;
  - School Attendance Sub-Committee;
  - Special Cases Sub-Committee;
  - Teachers' Grievance and Premature Retirement Sub-Committee; and
  - Education Records Review Sub-Committee
- (ii) that the remit and composition of each Sub-Committee be as detailed in the Report and that each Sub-Committee have full delegated powers; and
- (iii) that the Convener, Vice-Convener and one member from the opposition groups (or their substitutes) be appointed to each of the School Attendance Sub-Committee, the Special Cases Sub-Committee and the Teachers Grievance and Premature Retirement Sub-Committee.

## 4. NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL PROVISION

There was submitted Report No AC138/96 by the Director of Education on the provision of pre-school education in Angus, including recent developments in this service area.

Having noted the difficulty in promoting further developments in this area due to the current financial constraints, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the Report and reaffirm its support in principle for pre-school education being provided by the Council;
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Education to bring forward proposals for the extension of pre-school provision in future years including the possibility of setting appropriate targets; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Education to continue to work closely with the Director of Social Work to further develop inter-agency planning and co-ordination of services for children under eight years of age.

## **5. PROFILE OF EDUCATION PROVISION - SCOTTISH OFFICE CONSULTATION**

There was submitted Report No AC119/96 by the Director of Education on a consultation exercise mounted by the Scottish Office to develop further their proposals for the extension of pre-school education by voucher.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the Report;
- (ii) to accept the various amendments suggested in Appendix 2 to the Report as an appropriate response to the draft profile drawn up by the Scottish Office; and
- (iii) to reaffirm its principled opposition to the Government's voucher scheme.

## **6. REVIEW OF CHILDMINDING, DAY CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN UNDER 8 - CHILDREN ACT 1989**

With reference to Article 2 of the minute of meeting of the Social Work Committee of 13 March 1996, there was submitted Joint Report No AC139/96 by the Director of Social Work and the Director of Education advising members of the outcome of the 1995 review of childminding, day care and education services for children under eight years of age.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to instruct the Directors of Social Work and Education to provide their respective Committees with further reports on:-
  - (a) proposed inter-agency planning structures for planning and co-ordination of services for children under eight; and
  - (b) a development plan which would take forward the findings of the review and the outcome of the consultation process, this plan to include reference to any possible extension of provision by the Social Work and Education Departments including possible joint provision.

## **7. REVIEW OF CHARGES 1996/97**

There was submitted Report No AC130/96 by the Director of Education on the review of charges made for services provided by the Education Department.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the increase in charges outlined in the Report; and
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Education to undertake a further review of the Council's charging policy for the letting of educational establishments and report back to the Committee in due course.

## **8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Committee resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item so as to avoid the disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Paragraphs 6, 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

## **9. SPORTS CENTRE CATERING**

There was submitted Joint Report No AC129/96 by the Director of Education and the Director of Recreational Services on the catering arrangements at Sports Centres within the area of Angus Council.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the withdrawal of the current arrangements with Tayside Contracts for the three Sports Centres in Arbroath, Montrose and Kirriemuir and instruct the Directors of Education and Recreation Services to negotiate this withdrawal with Tayside Contracts; and
- (ii) to refer the Report to the Recreation and Cultural Services Committee for its interest.