

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **EDUCATION COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 22 November 2012 at 4.00pm.

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

Church

Representative: Mr BILL SIMPSON.

Teacher

Representatives: Mr DAVID DRYSDALE and Mr JIM HAMMOND.

Councillor WELSH, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jim Houston and Paul Valentine with Councillors Alex King and Bill Duff substituting, respectively; an apology was also intimated on behalf of Miss Sandra Guthrie.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Smith declared an interest in item 6 as his wife was currently employed at Forfar Academy and in item 7 as his wife is an Angus Council employee who worked at Rosemount Primary School at the time of the inspection. He indicated that he would participate in discussion and voting in both of these items.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 17 October 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 12 September 2012](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

(c) Special Appeal Sub-Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Special Appeal Sub-Committee of 22 October 2012](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX II**).

4. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT MID-TERM SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2012/2013

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 November 2011, there was submitted [Report No 675/12](#) by the Director of Education presenting the mid-term service performance report in respect of the Education Department for the first six months of the financial year 2012/2013.

There were 18 actions within the Education Department Service Plan for 2012/2013 and of these, 5 actions had been completed, 11 were on target, 1 had been cancelled and 1 was overdue.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the terms of the Education Department's mid-term service performance report for 2012/2013.

5. STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2012

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 January 2012, there was submitted [Report No 676/12](#) by the Director of Education advising members of the publication of the recently completed annual Standards and Quality Report on the work of the Angus Education Service during session 2011/2012.

The Report indicated that reference had been made to previous triennial education service standards and quality reports and improvement points highlighted in these various reports had been addressed in full.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note and endorse the contents of the recently completed annual Standards and Quality Report on the Angus Education Service;
- (ii) to note the summary of key findings as detailed in section 4 of the Report; and
- (iii) to note that copies of the Standards and Quality Report were available electronically and in the Members' Lounge.

6. "SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE" PROGRAMME (PHASE 3) – UPDATE

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 August 2012, there was submitted [Report No 677/12](#) by the Director of Education outlining the Scottish Government's decision in respect of the Council's applications for funding a primary school and secondary school project as part of Phase 3 of "Scotland's Schools for the Future" investment programme.

The Report indicated that the Scottish Government had confirmed that they would provide financial support towards the replacement of Forfar Academy, although the Council's bid for the primary school aspect had not been successful at this stage.

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

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Education to subject a further Report outlining arrangements for consultation and the development of project scope, together with associated financial implications; and
- (iii) the Director of Education include Forfar Community Sports Association in the consultation process.

7. INSPECTION OF ROSEMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY CLASS: PUBLICATION OF EDUCATION SCOTLAND'S REPORT

There was submitted [Report No 678/12](#) by the Director of Education advising members of the publication of a report on the inspection of Rosemount Primary School and Nursery class on 21 August 2012 and indicating the actions taken to respond to the terms of that report.

Report No 678/12 indicated that the Head Teacher and staff at Rosemount Primary School and Nursery Class had engaged very positively with the inspection process and the feedback was that the experience had been a very helpful and well managed opportunity to evaluate the work of the school, which continued to provide a high quality of provision.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the key findings identified in the published inspection report, which was available electronically;
- (iii) to note the terms of the comprehensive follow-up action plan, as detailed in the Appendix to the Report; and
- (iv) to commend the Head Teacher, staff, parents and pupils for their continued commitment to improve the work of the school and secure the best possible outcomes for pupils.

8. INSPECTION OF BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL: PUBLICATION OF EDUCATION SCOTLAND'S REPORT

There was submitted [Report No 679/12](#) by the Director of Education advising members of the publication of a report on the inspection of Brechin High School on 19 June 2012 and indicating the actions taken to respond to the terms of that report.

Report No 679/12 indicated that the Head Teacher and staff of Brechin High School and Senior Officers of the Education Department were pleased that the Inspection Team had recognised a number of key strengths in the work of the school, including the significant progress in developing pupils' confidence through a wide range of learning and teaching beyond the classroom, as well as the commitment and success of staff in planning and implementing Curriculum for Excellence. The Report also indicated, however, that while the school and senior officers accepted the need for greater consistency in the use of effective learning and teaching approaches across the school, there were significant concerns about certain aspects of the exercise.

Having heard from a number of members, and the Director of Education who advised that the Head Teacher and staff had experienced a considerable degree of disquiet as a result of the inspection which they believed had failed to recognise certain positive aspects of the school, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the key findings identified in the published inspection report which was available electronically;
- (iii) to note the terms of the comprehensive follow-up action plan provided in the Appendix to Report No 679/12;
- (iv) to commend the Head Teacher, staff, parents and pupils for their continued commitment to improve the work of the school and secure the best possible outcomes for pupils; and
- (v) that the Director of Education write to the Head Teacher assuring him and his staff of the Committee's continued support.

9. EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOL 2011/2012

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 August 2011, there was submitted [Report No 680/12](#) by the Director of Education providing members with an overview of pupil exclusions from Angus Schools during session 2011/2012.

The Report indicated that exclusions from school had been monitored systematically and monthly reports, which provided detailed information about exclusions from individual schools, were considered by the senior management team of the Department. These individual school reports were shared with Head Teachers of the schools concerned and with key support services including the Educational Psychology Service, the School and Family Support Service and the Extended Support for Pupils Service.

Exclusion was the most severe sanction available to schools in managing pupil behaviour and there was a shared commitment across schools, the Education Department, the Social Work and Health Department and other children's services to reduce the number of exclusions.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the continuing overall reduction in school exclusions throughout Angus;
- (iii) to note the significant reduction in the exclusion from school of "Looked After" children; and
- (iv) to note the continuing commitment to deploying strategies to prevent pupils from missing out on education.

10. ANGUS COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT ON BEHAVIOUR IN SCOTTISH SCHOOLS RESEARCH

There was submitted [Report No 681/12](#) by the Director of Education, drawing attention to the publication of the national study by the Scottish Government of the "Behaviour in Scottish Schools 2012".

The Report detailed the key findings of the study and advised that the overall aim of the research was to provide a robust picture of behaviour in publicly funded mainstream schools and of current policy and practice in relation to managing pupil behaviour.

The findings published in the research report had provided a useful reference point for all staff working to promote positive behaviour in schools and an Angus Getting it Right Positive Behaviour Strategy would be submitted to this Committee in due course.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the main findings of the research report;
- (iii) to note the implications of those findings and the response of the Angus Education Service to the Report; and
- (iv) to note that a copy of the research report was available electronically.