

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **EDUCATION COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 23 August 2012 at 4.00pm.

Present: Councillors SHEENA WELSH, EWAN SMITH, LYNNE DEVINE, JEANETTE GAUL, MARTYN GEDDES, SHEILA HANDS, JIM HOUSTON, DAVID LUMGAIR, BRIAN BOYD, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, RONNIE PROCTOR, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, MARGARET THOMSON and BILL DUFF.

Church Representatives: Mr DAVID ADAMS and 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 David May, Mark Salmond and Paul Valentine with Councillors Brian Boyd, David Fairweather and Bill Duff substituting respectively. Apologies for absence were also intimated on behalf of Miss Sandra Guthrie and Mr Jim Hammond.

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 June 2012](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Staffing Sub-Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Staffing Sub-Committee of 28 June 2012](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

4. PARTNERSHIP RECOGNITION EVENT

The Committee noted that a Partnership Recognition Event had been arranged for Tuesday 28 August 2012 from 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm at the Carnoustie Golf Hotel, The Links, Carnoustie.

5. BRIEFING SESSIONS – NEW CURRICULUM AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Committee noted that briefing sessions on the new curriculum and qualifications had been arranged for all members of the Education Committee on Wednesday 17 October and Thursday 22 November 2012 at 2.30 pm in the Canmore Room, Municipal Buildings, Forfar.

6. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2011/2012

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 August 2011, there was submitted [Report No 473/12](#) by the Director of Education advising members of the production of the 2011/2012 Annual Report for the Education Department, a copy of which was attached to the Report.

As an integral part of the Council's performance management arrangements, each department was required to prepare an annual report for submission to their service committee in the first committee cycle following the summer recess. The reports were designed to give members, employees and the public an at a glance picture of performance within the departments during the previous financial year. A standard format had been adopted for the annual report to ensure consistency of approach across the Council.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the contents of the Education Department annual performance report for 2011/2012.

7. EDUCATION REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 August 2011, there was submitted [Joint Report No 474/12](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Corporate Services advising members of the un-audited net revenue and capital expenditure compared to budget in respect of the Education Department for the financial year to 31 March 2012, and providing comment on the more significant variances arising.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the contents of the Report.

8. UPDATE ON SCHOOL ESTATE

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 August 2011, there was submitted [Report No 475/12](#) by the Director of Education advising members of the current pattern of school estate provision across Angus and on the condition and suitability of the school buildings. The Report also provided information submitted to the Scottish Government regarding the Angus School Estate.

There were appended to the Report:-

- Update of information on the strategic parameters adopted in August 2005 (Appendix 1);
- Update of information/commentary on the condition and suitability of each school building (Appendix 2); and
- Summary of Investment in the school estate projects in excess of £200,000 since 1998 (Appendix 3).

The Report indicated that the work of improving the Angus School Estate was a major on-going commitment. Although the Council had a strong track record, it was essential that reasonable levels of investment in the school estate be maintained. The Council would need to continue to be proactive in taking advantage of available funding and ensuring that the school estate was sustainable in the medium to longer term.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

9. ARBROATH SCHOOLS PROJECT

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of the special meeting of Angus Council of 24 May 2012, there was submitted [Report No 476/12](#) by the Director of Education outlining options for consulting early in the new school session with the Arbroath school communities and the wider local community about improvements to the primary school estate.

COUNCILLOR SMITH, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WELSH, MOVED THAT THIS COMMITTEE AGREES:-

- (I) TO NOTE THE BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT;

- (II) TO NOTE THE UPDATED POSITION REGARDING THE ARBROATH SCHOOL ESTATE, INCLUDING THE OUTCOMES FROM THE RECENT REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE CONDITION AND SUITABILITY RATINGS;
- (III) TO NOTE THAT THE APPOINTMENT, BY THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP SERVICES OF THE EAST CENTRAL TERRITORY HUBCO, OF HARDIES PROPERTY AND CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANTS TO CARRY OUT THE REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE CONDITION RATINGS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 16.6.4 OF THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL REGULATIONS;
- (IV) TO NOTE THE BROAD RANGE OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN THE REPORT, THE INDICATIVE NATURE OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE OPTIONS AND THE CHALLENGING ISSUES REGARDING AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR INVESTMENT IN THE SCHOOL ESTATE;
- (V) TO AUTHORISE THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TO UNDERTAKE A CONSULTATION EXERCISE WITH ARBROATH SCHOOL COMMUNITIES AND THE WIDER LOCAL COMMUNITY, IN RESPECT OF OPTIONS 2, 3 AND 4 DESCRIBED IN SECTIONS 4 AND 5 OF THE REPORT;
- (VI) TO NOTE THAT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE TO CONSULT WITH INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITIES AND THE WIDER LOCAL COMMUNITY THROUGH A RANGE OF WORKSHOP-BASED COLLABORATIVE EXERCISES, DESIGNED TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT AND RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON THOSE OPTIONS; AND
- (VII) TO INSTRUCT THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TO REPORT THE FEEDBACK FROM THAT CONSULTATION EXERCISE TO A FUTURE MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE WITH A VIEW TO AGREEING SPECIFIC PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVING THE PRIMARY SCHOOL ESTATE IN ARBROATH.

Councillor Fairweather, seconded by Councillor Thomson, moved as an amendment, that this Committee agrees:-

- (i) to approve recommendations (i)–(iv) and (vi)–(vii), as detailed above; and
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Education to undertake a consultation exercise with Arbroath school communities and the wider local community, in respect of options 3 and 4 described in Sections 4 and 5 of the Report.

On a vote being taken, the members voted:-

For the motion:-

Councillors Welsh, Smith, Boyd, Devine, Duff, Gaul, Hands, Houston, Middleton, Mr Adams and Mr Simpson (11).

For the amendment:-

Councillors Geddes, Lumgair, Proctor, Fairweather and Thomson (5).

No vote:-

Mr Drysdale (1).

The motion was declared carried and became the finding of the meeting.

10. 'SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE' PROGRAMME – PHASE 3

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 June 2012, there was submitted [Report No 477/12](#) by the Director of Education providing a basis for submitting possible funding applications to Phase 3 of the Scottish Government's 'Scotland's Schools for the Future' programme.

The Report indicated that the Director of Education had written to the Scottish Government on 6 July 2012 seeking additional time to firm up a specific proposal. Confirmation had been received from Scottish Government officials that the Council had been granted the additional time required to submit an application or applications.

The Scottish Government's letter of 24 February 2012 set out the application and selection process, including the associated information requirements. The application document had been prepared to address those requirements and was included within Appendix 1 to the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the basis for possible funding applications to Phase 3 of the Scottish Government's 'Scotland's Schools for the Future' programme, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (iii) to note that the basis for a possible primary school application was subject to this Committee's approval of Report No 476/12;
- (iv) to authorise the Director of Education to submit to the Scottish Government the "in principle" primary sector application detailed in paragraphs 2.2.1 to 2.2.11 of Appendix 1 and the secondary school application detailed in paragraphs 2.3.1 to 2.3.13 of the Appendix; and
- (v) to note that, dependent on the outcome of the application process, consideration may require to be given to the reprioritisation of existing capital resources to support the delivery of successful projects.

11. CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE: PROGRESS REPORT

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 October 2011, there was submitted [Report No 478/12](#) by the Director of Education advising members of arrangements which had been made to prepare a progress report requested by the Scottish Government in relation to the second year of implementing Curriculum for Excellence.

The Report indicated that overall, Angus schools had made significant progress during the first two years of implementation of the new curriculum. School staff had worked very hard to ensure that new developments had been well understood by the entire school community and that clear plans had been made to take forward agreed priorities. These plans had been well informed by the authority's Curriculum for Excellence implementation timeline. Work was ongoing to embed new curriculum developments in day to day practice. Further developments, in particular, developments relating to the introduction of the new SQA qualifications within the senior phase were being carefully planned across all schools, including through the facility of the two additional school closure days authorised by the Scottish Government.

Angus schools were continuing to respond well to the training, resources, networking opportunities and practical advice provided by the education authority to support the full implementation of the new curriculum. This partnership approach to the management and evaluation of change within the school curriculum would continue to be an integral feature of the Council's commitment to improve outcomes for Angus children and young people.

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

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the very positive terms of the Report which summarised the progress report to be submitted to the Scottish Government;
- (iii) to note the continuing good progress made by Angus schools in delivering Curriculum for Excellence entitlements in the second year of the new curriculum;

- (iv) to note that copies of the Angus-wide report were available for perusal in the Members' Lounge and also electronically on the Council's website;
- (v) to authorise the Director of Education to submit the Angus-wide Progress Report to the Scottish Government by the due date of 5 October 2012; and
- (vi) to instruct the Director of Education, on behalf of the Committee, to write to all Head Teachers commending them and their staff for their hard work in implementing Curriculum for Excellence.

12. OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

There was submitted [Report No 479/12](#) by the Director of Education advising members of the Scottish Government's 'Opportunities for All' strategy, providing information on the current progress in Angus and offering recommendations on priorities for future improvement.

The Report indicated that the Scottish Government's 'Opportunities for All' strategy was designed to provide a single focus for existing national and local policies and strategies to improve participation of young people in post-16 learning or training. The new national strategy aimed to enhance opportunities for young people to enter and sustain employment, through appropriate intervention and support until at least their 20th birthday.

A detailed 'Opportunities for All' in Angus 2012/13 position statement provided further details, including the key actions to be addressed in the Angus 'Opportunities for All' action plan. The Angus 'Opportunities for All' Partnership had also identified a number of priority areas for action to help secure future sustainability and improvement.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the progress made to date by the Angus 'Opportunities for All' Partnership;
- (iii) to note that the Partnership's May 2012 Position Statement was available for perusal in the Members' Lounge and also available electronically on the Council's website; and
- (iv) to note the arrangements which had been made to secure future improvement and longer term sustainability.

13. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE ON COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

There was submitted [Report No 480/12](#) by the Director of Education advising members of the publication by the Scottish Government of updated guidance in relation to Community Learning and Development.

The Report indicated that the Scottish Government's guidance to Community Planning Partnerships on Community Learning and Development offered clarity in relation to the purpose of Community Learning and Development and the outcomes which would provide the focus for Community Learning and Development activity in Angus. The guidance made clear the expectation that a range of public and voluntary sector partners could and should be adopting Community Learning and Development approaches and committing resources to Community Learning and Development activities in pursuit of key local outcomes. The guidance set out clear expectations of Community Planning Partnerships in relation to the future planning, co-ordination and evaluation of Community Learning and Development activity.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the key matters covered in the updated guidance from the Scottish Government in relation to community learning and development;

- (iii) to note the intention of the Director of Education to report to Committee at a future date on the Angus Community Planning Partnership's responses to the newly published guidance; and
- (iv) to note that the full guidance document, which had been issued to Community Planning Partnerships, was available electronically on the Scottish Government's website.

14. UPDATE ON SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 August 2011, there was submitted [Report No 481/12](#) by the Director of Education providing an overview of school meals provision in Angus schools.

The Report indicated that all Angus pupils had access to school meals which met nutritional standards and school meal uptake continued in a general upward trend for both primary and secondary schools. The Scottish Government's School Meals Survey, published in June 2012, indicated that the uptake in Angus secondary schools was the highest of any mainland Scottish local authority.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.