

# STANDARDS AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Standards and Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 3 May 2006 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors Barrett, Coburn, Ellis, Jack, Lennie, Lloyd and Mair, Mr C Mackie and Mr F Shewan.

In Attendance: Councillor Hayton; A Nairn, M Kay, M McLeish and J McLuckie (all Corporate Services); B Renton, F Patton and L Mason (until Art 304) (all Education & Children's Services); R Bean (The Environment Service); R Batchelor (Housing and Community Care).

Apology for Absence: Mr I Jackson

Councillor Lloyd, Convener, Presiding.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Councillor Lloyd apologised for comments he had made at the previous meeting of the Committee in relation to the report on the Abacus Day Nursery and for any distress caused, and undertook to give greater care to future comments.

## 301. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

## 302. MINUTES

### (i) Standards and Scrutiny Committee – 8 March 2006

The Minute of Meeting of the Standards and Scrutiny Committee of 8 March 2006 (Arts. 174-184) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

### (ii) Audit Sub-Committee – 23 February 2006

The Minute of Meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of 23 February 2006 was submitted and noted (*Appendix I*).

## 303. HMle, CARE COMMISSION AND EDUCATION AUTHORITY REPORTS ON STANDARDS AND QUALITY IN SCHOOLS, PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS

There was submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (06/308) advising the Committee of the key findings and progress made with the main points for action as set out in the five summary reports (Appendices 1-5 to Report 06/308) from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMle), the Care Commission and the Education Authority, relating to Arngask Primary School, ABC Day Nursery, Crossroads Pre-School Nursery, Humpty Dumpty Nursery and Kinloch Rannoch Primary School Nursery Class.

### (a) Arngask Primary School

#### Resolved:

The findings of the HMle Inspection Report on the standards and quality in Arngask Primary School be noted.

### (b) ABC Day Nursery, Perth

L Mason, Education and Children's Services, was present to answer members' questions on the Report in relation to sleeping arrangements on the day of the nursery's Christmas Concert, the Council's peripatetic nursery service, and levels of qualified staff.

#### Resolved:

The findings of the Care Commission/HMle Integrated Inspection Report on the standards and quality in the ABC Day Nursery, Perth be noted.

**(c) Crossroads Pre-School Nursery, Inchtute**

L Mason, Education and Children's Services, was present to answer members' questions on the Report in relation to opportunities for energetic indoor activities and the use of space and confirmed that action had been taken in respect of a recording system for medicines, adjustments to toilet doors and recording of next steps in support needs.

Councillor Ellis noted that by the time reports were submitted to Committee the majority of the issues raised had been addressed and actioned and enquired if it were possible to provide an update on action as an appendix to each report.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The findings of the Care Commission/HMle Integrated Inspection Report on the standards and quality in Crossroads Pre-School Nursery, Inchtute be noted.
- (ii) Six monthly reports updating the Committee on action resulting from HMle/Care Commission Reports be submitted to the Committee.

**(d) Humpty Dumpty Playgroup, Scone**

L Mason, Education and Children's Services, was present to answer members' questions on the Report in relation to the proposed change to the staff structure in August 2006.

**Resolved:**

The findings of the Care Commission/HMle Integrated Inspection Report on the standards and quality in the Humpty Dumpty Playgroup, Scone, be noted.

**(e) Kinloch Rannoch Primary School Nursery Class**

**Resolved:**

The findings of the Care Commission/HMle Integrated Inspection Report on the standards and quality in Kinloch Rannoch Primary School Nursery Class be noted.

C MACKIE, F SHEWAN, B RENTON, L MASON AND F PATTON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

**304. SCOTTISH PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN REPORTS**

**(i) Scottish Public Services Ombudsman – Changes In Practice**

There was submitted a Report by the Depute Director of Corporate Service (06/309) outlining changes in the way the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman investigates and reports complaints made against public bodies.

J McLuckie, Governance and Scrutiny Officer, reported in more detail on the rationale for the changes, which included the reclassification of an investigation to any complaint which required examination, resulting in monthly reports being issued to the Scottish Parliament and made public and the implications for Perth and Kinross Council.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The changes in the way the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman investigates and reports complaints made against public bodies be noted.
- (ii) Advice be sought from the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman on the possible conflict with anti-social behaviour investigations and the timing thereof.
- (ii) The position on Ombudsman's reports in relation to Perth and Kinross Council be reviewed in six months and a report be submitted to the Standards and Scrutiny Committee thereon, to include how issues raised had been addressed.
- (iv) The Depute Director (Corporate Services) be instructed to consider how best to bring a summary of Scottish Public Services Ombudsman's Reports to members of the Committee.

**(ii) Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Reports**

There was submitted a Report by the Depute Director of Corporate Services (06/310) presenting two recent reports from the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman on complaints against Perth and Kinross Council.

R Batchelor, Housing and Community Care, was present to answer members' questions on Case One as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 06/310, particularly in relation to steps taken to address the recommendation to ensure timeous responses to the Ombudsman's requests for information.

R Bean, The Environment Service, was present to answer members' questions on Case Two as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 06/310, in relation to the various ways members of the public could access local plans or parts thereof, and in particular the progress being made on ePlanning.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The investigation reports by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman be noted.
- (ii) As recommended by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, it be noted that the Council is taking steps to ensure that officers are aware of the need for co-operation with, and to respond timeously to, correspondence from the Ombudsman.