

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **EDUCATION COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 1 March 2012 at 4.00pm.

Present: Councillors PETER NIELD, MARGARET THOMSON, ALISON ANDREWS, BRIAN BOYD, IAIN GAUL, JEAN LEE, DAVID MAY, DONALD MORRISON, ROB MURRAY, BOB MYLES, JOHN RYMER, MARK SALMOND, PAUL VALENTINE and SHEENA WELSH.

Church Representatives: Mrs PATRICIA MILLAR and Mr BILL SIMPSON.

Teacher Representatives: Mr DAVID DRYSDALE and Mr PHILIP JACKSON.

Councillor NIELD, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Mairi Evans, with Councillor Iain Gaul substituting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee agreed to note that no declarations of interest were made.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 January 2012](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Angus Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers

The [minute of meeting of the Angus Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers of 16 November 2011](#) was submitted and noted.

4. SCHOOL CONVEYANCE CONTRACTS – REVIEW OF CONTRACT PRICES

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 August 2011, there was submitted [Joint Report No 186/12](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Infrastructure Services recommending a school conveyance contract price increase of 3.95% with effect from 1 April 2012.

The Report indicated that the application of the 3.95% inflationary increase would amount to £110,000 in 2012/13 and would bring the school conveyance contract expenditure to £2,885,000 in the 2012/13 financial year.

The Committee agreed to approve the award of a 3.95% contract price increase, for eligible school conveyance contracts, with effect from 1 April 2012.

5. SCHOOL CONVEYANCE CONTRACTS AWARDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS: SEPTEMBER 2011 TO FEBRUARY 2012

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 October 2011, there was submitted [Joint Report No 187/12](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Infrastructure Services advising members of the contracts awarded by the Director of Education under his delegated authority for the period September 2011 to February 2012.

The Report also sought approval to undertake tendering for replacement home to school transport provision for contracts due for renewal for the start of the 2012/13 academic session in the Forfar and Kirriemuir areas and for the transport of scholars with additional support needs.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contract awards as detailed in the Report; and
- (ii) to approve a re-tendering exercise to secure replacement home to school contracts for the 2012-2015 academic sessions in the Forfar and Kirriemuir areas as well as for some children with additional support needs.

6. "GETTING IT RIGHT" UPDATE

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 April 2011, there was submitted [Joint Report No 188/12](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Social Work and Health providing members with an update on progress being made by Angus Council's Children's Services in the implementation of the national "Getting It Right for Every Child" approaches.

The Report indicated that the Angus Children's and Learning Partnership, supported by the Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) delivery group, continued to make very good progress in the development and implementation of the Angus GIRFEC approach. There was considerable local and national interest in the Angus approach and all partners remained confident that the joint working in Angus could support continuing improvements in delivering better integrated services to children and young people.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the continuing progress in the development and implementation of GIRFEC approaches across Children's Services in Angus; and
- (iii) to note the commitment of the Angus Community Planning Children's and Learning Partnership to ensure that agreed approaches were implemented by all partner agencies.

7. PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO THE EDUCATION (SCHOOL AND PLACING INFORMATION) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1982 ("THE 1982 REGULATIONS")

There was submitted [Report No 189/12](#) by the Director of Education outlining the Scottish Government's proposals to rewrite "The 1982 Regulations" to improve the range and scope of information provided to parents and carers, in particular, through the publication of school handbooks.

The Report indicated that arrangements were in place to establish a short life working group to prepare practical guidance for Angus schools in preparing revised school handbooks. The revised guidance would take account of the proposed legislative changes and would provide schools with templates/exemplars for the preparation of handbooks, based on the new national requirements.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the Scottish Government's intention to bring forward legislation to change the way in which information about schools was provided to parents and carers, in particular, via school handbooks; and
- (iii) to note the continuing commitment of the education service to ensure that parents and carers across Angus had access to high quality information about their child's school and services across Education.

8. TOWARDS AN INDEPENDENT GTC SCOTLAND: RESPONSE TO A CONSULTATION ON A SCHEME OF “PROFESSIONAL UPDATE” FOR TEACHERS

There was submitted [Report No 190/12](#) by the Director of Education bringing to the attention of members the recent General Teaching Council (GTC) consultation on a proposed scheme of “professional update” for teachers and seeking approval of a response, as appended to the Report.

The Report indicated that the proposed system of professional update would focus on continuous improvement rather than on determining whether or not a teacher was, or had remained, competent. The key elements of the proposals outlined were to be found, in significant measure, in the very good practice that already existed within the Angus Education Service for the professional review and development of teachers and Angus Council was well placed to implement the key proposals outlined in the GTC Scotland national consultation exercise.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note and approve the terms of the officer response to the national consultation, as appended to the Report; and
- (iii) to authorise the Director of Education to submit the response by the deadline of 7 March 2012.

9. TOWARDS AN INDEPENDENT GTC SCOTLAND (GTCS): RESPONSE TO A CONSULTATION ON THE GTCS CODE OF PRACTICE ON TEACHER COMPETENCE AND ON THE PROPOSED FRAMEWORK ON TEACHER COMPETENCE

There was submitted [Report No 191/12](#) by the Director of Education bringing to the attention of members an officer response to a GTCS consultation on the Code of Practice on Teacher Competence and on its proposed replacement, the Framework on Teacher Competence.

The Report indicated that with effect from 2 April 2012 the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) would become the world’s first independent self regulating professional body for teaching. The new legislation which governed GTCS – the Public Service’s Reform (General Teaching Council for Scotland) Order 2011 had introduced changes to the way in which the GTCS carried out its functions. Given the changes introduced by the 2011 Order, it would be necessary for the GTCS to make some minor amendments to the existing Code on Teacher Competence. These relatively minor changes had been captured in the proposed Framework on Teacher Competence, attached as Appendix 1 to the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the officer response to the GTCS consultation on the Code of Practice and Teacher Competence;
- (ii) to note that this response to an invitation, issued on 19 January 2012, had been submitted to GTCS to comply with its stated deadline of 14 February 2012; and
- (iii) to note that in the event that the proposal to replace the current “Code” by a “Framework” proceeded, it would be necessary for the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers and the Angus Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers to amend accordingly current national and local disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.

10. TEACHING SCOTLAND'S FUTURE: REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF TEACHER EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND: PROGRESS UPDATE

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 3 March 2011, there was submitted [Report No 192/12](#) by the Director of Education providing members with an update on progress made locally and nationally in relation to "Teaching Scotland's Future", a major national review of teacher education in Scotland.

The Report provided an overview of the key objectives and of the work to date of the National Partnership Group for "Teaching Scotland's Future".

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the establishment of a national partnership group for "Teaching Scotland's Future";
- (ii) to note the main focus of this work to date in particular the advice offered to Head Teachers in an open letter from the Co-Chairs of the Group, issued on 15 December 2011; and
- (iii) to note the progress made by the Angus Education Service in taking forward the agenda promoted by "Teaching Scotland's Future".

11. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT REPORT ON "EDUCATION AND THE ARTS, CULTURE AND CREATIVITY: AN ACTION PLAN": AN ANGUS RESPONSE

There was submitted [Report No 193/12](#) by the Director of Education providing members with an overview of the Angus response to "Education and the Arts, Culture and Creativity: An Action Plan" published by the Scottish Government in September 2010.

The Report indicated that a short life working group had been established with the task of preparing an Angus response to the 2010 National Action Plan and detailed a number of recommendations arising from the Angus response which had been organised under the workstreams used in the Scottish Government's Action Plan for "Education and the Arts, Culture and Creativity".

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the implications of the national action plan for local planning in respect of arts, culture and creativity education;
- (iii) to note, in particular, the key recommendations for each of the four national "workstreams"; and
- (iv) to note that the Angus response, as summarised in the Report, had been prepared by a short life working group which had completed its work in November 2011.

12. CONSULTATION ON THE DEFINITION OF "RELEVANT PREMISES" CONTAINED IN THE FIRE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting the Social Work and Health Committee of 16 February 2012, there was submitted [Joint Report No 122/12](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health and the Director of Education advising members of the terms of an officer response to the Scottish Government's consultation on premises to be regulated under fire safety legislation, with the main area of interest for the Council relating to registered childminders.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the proposed response to the consultation exercise.