

LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 23 February 2005 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors Baird, Coburn, Cowan (substituting for Councillor Bushby), Culliven, Doig (from Art. 143), E Grant, Hayton, Lennie (from Art. 148), MacLellan, Miller (substituting for Councillor A Grant), Simpson, Stewart and Mr I Jackson, Mr C Mackie and Mr F Shewan.

In Attendance: G Boland, J Clark, J Cockburn, A Kerr, B Kirkpatrick, L McConnell, F Pabbon, B Renton, Karen Robertson, Kathleen Robertson, A Thomson, A Turnbull, S Watson (all Education and Children's Services); and Councillor Livingstone.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bushby, A Grant and Howie and Mr D Stewart and Mrs J Whitfield.

Councillor Hayton, Presiding.

138. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

139. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 12 January 2005 (Arts 1-12) were submitted, noted and authorised for signature.

140. MINUTES OF MEETING OF JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHING STAFF

The Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff of 31 January 2005 were submitted and noted. (*Appendix I*)

141. AMBITIOUS, EXCELLENT SCHOOLS – AGENDA FOR ACTION IN PERTH AND KINROSS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/100) outlining the Scottish Executive's agenda for a comprehensive programme of modernisation in Scottish schools and providing details of the key recommendations made with regard to the proposals "Ambitious, Excellent Schools" which emanated from a national commitment that all young people get the best opportunity to realise their full potential and that all Scottish schools become excellent schools.

Resolved:

- (i) The Scottish Executive document "Ambitious, Excellent Schools" and progress to date be noted.
- (ii) The proposed actions as detailed in Report 05/100 be agreed.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to bring forward an implementation plan by Autumn 2006.
- (iv) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to refer Report 05/100 to the Community Planning Lifelong Learning Partnership.

*142. IMPROVEMENT, IMPACT AND INCLUSION: STANDARDS AND QUALITY IN EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2004

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/101) presenting a draft report on Standards and Quality in Education and Children's Services for 2004 structured around the five national priorities as a basis for evaluating performance across the integrated Education and Children's Services in 2004 to ensure that every child reaches his or her full potential.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 05/101 be noted.

- (ii) Report 05/101 be submitted to the next meeting of the Standard and Scrutiny Committee on 9 March 2005.
- (iii) The Standards and Quality Report 2004 be published and distributed to staff, parents, carers, school boards, external agencies and the wider community in Perth and Kinross subject to approval by the Standards and Scrutiny Committee.
- (iv) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be requested to evaluate the Standards and Quality Report on an annual basis.
- (v) Partnership working with all Community Planning Partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors in this work be commended.

COUNCILLOR DOIG JOINED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

143. LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT VISITS TO SCHOOLS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/102) outlining the key findings gathered from Learning and Achievement visits to both primary and secondary schools carried out this session (2004/2005) and proposing that such visits should take place annually in all schools as part of the ongoing development of the School Improvement Framework.

Resolved:

- (i) That Learning and Achievement visits should take place annually in all schools, be agreed.
- (ii) The key findings from the evaluation of visits to date be noted.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to produce an annual report for the Committee on the progress and impact of Learning and Achievement visits to schools.
- (iv) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to produce further reports on practice and achievement visits from Cultural and Community Services and Childcare and Criminal Justice Services.

144. PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING AND SCRUTINY OF FORMAL SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORTS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/103) outlining the changes in reporting and scrutiny for formal inspection reports across Education and Children's Services and proposing a revised model for involving parents, head teachers, central staff and the wider community in the communication process.

Resolved:

- (i) The proposal for extending the communication with parents and the local community in terms of formal inspection reports be approved.
- (ii) Members of the Lifelong Learning Committee would attend future public meetings which would be arranged to ensure accountability, as set out in Report 05/103.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be requested to bring back a further report at the end of school session 2005/2006 with feedback from parents, head teachers, school boards and central staff about the effectiveness of the proposal.

145. HMIE, CARE COMMISSION AND EDUCATION AUTHORITY REPORTS ON STANDARDS AND QUALITY IN SCHOOLS, PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS (Art. 80)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/104) advising the Committee of the key findings and progress with main points for action as set out in six summary reports from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), Care Commission and Education Authorities.

Resolved:

- (i) The following summary reports of the Care Commission/HMIE Integrated Inspection Reports on the following five establishments be noted:
 Craigclowan Preparatory School Pre-school, Perth
 Morrison's Academy Nursery, Crieff
 Pitlochry High School Nursery Class
 Rattray Primary School Nursery Class

- Wonderland Nursery, Perth
- (ii) The summary report of the HMIE Inspection Report on the following establishments be noted:
Community School of Auchterarder - Secondary
 - (iii) The request by the Standards and Scrutiny Committee on 26 January 2005 (Art.80) for an update on the Action Plan for Wonderland Nursery, Perth in six months, be noted.
 - (iv) That the positive nature of the Care Commission/HMIE reports was welcomed by the Standards and Scrutiny Committee, be noted.

146. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT – CHILDREN’S SERVICES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services) (05/105) advising the Committee of changes which had been made with regard to the management framework of Children’s Services and Criminal Justice Services and detailing the improvement agenda within the changes and the proposed Workforce Plan to ensure that this agenda can be delivered with high quality staff who can be recruited and retained.

Resolved:

- (i) The overall framework of activity within the report to ensure the continuous improvement agenda be approved.
- (ii) The revised management framework of Children’s Services and Criminal Justice Services be noted.
- (iii) The proposed Workforce Plan for social work staff within Education and Children’s Services be approved.
- (iv) The Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services) report back to the Committee in eighteen months time as to how the above management framework and Workforce Plan has led to Improvement, Impact and Inclusion.

147. COMMUNITY PLANNING LIFELONG LEARNING PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2004/2008

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services) (05/106) seeking approval of the role identified for Education and Children’s Services in contributing to the delivery of the Community Planning Lifelong Learning Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2004-2008.

Resolved:

The role identified for Education and Children’s Services in contributing to the delivery of the Lifelong Learning Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2004-2008 as outlined in Appendix 1 to Report 05/106 be approved.

COUNCILLOR LENNIE JOINED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

148. CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – COLLECTING POLICY FOR THE HERITAGE SERVICE

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services) (05/112) presenting the Collecting Policy for Perth and Kinross Council’s Heritage Service which is submitted to the Committee for approval every five years. The Heritage Service is part of the Cultural and Community Services within Education and Children’s Services and has responsibility for collections of Art, History and Natural History. The Collecting Policy for 2004-2008 had been considered by the Member/Officer Working Group set up for this purpose by this Committee on 25 February 2004 (Art. 133/04)

Resolved:

- (i) The Collecting Policy as per the recommendations of the Member/Officer Working Group, and as detailed in Appendix 1 of Report 05/112, be approved.
- (ii) The background to the Heritage Service be noted.
- (iii) The loan policy as detailed in Report 05/112 be noted.
- (iv) Consideration be given to putting the Collecting Policy on the Council’s website.

149. RESERVED PLACES IN SCHOOLS 2005/2006

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (04/113) proposing the number of reserved places for session 2005/2006 within primary and secondary schools in accordance with Section 28A of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 as amended.

Resolved:

- (i) The number of reserved places within schools which appear to be close to capacity for session 2005/2006, as detailed in Appendix A of Report 05/113, be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to revise these numbers each year to reflect historical or anticipated patterns of migration, information about known movements of families into (or out of) an area, and any current residential development.
- *(iii) Responsibility to review the reserved places for all schools in light of any building work or residential development be delegated to the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) and the Council be recommended to amend the Scheme of Administration accordingly.

150. REVIEW OF CHARGES 2005/2006

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/114) detailing the proposed service charges for financial year 2005/2006.

Resolved:

- (i) The proposed 2005/2006 charges for Blairgowrie High School Recreation Centre as outlined in Appendix 1 of Report 05/114 be approved.
- (ii) The proposed 2005/2006 charges for Consultancy, Staff Development Opportunities and Curriculum Materials as outlined in Appendix 2 of Report 05/114 be approved.
- (iii) The proposed 2005/2006 charges for Cultural and Community Services as outlined in Appendix 3.1 to 3.10 of Report 05/114 be approved.
- (iv) The new school meal prices agreed at the Council meeting on 10 February 2005 as outlined in Appendix 4 of Report 05/114 be noted.

151. RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/115) recommending how the re-establishment of the Youth Council be taken forward in order to make it more effective and representative of young people across Perth and Kinross.

Resolved:

- (i) The proposals detailed in Report 05/115 be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to take forward the re-establishment of the Youth Council in the new context of Community Planning.
- (iii) The Executive Director be instructed to report on progress after the Youth Council had been set up.

152. WORLD YOUTH CONGRESS – YOUTH ACTION PROJECT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/116) (1) advising that all local authorities had been invited to host a Youth Action Project aimed at 18-25 year olds, during the World Youth Congress which was being held in Scotland from Saturday 30 July to Monday 8 August 2004, and (2) recommending that Perth and Kinross host a Youth Action Project and that a proposal be submitted to the Scottish Executive. The theme running through the Project would be 'Building Wellbeing' locally, nationally and internationally.

Resolved:

- (i) The proposals outlined in Report 05/116 be agreed.
- (ii) The Youth Action Project in Perth and Kinross be supported.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to submit the proposal for a Youth Action Project to the Scottish Executive.