

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **EDUCATION COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Wednesday 17 October 2012 at 4.00pm.

Present: Councillors SHEENA WELSH, EWAN SMITH, COLIN BROWN, LYNNE DEVINE, JEANETTE GAUL, MARTYN GEDDES, BILL DUFF, JIM HOUSTON, DAVID LUMGAIR, DAVID MAY, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, RONNIE PROCTOR, MARGARET THOMSON and ALEX KING.

Church Representatives: Mr BILL SIMPSON.

Teacher Representatives: Mr DAVID DRYSDALE.

Councillor WELSH, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Sheila Hands and Paul Valentine, with Councillors Bill Duff and Alex King substituting respectively. An apology for absence was also intimated on behalf of Miss Sandra Guthrie.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Devine declared an interest in item 5 as she was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Forfar Drugs Initiative Group. She indicated that she would not take part in discussion and voting but that she would remain in the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillors Duff and May declared an interest in item 5 as they were Board Members of the Montrose YMCA. Both indicated that they would be taking part in the discussion and voting.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 August 2012](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. SCHOOL CONVEYANCE CONTRACTS AWARDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS – 1 MARCH TO 31 AUGUST 2012

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 March 2012, there was submitted [Joint Report No 591/12](#) 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 1 March to 31 August 2012.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

5. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS: FORFAR DRUGS INITIATIVE GROUP, MONTROSE YMCA AND THE COMMUNITY ALCOHOL FREE ENVIRONMENT (CAFÉ) PROJECT

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 August 2011, there was submitted [Report No 592/12](#) by the Director of Education outlining the positive work undertaken respectively by the Forfar Drugs Initiative Group, Montrose YMCA and the Community Alcohol Free Environment (Café) Project under the terms of Service Level Agreements with the Education Service.

The Report indicated that, in light of the positive progress in respect of work carried out in accordance with the terms of the Service Level Agreements with all three agencies that ended on 31 March 2012, procurement exemption requests had been submitted. These had been approved and all three Service Level Agreements had been extended to 31 March

2013. A reduction of 3.5% had been applied to the level of funding made available to each of the agencies within the terms of the Service Level Agreements.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the good progress made by the Forfar Drugs Initiative Group, the Montrose YMCA and the Café Project in relation to the work carried out in accordance with their Service Level Agreements with the Education Service; and
- (iii) to note the extension of the Service Level Agreements with all three organisations until 31 March 2013.

6. BRECHIN COMMUNITY CAMPUS: APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL ADVISORY SERVICES – PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY APPROVAL REQUEST

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 November 2011, there was submitted [Joint Report No 593/12](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Corporate Services seeking procurement authority for the appointment of external advisory services where the maximum value of each contract was likely to be above the Chief Officer's delegated limit.

The Report indicated that, as the Council was required to use the Design, Build, Finance and Maintenance form of contract to procure the project to replace the existing Brechin High School with a new community campus facility, it was essential that the necessary financial, legal and technical advice was available from external advisers. The purpose of appointing external advisers was not to replicate the skills of Council Officers, but rather to complement those skills with the specialist commercial expertise needed to deliver a project of this nature through the procurement phase. Scottish Futures Trust had acknowledged the requirement for the Council to employ external advisers and had confirmed that they would provide up to £200,000 additional funding to support the cost of these external advisory service appointments.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Education to procure the appointment of external advisory services on the basis detailed in the Report, and in accordance with Section 16.8 of the Council's Financial Regulations; and
- (iii) to note the financial implications, including that the estimated total cost of up to £200,000 would be fully funded by the Scottish Futures Trust.

7. DEVOLVED SCHOOL MANAGEMENT (DSM) GUIDELINES 2012

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 2 June 2011, there was submitted [Report No 594/12](#) by the Director of Education advising members of the publication of new national Devolved School Management Guidelines.

The Report indicated that a review of the DSM Guidelines had been undertaken to disseminate and build on the strengths of the best local authority schemes currently in place. The new Guidelines had been agreed by the COSLA Convention and by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning and had thereafter been issued to all Councils on 16 August 2012.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the terms of the updated national DSM Guidelines, as detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

8. CONSULTATION ON THE REVISION OF THE SCOTTISH TEACHER EDUCATION STANDARDS

There was submitted [Report No 595/12](#) by the Director of Education advising members of the recent General Teaching Council for Scotland's (GTCS) consultation on the revision of the Scottish teacher education standards and seeking approval of the consultation response.

The Report indicated that the publication of revised professional standards was welcomed. The draft revised standards would support teachers across Angus in their continuing efforts to provide high quality learning and teaching experiences and to secure the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the terms of the response to the recent GTCS consultation on the revision of the Scottish teacher education standards launched on 29 August 2012;
- (iii) to approve the terms of the officer response as detailed in the Appendix to the Report; and
- (iv) to authorise the Director of Education to submit the response by the deadline of 31 October 2012.

9. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

There was submitted [Report No 596/12](#) by the Director of Education providing members with an overview of youth engagement activity in Angus and making recommendations for enhancing current practice.

The Report indicated that youth engagement, which was increasingly embedded in the practice of a range of agencies, helped to ensure that young people had an influence on matters that affected their lives. There was a range of established and emerging youth engagement practice that helped to ensure that young voices were heard. Young people had confirmed that they wished to have a number of channels through which to engage but that they did not wish to commit to a formal structure. They wished to be consulted and supported to be active in areas that were of direct interest to them on their own territory. The Angus Youth Charter provided a clear expression of what young people wanted from public bodies in relation to consultation and involvement. Social media and online platforms offered exciting new vehicles through which young people could be engaged and the challenge for public bodies, including Councils and Community Planning Partnerships, was to develop practice which harnessed the potential of new communication technologies.

Having heard from a number of members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Education, in his capacity as Chair of the Angus Children's and Learning Partnership, to undertake an evaluation of the impact of the Angus Youth Charter;
- (iii) to note and endorse the work already initiated to develop the use of online platforms and social media as vehicles for engaging with young people, and to monitor the progress and impact of that work;
- (iv) to instruct the Director of Education, in his capacity as Chair of the Angus Children's and Learning Partnership, to ensure that each of the Angus Local Children's and Learning Partnerships included direct youth representation;
- (v) to note the commitment to work with local Community Planning Teams to develop support to Local Area Partnerships in ways which ensured that young people were appropriately engaged in the work of these partnerships;

- (vi) to monitor youth engagement practice and impact via regular progress reports; and
- (vii) to note the need to ensure that youth engagement commitments were incorporated in any actions taken in response to the proposed Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill.

In accordance with Standing Order 11(2)(ii), the following items were, on the determination of the Convener, dealt with as a matter of urgency in view of the timescales involved.

10. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee resolved, in terms of Standing Order 27(2), that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item so as to avoid the possible disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraph 1.

11. STANDING ORDER NO 49: APPOINTMENT OF A RELATIVE OF A SENIOR OFFICER

There was submitted [Report No 618/12](#) by the Director of Education seeking approval to the appointment of a relative of a Senior Officer to the pool of Supply Support for Learning Assistants.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations, as detailed in the Report.