

# **MORAY COUNCIL**

## **Minute of Meeting of the Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee**

**Wednesday, 24 November 2021**

**Various Locations via Video-Conference,**

### **PRESENT**

Councillor George Alexander, Councillor James Allan, Councillor Frank Brown, Councillor Lorna Creswell, Councillor Tim Eagle, Councillor Ryan Edwards, Councillor Claire Feaver, Councillor Aaron McLean, Councillor Shona Morrison, Councillor Derek Ross, Mrs Susan Slater, Ms Angela Stuart, Councillor Amy Taylor, Councillor Sonya Warren

### **APOLOGIES**

Mrs Anne Currie, Councillor Laura Powell, Reverend Tembu Rongong

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Also in attendance at the above meeting were the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development), Head of Education, Head of Education Resources and Communities, Acting Head of Children's Services, Head of Housing and Property, Design and Construction Manager, Quality Assurance and Localities Manager and Sport, Culture Service Manager and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer as clerk to the meeting.

Councillor Leadbitter was also in attendance in an ex-officio role.

#### **1. Chair**

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Sonya Warren.

#### **2. Declaration of Group Decisions and Members Interests \***

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, there were no declarations from Group Leaders or Spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how Members will vote on any item on the agenda or any declarations of Member's interests in respect of any item on the agenda.

#### **3. Minute of Meeting of 6 October 2021**

The minute of the meeting of 6 October 2021 was submitted and approved.

#### **4. Written Questions \*\***

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

## **5. Education Revenue Budget Monitoring to 30 September 2021**

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed the Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee of the budget position for Education as at 30 September 2021.

Following consideration, where Officers answered questions with regards to budget overspends the Committee agreed to note the budget position at 30 September 2021.

Councillors Allan and Creswell joined the meeting during the discussion of this item.

## **6. Performance Report - Education - Period to September 2021**

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed the Committee of the performance of the service for the period to 30 September 2021.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) note performance in the areas of Service Planning, Service Performance and other related data to the end of September 2021; and
- ii) note the actions being taken to improve performance where required.

## **7. Initial Attainment Report for Secondary Schools 2021**

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed the Committee of the SQA Attainment across the Council's secondary schools and for this data to be fully scrutinised as part of raising attainment improvements and strategy.

Following consideration, in which officers answered questions with regards to student behaviour, positive destinations of students who left secondary in 2021 and temporary staffing, the Committee agreed to:

- i) note the Senior Phase Attainment across our Secondary Schools for session 2020/21 and notes the initial processes in preparation for exams in session 2021/22;
- ii) note that initial school based attainment meetings took place in August and September 2021 and actions for improvement were noted during Alternative Certification Model Quality Assurance and Data Meetings during March to June 2021;
- iii) acknowledge and commend practitioner commitment, extensive preparation and support of young people throughout the session as well as young people's resilience and dedication throughout last session's Alternative Certification Model period; and
- iv) note that a follow up report on Insight measures will be reported to Committee in January 2022 which will be informed by further Insight

attainment meetings with schools taking place during November and December 2021.

## **8. Legislative Changes and Impact on Education**

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) provided Committee with an update on Legislative changes, the potential impact on Education so that the Council are prepared for implementation.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note both reports and the potential implications in education in Moray which may arise from the recommendations within the reports.

## **9. Education Resources and Communities and Education Capital Budget Monitoring Report**

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed the Committee of projects and proposed expenditure for Capital Budgets within Education, Children's and Leisure Services for 2021/22.

Following consideration, in which Officers answered questions in regards to Ccovid costs associated to Linkwood Primary and Lossiemouth High School and wi-fi in schools the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

## **10. Education Resources and Communities Revenue Budget Monitoring to 30 September 2021**

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed the Committee of the budget position for Education Resources and Communities as at 30 September 2021.

Following consideration in which Officers answered questions about Fit Life memberships, the Committee agreed to note the budget position at 30 September 2021.

## **11. Performance Report - Education Resources and Communities - Period to September 2021**

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed the Committee of the performance of the service for the period to 30 September 2021.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) note performance in areas of Service Planning, Service Performance and other related data to the end of September 2021; and
- ii) note the actions being taken to improve performance where required.

## **12. Learning Estate Options Appraisal for Inveravon Primary School**

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) asked the Committee to consider the next steps for Inveravon Primary School.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) support community engagement as part of the Options Appraisal process to identify future options that should be considered; and
- ii) receive a further report in due course.

## **13. Expansion of Music Service**

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) provided Committee with proposals regarding the expansion of the Moray Music Service (including the option for Moray to include in its curriculum an inclusive and fully funded option for pupils to receive tuition in piping and drumming) in response to the Notice of Motion passed at Council on 15 September 2021.

In terms of Standing Order 83, the meeting agreed to suspend Standing Order 75 and continue beyond 12.45pm in order to conclude consideration of this item.

Councillor Brown moved to agree recommendations (ii) and (iii) and defer a decision on recommendations (i) and (iv) until such time as the consultation has taken place and the funding position has been clarified. This was seconded by Councillor Morrison.

Councillor Alexander sought clarification on the timescale for the consultation and the report back to Committee.

In response the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) confirmed that the report back would be within the timelines for the Council budget setting process.

As there was no one otherwise minded the Committee agreed to:

- i) consult with children and young people and their families and carers to determine demand across a number of different instruments to inform their decision making;
- ii) consider investing in a Moray Music Fund open to eligible groups through a bidding process as detailed in section 3.10; and
- iii) defer the decision to incorporate in the Council's budget setting process on the expansion of the music service and the inclusion of Pipes and Drums tuition in Moray until such time as the consultation has taken place and the funding position has been clarified.

#### **14. Moray Artificial Turf Pitch Developments**

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) provided Committee with an update in relation to the proposed replacement plan for Moray's artificial turf pitches and to consider the feasibility study report in connection with a pitch for the Forres area.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:

- i) to note the options in regards to replacement of Moray's artificial turf pitches;
- ii) to proceed to competitive tender stage for a full replacement of the Buckie artificial turf pitch using a similar 3G surge replacement with additional mitigation measures to reduce the migration of polymeric infill into the environment;
- iii) that Council Officers continue to work in collaboration with Forres Community Football Trust in regards to the development of an artificial turf pitch and associated facilities in Forres and a future decision on preferred location for this development is brought back to a subsequent Committee;
- iv) to note that work is ongoing to create a sustainable maintenance and replacement plan for all artificial turf pitches from 2022 onwards; and
- v) approve that Moray Council sign up to the Sports for Climate Action Initiative to ensure that future developments within the Service pursue climate action in a consistent and mutually supported fashion.

#### **15. Moray's Sport and Leisure Service Update**

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed the Committee of progress made in relation to the implementation of the Sport and Leisure Service Business Plan and agree to continue the Council support towards the Active Schools and Community Sports Hub programmes.

The Committee joined the Chair in commending all the staff within the Sport and Leisure Service on their hard work over the last 18 months in what has been an unprecedented time.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) note the progress made in regards to the implementation of the Sport and Leisure Service Business Plan;
- ii) approve the extension of the Active Schools and Community Sports Hub programmes from existing budget for a further one year period from 1 April 2022 in partnership with sportscotland at a cost of £177,000; and
- iii) note that closer working across the sector in Moray is being successfully developed through the Sport and Leisure Strategic Group, and that any proposals for more integrated working, including sharing of resources and

staff, developed by this group will be reported back to Committee in due course.

**16. Children and Families Social Work Services Revenue Budget Monitoring to 30 September 2021**

A report by the Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Moray informed the Committee of the budget position for Children and Families Social Work Services as at 30 September 2021.

Following consideration, in which officers answered questions regarding underspends and Out of Area Placements the Committee agreed to note the budget position at 30 September 2021.

**17. Performance Report - Children and Families and Criminal Justice Social Work - Period to September 2021**

A report by the Chief Officer, Health and Social Care informed the Committee of the performance of the service for the period to 30 September 2021.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) note performance in the areas of Service Planning, Service Performance and other related data to the end of September 2021; and
- ii) note the actions being taken to improve performance where required.

**18. Childrens Services Plan Annual Report 2020 21**

A report by the Chief Officer, Health and Social Care asked the Committee to review and endorse the Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2020-21.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to endorse the Children's Services Plan Annual Report (2020-21) (Appendix 1) prior to submission to the Scottish Government by the deadline of 31 December 2021.

**19. Question Time \*\*\***

Under reference to para 8 of the minute of the meeting of 6 October 2021, Councillor Brown sought clarification on whether, given the response from the Scottish Government regarding the Dick Bequest Fund, should the Committee reconsider the decision made.

In response, the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) confirmed that a report with options could be brought back to the Committee for further consideration but 2 thirds of the Committee would first need to decide if there had been a material change in circumstances to require suspending standing orders, otherwise the 6 month rule would apply.

Under reference to para 10 of the minute of the meeting of 6 October 2021, Councillor Brown sought an update on his question regarding the Council's position around the use of mobile phones in schools.

In response, the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) confirmed that an email had been circulated to members following the last meeting but said she would re-circulate to members following the meeting.

Councillor Brown requested the running order of future agendas be considered as he was conscious that Children and Families Officers were having to hang around the meeting until the end of the agenda before the reports are considered and felt that they should be moved to the beginning of the agenda.

In response, the Chair confirmed that she had raised this issue with Officers before and they had confirmed that although they are dialled into the meeting they are able to carry on with other work until their reports are reached on the agenda. She further stated that the religious, teacher and parents representatives are not involved in the social work element of the agenda so if the order was switched round, they would then be waiting for the start of the education related items. The Chair agreed to discuss again with Officers and determine whether a compromise could be reached.