

MORAY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of the Children and Young People's Committee

Wednesday, 30 October and Tuesday 05 November 2019

Council Chambers, Council Office, High Street, Elgin, IV30 1BX

PRESENT

Councillor James Allan, Ms Nicola Belcher, Councillor David Bremner, Councillor Frank Brown, Councillor Paula Coy, Councillor Lorna Creswell, Councillor Tim Eagle, Councillor Claire Feaver, Councillor Aaron McLean, Mr John Morrison, Councillor Shona Morrison, Reverend Tembu Rongong, Councillor Derek Ross, Mrs Susan Slater, Ms Angela Stuart, Caitlin Thomson-Gardner, Councillor Sonya Warren

APOLOGIES

Councillor George Alexander, Mrs Anne Currie, Councillor Ryan Edwards

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance at the above meeting were the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development), Head of Education, Joint Acting Heads of Integrated Children's Services, Transformation Officer, Senior Project Manager, Education Support Officer (Pastoral Care), Head Teacher Elgin Academy, Head Teacher Speyside High School, Karen Lees and Stewart McLaughlin, Quality Improvement Officers, Active Schools and Sports Development Manager, Design Manager, Criminal Justice Service Manager and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer.

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 the Meeting on 28 August 2019

Councillor Creswell requested that paragraph 3 of the minute be amended to reflect that the video highlighted the benefits of the school saving scheme.

The minute of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Committee dated 28 August 2019 was submitted and approved subject to the change noted above.

4. Written Questions **

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

5. Devolving Budgets in an Empowered School System

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) updated the Committee on progress to date with the devolved school management review which is part of Education Reform and School Empowerment and the plans to implement recommendations.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) acknowledge the current position;
- ii) acknowledge the importance of ensuring appropriate consultation arrangements with stakeholders with regard to devolving budgets to schools and associated schools groups and localities within the evolving budget context; and
- iii) note the establishment of a DSM project group to undertake work to specify the requirements of this project and prepare a work plan which will be reported to this Committee as soon as possible.

6. Early Learning Childcare Expansion Partner Grant Grants

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) provided an update to Committee on grant funding offered to Early Learning and Childcare partner providers to enable them to prepare for the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC).

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) grant delegated authority to the Head of Education to authorise payments from indicative grant funding for 2019/20 of £200,000 to funded providers, for infrastructure, training and development, with payments:
 - a) being made on a priority basis determined by Head of Education
 - b) subject to an agreed list of conditions, in consultation with Legal Services; and
 - c) being reported periodically to the Children and Young People's Services Committee.
- ii) approve the addition of a 'small grant' criterion within the overall infrastructure grant scheme to enable partners to make small adjustments to their settings, or purchase the necessary equipment, to be ready for August 2020.

7. Cost of the School Day

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed the Committee of the success in securing funding to provide capacity within Education to support work to tackle poverty and the cost of the school day.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) welcomes the success of this bid to add capacity with the appointment of two project workers; and
- ii) approves the formation of an Education Poverty Steering Group, led by the Education Officer (Pastoral Care) to take the child poverty agenda forward in Education over the next two years.

8. Counselling Through Schools Committee Report

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed the Committee of the introduction of funding by the Scottish Government for access to counselling services through schools.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) note the content of this report; and
- ii) agrees to a further report with detailed plans of how this will operate across Moray.

9. Northern Alliance Phase 3 Regional Improvement Plan

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) updated the Committee on progress to date with the Northern Alliance Phase 2 Regional Improvement Plan and outlined the priorities which are to be taken forward in the Phase 3 Regional Improvement Plan.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) note the progress made in the Phase 2 plan; and
- ii) endorse the Northern Alliance Phase 3 Regional Improvement Plan.

10. Analysis of Interim Secondary School Attainment 2018-19

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisation Development) updated Committee on the attainment of secondary schools in Moray for session 2018/19.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) note the position in respect of attainment of the young people in Moray;
- ii) note that as a result of attainment meetings, Head Teachers and central officers will agree actions for improvement; and
- iii) note that a follow up meeting of this Committee will take place in April 2020,

when the performance of individual schools will be scrutinised along with the school actions for improvement.

Councillor Brown left the meeting during the discussion of this item.

11. Education and Social Care Capital Budgets 2019-20 to 31 August 2019

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 and Social Care for 2019/20.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) note the Education and Social Care Capital Budgets to 31 August 2019;
- ii) note the financial challenges that lie ahead in terms of developing a Capital Programme of Works for schools for 2021/22;
- iii) an update of costs relating to Linkwood Primary and a re-profiling of Early Learning Childcare Capital Projects will be provided to this Committee on 18 December 2019; and
- iv) note that the estimated savings from the closure of Auchernack is projected to reduce from £27k to £13.5k due to delays in completing office works at Forres House.

Prior to continuing with the agenda, the Chair sought the agreement of the Committee to suspend Standing order 75 to allow the meeting to continue beyond 12.45pm. This was unanimously agreed.

12. Education and Children and Families Revenue Budget Report August 2019

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed Committee of the budget position for Education and Children and Families Services as at 31 August 2019.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the budget position of 31 August 2019.

13. Active Schools and Sports Development Service Update

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) asked the Committee to note the progress of Active Schools and Sports Development in Moray during the last academic year and to approve the extension of this Service for a further year in partnership with sportscotland.

The Committee joined the Chair in welcoming this report and the work carried out by the Active Schools and Sports Development team.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) note the progress of Active Schools and Sports Development in Moray during 2018-19 academic year; and
- 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 2020 in partnership with sportscotland at a cost of £170,500, with the potential of continuing this partnership on an annual basis up to 31 March 2023.

14. Update on the Work of the Criminal Justice Social Work Team

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed the Committee of the Criminal Justice Social Work (CJSW) team and the preparations for the potential impact arising from the Presumption Against Short Sentences (PASS).

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

15. National Education Priorities - Excellence and Equity

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) advised Committee on the annual National Improvement Plan which is submitted to the Scottish Government.

16. Adjournment of Meeting

During discussion of item 15 above Councillor McLean moved adjourning the meeting for lunch and to reconvene at 2pm to allow a proper discussion of the item to take place, this was seconded by Councillor Morrison.

Several Councillors, Officers and Lay Members indicated that they had other meetings at 2pm and would rather continue with the meeting.

Councillor Ross proposed adjourning the meeting to another day when officers and Councillors would be available, this was seconded by Mrs Slater.

On the division there voted:

For the Motion (4) Councillors McLean, Morrison, Bremner and Coy

For the Amendment (9) Councillor Ross, Mrs Slater, Councillors Allan, Creswell, Eagle, Feaver, Warren, Reverend Rongong, Ms Stuart

Abstentions (1) Mr Morrison

Thereafter the amendment became the finding of the meeting and the meeting was adjourned to a date to be determined to allow Councillors and Officers to attend.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING

Tuesday 05 November 2019

Council Chambers, Council Office, High Street, Elgin, IV30 1BX

PRESENT

Councillor George Alexander, Councillor James Allan, Councillor David Bremner, Councillor Paula Coy, Councillor Lorna Creswell, Councillor Claire Feaver, Councillor Aaron McLean, Councillor Shona Morrison, Councillor Derek Ross, Mrs Susan Slater, Councillor Sonya Warren

APOLOGIES

Ms Nicola Belcher, Councillor Frank Brown, Mrs Anne Currie, Councillor Tim Eagle, Councillor Tyan Edwards, Mr John Morrison, Reverend Tembu Rongong, Ms Angela Stuart, Caitlin Thomson-Gardner.

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance were the Head of Education, Jackie Stevenson, Acting Joint Head of Children's Services, Willem Smit, Quality Improvement Officer and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer.

17. Chair

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Sonya Warren.

18. National Education Priorities – Excellence and Equity (cont.)

During discussion of this item, it became apparent that the report was not the correct version, therefore the Committee agreed that the paper be deferred until the December meeting of the Committee to allow the correct version to be submitted.

Councillor A McLean entered the meeting during discussion of this item.

19. Singleton Inspections of Early Learning and Child Care – Published Report July and August

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed the Committee of singleton inspection reports of Early Learning and Childcare centre by the Care Inspectorate which were published during July and August 2019.

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

20. Implementation of Pupil Equity Fund in Moray Schools – Progress Update

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed the Committee about progress made with the implementation of the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) in schools and the evidence of impact to date.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the content of this report.

21. Improvement and Partnership Plan – Education Self Evaluation Pilot Project

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed the Committee about a pilot project to collaboratively self-evaluate educational provision in Moray in partnership with Education Scotland.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note:

- i) the content of the report; and
- ii) that there will be a standards and quality report to the meeting of this Committee on 18 December 2019.

22. Progress Report on Developing the Young Workforce Partnership

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) invited the Committee to scrutinise and note the progress made across Moray in relation to Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) in response to Scotland's Youth Employment Strategy.

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

23. Question Time

Under reference to paragraph 17 of the minute of the meeting of 28 August 2019, Councillor Ross requested a diagram of the new structure within Education and Children and Families Social Work.

In response, the Head of Education confirmed that she would circulate a structure chart to all members.

Under reference to paragraph 11 of the minute of the meeting of 28 August 2019, Councillor Feaver sought an update on the Additional Support Needs and SEBN review.

In response, the Joint Acting Head of Children's Services, Jackie Stevenson confirmed that all the research and consultation has been completed is being compiled into a report to be brought back to a future Committee. She further confirmed that the formal consultation will take place in January 2020.

Councillor Ross requested the all Councillors and Officers have a full day booked out in their diary for Children and Young People's Committee in the future so that the Committee do not find themselves in the same position of having to re-convene the Committee on a different day.

In response, the Chair confirmed that she had requested member's diaries to be updated and that consideration will be given to meeting lengths when compiling the agendas for future meetings.

Councillor Bremner, on behalf of Councillor Laing sought confirmation on the number of Climate Change Working Groups in operation in the schools.

In response the Chair confirmed that the information would be obtained and passed to members of the Committee.

Councillor Creswell asked whether inviting Head Teachers to meetings of the Committee was going to continue in the future, as she had found it a useful to get their perspective.

In response, the Head of Education confirmed that Head Teachers should be coming along to meetings to be scrutinised, however thought needs to be given on how this is managed as Head Teachers in both primary and secondary schools are under pressure particularly if they have a teaching commitment.

Mrs Slater sought clarification on whether the staffing update given in confidence at the end of Children and Young People's Committee still needs to take place.

In response the Head of Education, said that she felt there was still a need for the Committee to be kept up to date on the current staffing position.