

## **LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE**

### **SCHOOL ESTATE SUB-COMMITTEE**

Minute of Meeting of the School Estate Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee held in Room 415, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on 29 May 2008 at 11.00am.

Present: Councillors E Grant, I Miller, B Vaughan and A Wylie (substituting for Councillor B Band) and Monsignor K McCaffrey, D Stewart and I Jackson.

In Attendance: R Bean (The Environment Service); J Fyffe, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); A Cook, N Copland, B Reid, H Richardson and A Taylor (all Education and Children's Services); J Adamson (Chief Executive's Service).

#### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **2. APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER**

It was unanimously agreed that Councillor E Grant be appointed Convener of the School Estate Sub-Committee.

Councillor E Grant took the Chair.

#### **3. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS**

It was agreed that meetings of the Sub-Committee be held quarterly, to follow meetings of the Lifelong Learning Committee when possible, the next meetings to be held on 20 August 2008 and 26 November 2008.

**IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WHICH IS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1973**

#### **P1. RELOCATION OF INVESTMENT IN LEARNING DECANT ACCOMMODATION**

The Sub-Committee agreed to consider this report in private in the light of additional information which had come to light to the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) since the issue of the agenda and papers, and which was exempt from public disclosure in terms of Para 9 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

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There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/301) seeking authority to proceed with projects to re-use the Investment in Learning modular accommodation as part of the solution to primary school provision in Crieff and Invergowrie in order to maximise the best use of Council resources while also addressing previously agreed priorities for Education and Children's Services. The schemes, involving the purchase of additional land for both, required to be developed as a priority to meet the critical deadlines set as part of the Investment in Learning Programme.

**Resolved:**

- The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to:
- (i) proceed with the development and implementation of schemes to provide solutions, in conjunction with supplementary building, to primary schooling in Crieff and Invergowrie; and
  - (ii) proceed to negotiate to secure the required land with a view to purchase for both schemes.

**P2. INVESTMENT IN LEARNING – BUSINESS CHANGE (Arts. 698/07 and 328/08)**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/317) detailing the progress towards Business Change within the Investment in Learning Programme and setting out the current activities to deliver on the Business Objectives which gave greater emphasis to putting the school at the heart of the community.

**Resolved:**

The progress of Business Change in the Investment in Learning Programme be noted, in particular that a new Core Team structure was being developed to pursue the aims of the Business Change to include a risk profile, initial consultation events in each community, regular Headteacher/Heads of Service meetings and the development of Action Plans for the staff involved.

**P3. BREADALBANE MODULAR UNITS – METHVEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/302) seeking authority to proceed with the project to relocate the existing modular accommodation at Breadalbane Academy to Methven Primary School to address accommodation pressure there resulting from already approved planning applications, together with the known number of school places as a result of potential house building.

**Resolved:**

The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) proceed with the development and implementation of a scheme to relocate the units to Methven Primary School within the appropriate timescale.

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**P4. MUSIC CENTRE PROVISION, PERTH**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/303) seeking authority, in conjunction with the Head of Property, to develop a scheme to relocate the existing Music Centre provision to the new St John's Academy when these facilities would become available in March 2010. It was essential to continue to deliver the Music Centre provision in the meantime and this would remain in the main building at Caledonian Road Primary School. As part of this, it was also vital to defer disposal of the main building and associated access routes at Caledonian Road Primary School until alternative provision was available.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The disposal of the main building at Caledonian Road Primary School together with associated access routes be deferred until such time as an alternative facility was ready to occupy.
- (ii) It be confirmed that the Music Centre remain within the main building of Caledonian Road Primary School in the interim period.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) develop a scheme, in conjunction with the Head of Property, to relocate the existing Music Provision to the new St. John's Academy when the facilities became available in March 2010;
- (iv) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) produce a further report detailing any financial implications of the above scheme; and
- (v) It be agreed in principle that alternative proposals be submitted to future meetings of this Sub Committee should the developed scheme at St. John's Academy not meet the needs of the Service or be affordable within the resources made available.

**P5. PROPOSED USE OF ST STEPHEN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING, BLAIRGOWRIE – COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT/ INTEGRATED EARLY YEARS PROVISION**

There was submitted a report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/304),(1) advising that the St Stephen's Primary School was due to relocate to the new Blairgowrie Community Campus in August 2009 as part of the Investment in Learning Programme which would result in the St Stephen's Primary School site becoming vacant; and (2) seeking authority to proceed with the project to re-use the current St Stephen's Primary School building to provide facilities for community learning and development and the new Integrated Early Years facility, subject to agreement with the Roman Catholic Church.

**Resolved:**

- (i) Subject to agreement by the Roman Catholic Church, the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) proceed with the development of the project to relocate Community Learning and Development from Rowanbank to the current St. Stephen's Primary building.
- (ii) Subject to agreement by the Roman Catholic Church, the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) proceed with the development of the

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- project to provide facilities for the new Integrated Early Years Provision as part of the above new provision in the current St. Stephen's Primary building.
- (iii) It be noted that the Head of Property would assess the use of the remaining parts of the building at St Stephen's as part of wider asset management planning.

**P6. INVESTMENT IN LEARNING – FINAL BUSINESS CASE**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/319) requesting the Sub-Committee to review the Final Business Case for the Investment in Learning project and approve its publication. The report also highlighted the consultancy costs relating to the project. Prior to Financial Close, the Scottish Government had approved the Final Business Case (FBC) for the Investment in Learning Programme. The only updates to the FBC had related to the actual finance agreement at Financial Close, the outcome of the Council's budget strategy in February 2008 and the final external auditor's opinion.

**Resolved:**

- (i) It be noted that the Financial Partnership Unit within the Scottish Government was content with the updated FBC and required that it be made a public document.
- (ii) It be agreed, in reviewing the FBC, that it be made available on the Council's website and hard copies be made available on request.
- (iii) The level of consultancy costs relating to the project be noted.

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