

**THE MORAY COUNCIL****MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
SERVICES COMMITTEE****27 APRIL 2016****COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN****PRESENT**

Councillors A Skene (Chair), G Alexander (Depute Chair), J Allan, G Coull, L Creswell, J Divers, K Reid, D Ross, M Shand, C Tuke and A Wright; Reverend S Dicks and Mrs E Hewitt (Religious Representatives); Mrs S Slater (Secondary School Representative); Ms K McCalman (Primary School Representative) and Mrs E Symon (Parent Representative).

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors M Howe, A McLean and P Paul; Reverend C Ketley (Religious Representative) and Miss M Townshend (Pupil Representative).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Corporate Director (Education and Social Care); the Head of Integrated Children's Services; the Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture and Sport; the Head of Schools and Curriculum Development; the Senior Education Adviser; and Mrs C Howie, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

**1. TRIBUTE TO FORBES McFALL**

The Committee joined the Chair in paying tribute to the late Forbes McFall following his untimely death. Forbes had been seconded to a role as Quality Improvement Officer from his substantive post of Principal Teacher of Mathematics at Elgin Academy. Forbes greatly contributed to Education in Moray and the Committee's condolences were extended to his family.

**2. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS AND MEMBER'S 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. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The meeting resolved that in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items of business appearing at the relevant paragraphs of this minute as specified below, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the appropriate paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

<u>Para Number of Minute</u>	<u>Para Number of Schedule 7A</u>
18	4

### 4. MINUTE OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE DATED 2 MARCH 2016

The Minute of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Committee dated 2 March 2016 was submitted for approval.

Councillor Divers sought clarification on Item 10 (ii) of the Minute "Leadership and Management Arrangements in Primary Schools – Consultation" and stated it had been advised at the meeting that the figures in paragraph 3.3 of the report were incorrect but that this had not been minuted.

The Chair advised the Minute would be amended.

With this change the Minute was agreed.

### 5. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

### 6. RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON ESTABLISHING A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR SOUTH-EAST ELGIN

Under reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Committee dated 9 December 2015 a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informed Committee on the outcome of the public consultation on the proposals to establish a new primary school to serve the delineated zone in south-east Elgin.

Prior to consideration of this item the Chair referred to a letter that had been sent to all Committee Members which questioned the pupil forecast statistics. She stated the letter failed to respect the consultation process, other stakeholders' interests in the process and the Council's Committee process. She therefore asked Committee to disregard the letter they had received and to focus on the content of the report.

Thereafter the Senior Education Adviser provided information on the credibility of the data within the report on which the need for the new school was based.

Councillor Ross stated he was of the opinion dialogue between Elected Members, the Council and interested parties should be encouraged and he did not endorse the feeling that letters of this kind should be discouraged.

Subsequently discussion took place on the suggestion from East End Primary School parents to provide transport to East End Primary School from the Pinefield, Reynolds Crescent, Barlink Road and Waulkmill Road areas (page 6 of the Consultation report refers).

Following discussion the Committee agreed not to take forward the suggestion from East End Primary School parents to provide transport to East End Primary School from the Pinefield, Reynolds Crescent, Barlink Road and Waulkmill Road areas

Thereafter the Committee agreed:

- (i) to establish a new primary school, with nursery provision, to serve the agreed catchment area for the delineated geographical zone in south-east Elgin with the school located in the area identified within Appendix 2 of the report subject to Full Council agreeing to include this project within the 10 year capital plan review;
- (ii) that the new school be established initially at a temporary site at East End Primary School Annexe until the new school building is complete. (The temporary accommodation will initially accommodate P1 children and will accommodate P1-3 in future years);
- (iii) the implementation date for these proposals will be 15 August 2016, for the temporary accommodation, except that the nursery will only commence once the new school building opens;
- (iv) the new school will relocate to its permanent site on the completion of the new school building. The target date for this is August 2018.
- (v) to instruct the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) to consult with interested stakeholders on a name for the new school in order that this Committee can agree the name at its next meeting;
- (vi) to instruct the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) to provide regular information reports on the operational arrangements for the new school including any arrangements which impact on, or require joint working with, East End Primary School; and
- (vii) that the suggestion from East End Primary School parents to provide transport to East End Primary School from the Pinefield, Reynolds Crescent, Barlink Road and Waulkmill Road areas (page 6 of the Consultation report refers) would not be taken forward.

Thereafter Reverend Dicks stated the Moderator of the Church of Scotland would be visiting New Elgin Primary School on Thursday 5 May 2016.

## **7. FORRES ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS GROUP PRIMARY SCHOOL ZONING**

Under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Committee dated 19 August 2015 a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) sought Committee's approval to bring forward draft proposals for a formal consultation on primary school zoning in the Forres Associated Schools Group (ASG) under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) the draft proposals for Forres ASG primary school zones; and
- (ii) instruct the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) to undertake the next steps in preparing for the consultation and to a future report to come to Committee in order that the consultation proposals may be considered.

## **8. FEDERATION HEADSHIP POLICY**

Under reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Committee dated 2 March 2016 a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) invited Committee to agree the revised policy on federation headships, previously paired headship.

During discussions clarification was sought on several points within Appendix 2 of the report.

The Head of Schools and Curriculum Development advised she would update Appendix 2 of the report in light of the discussions and would issue the updated Federation Headteacher Policy for Primary Schools (Appendix 2 of the report) to Committee for comment prior to the updated Policy being passed to the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers (LNCT)

Thereafter the Committee agreed:

- (i) that amendments be made to the revised Federation Headteacher Policy for Primary Schools (Appendix 2 of the report), as discussed at the meeting, as follows:
  - Delete the last sentence in paragraph 2 of section 1
  - Update the final paragraph of section 1 to include a parent council
  - Update bullet point 4 of section 3 to include the requirement to report back to Committee for authority to proceed
  - Update bullet point 5 of section 3 to include the requirement to report back to Committee for authority to proceed
  - Update 4.1 so that the vacancy is advertised once prior to consideration of a pairing if the vacancy remains unfilled
  - Update 4.2 in line with above changes

- (ii) to instruct the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) to share the revised policy with the LNCT once those amendments have been made.

## **9. UPDATED ANALYSIS OF ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT 2015**

A report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) provided an update to the attainment report from October 2015 which included data from National Qualifications results as well as information on the National Measures on attainment and achievement as profiled on “Insight”. Insight is a major online benchmarking tool designed to help bring about improvements for learners in the senior phase (S4 to S6). It is a professional tool for secondary schools and local authorities to identify areas of success and where improvements can be made. The system is updated twice annually, September for attainment results, and February for school leavers’ data.

Prior to discussion of the report the Chair advised that 3 young Moray musicians had been selected to play with the National Youth Orchestra for Scotland at the Albert Hall, London, during the National Proms on 7 August 2016. The Committee joined the Chair in offering them sincere congratulations and wishing them well for the concert.

Thereafter following consideration the Committee agreed to note:

- (i) the updated attainment information of young people in Moray in this the second year of the new National Qualifications with specific regard to the National Measures published on Insight in February 2016; and
- (ii) the contents of the wider achievements report.

## **10. EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE THREE YEAR SERVICE PLAN: 2016 – 2019**

A report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) advised Committee about the Education and Social Care Service Plan for 2016 – 2019.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to approve the Service Plan by Education and Social Care, comprising strategic priorities for Schools and Curriculum Development, Integrated Children’s Services and Lifelong Learning, Culture and Sport.

## **11. SINGLETON INSPECTIONS OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE CENTRES – PUBLISHED REPORTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2015 TO MARCH 2016**

A report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informed Committee of the content of singleton inspection reports of Early Learning and Childcare centres by the Care Inspectorate which were published between September 2015 and March 2016. These were:

Portessie Playgroup  
 Aberlour and Craigellachie Pre-School  
 Pilmuir Primary School Nursery  
 RAF Lossiemouth Childcare Centre  
 Millbank Primary School Nursery  
 New Elgin Primary School Nursery  
 Kinloss Day Care Centre  
 Jack 'n' Jill Pre-school Centre and 1<sup>st</sup> Base Out of School Care

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and congratulate staff on their achievements.

## **12. EDUCATION & SOCIAL CARE CAPITAL BUDGETS 2015/16**

Under reference to paragraph 2 (g) of the Minute of the Special meeting of The Moray Council dated 12 February 2015 a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informed Committee of the projects and patterns of expenditure projected for Capital Budgets within Education and Social Care for 2015/16.

The Chair advised that the figure of £35m at paragraph 4.7 of the report was incorrect and that the correct figure is £3.5m.

Discussion took place in respect of the funding package for the Lossiemouth High School Replacement Project and what this would cover.

The Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture and Sport advised discussions had been ongoing with Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) however, as yet, no written confirmation had been received on the extent of the funding.

Councillor Ross queried if it would be possible to amend the recommendations to include clarification of the funding with SFT and a further report being provided on costings thereafter.

The Committee agreed to the requested change to the recommendations.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the contents of the report; and
- (ii) task officers with seeking clarification from SFT in respect of the funding package for the Lossiemouth High School Replacement Project and what the funding would cover. Thereafter to provide a report on costings to a meeting of The Moray Council.

### **13. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16**

A report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informed Committee of the budget position for Education and Children and Families Services as at 29 February 2016.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the revenue budget position at 29 February 2016 and the estimated outturn for 2015/16.

### **14. ADOPTION ALLOWANCE SCHEME**

Under reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Committee dated 2 December 2009 a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) sought approval from Committee for revisions to the Adoption Allowance Scheme for Moray.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to approve the following revisions to the Moray Adoption Allowance Scheme as described in the report:

- (i) an increase in contribution towards legal costs from £500 to £700 for the first child and from £250 to £350 for the second and any subsequent siblings, where the children are placed at the same time;
- (ii) payment of an interim fostering allowance equivalent to the adoption allowance rate, from the date of placement with the prospective adopters, only if the child and his/her family meet the criteria for adoption allowance; and
- (iii) start-up financial support of £450 where two siblings are placed together and £900 where three siblings are placed together.

### **15. PRIMARY SKILLFORCE PROGRAMME**

A report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) advised Committee of the Primary Skillforce Programme which has been undertaken in primary schools over the last two sessions.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

### **16. MORAY APPROACH TO BULLYING IN SCHOOLS**

Under reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of The Moray Council dated 27 March 2013 a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informed Committee of progress made towards developing an anti-bullying approach in schools.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

## 17. QUESTION TIME

Under reference to paragraph 7 of the draft Minute of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Committee dated 2 March 2016 "Schools For the Future Policy – Report on Consultation and Pilot" Councillor Divers sought clarification on when the proposed Deputy Head Teacher (DHT) and Principal Teacher (PT) posts would be filled.

In response the Head of Schools and Curriculum Development advised the 7 additional DHT posts agreed last year had now been filled. She further advised that due to the number of vacancies it would not be possible to recruit additional DHTs under the new banding points until August 2016 and she would provide a further report to Committee thereafter.

Councillor Ross sought clarification on when the Deanshaugh playing fields would be ready for use and requested information on why remedial drainage works were being undertaken at this stage.

In response the Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture and Sport advised vertical drains were being inserted and it may not be until August 2017 before the playing fields would be ready for use. He undertook to issue information to the Committee on the drainage works following the meeting.

Councillor Tuke stated a series of participation events were being run by the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland, with a local event being held in Lossiemouth High School on 1 June 2016 from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. The events are particularly for armed forces personnel and are to allow parents the opportunity to discuss any education issues they may have.

Councillor Allan sought information on the school roll forecasts for Lossiemouth as additional houses were being built and a new squadron was being located at RAF Lossiemouth.

In response the Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture and Sport advised that the effect the arrival of a new squadron would have on Lossiemouth schools was misleading as the majority of married quarters are outwith Lossiemouth. He further advised the projected role for Hythehill Primary School rises to 357 for 2022 which is 78% capacity.

Thereafter Councillor Reid sought clarification on whether the arrival of the new squadron had been taken into account when projecting the figures for the Elgin schools.

In response the Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture and Sport advised it was difficult to take account of this as it is unknown where people will live. He further advised discussions were underway with personnel at RAF Lossiemouth to ascertain where the new personnel are likely to settle, and the numbers and ages of children expected, to allow consideration to be given to where the children may be accommodated for their education.



The Chair stated the daily Moray Mile had been launched the previous day with all the pupils in 33 out of the 45 primary schools in Moray participating.

The Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) advised he had, as requested by Committee, been investigating a mechanism to provide Committee with information on current issues within schools. He further advised options had been considered and these were still under discussion. He would however give an update following today's Committee.

**18. MORAY & NAIRN EDUCATIONAL TRUST – DISBURSEMENT 2015/2016  
[PARA 4]**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) providing information and seeking approval for the payment plan to be used to assess applications to the Moray & Nairn Educational Trust and to consider applications to the trust.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to approve the grants at the rates provided in the payment plan.