

# 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 6 September 2006 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors Barrett, Coburn, Ellis, Jack, Mair and Lloyd and Mr I Jackson and Mr C Mackie (until Art. 574).

In Attendance: A Nairn, M Kay, J McLuckie, F Easton, A Taylor and I Hall (Art. 572(b) to 575) (all Corporate Services); W Kirkpatrick and W McCulloch (to Art 574), L Mason, M Anderson and M Cram (to Art 573) (all Education & Children's Services);

Also Attending: Councillor Hayton

Apology for Absence: Councillor Lennie and Mr F Shewan

Councillor Lloyd, Convener, Presiding.

## 570. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

## 571. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### (i) Standards and Scrutiny Committee – 14 June 2006

The Minute of Meeting of the Standards and Scrutiny Committee of 14 June 2006 (Arts. 429-438) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

### (ii) Audit Sub-Committee – 11 May 2006

The Minute of Meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of 11 May 2006 was submitted and noted (**Appendix I**).

### (iii) Complaints Review Committee of 26 May 2006

The Minute of Meeting of the Complaints Review Committee of 26 May 2006 was submitted and noted (**Appendix II**)

#### **Resolved:**

The recommendations set out in the Minute be approved.

## 572. HMIE, 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 Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (06/618) 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 06/618) from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), the Care Commission and the Education Authority, relating to Kinross Primary School, Robert Douglas Memorial Primary School, Fossoway Pre-School Group, Muirton Community Nursery and The Toddle Inn Nursery, Perth.

Officers from Education and Children's Services were present to answer members' questions on the following, particularly in relation to the action being taken to address issues raised within the reports.

### (a) Kinross Primary School

#### **Resolved:**

- (i) The findings of the HMIE Inspection Report on the standards and quality in Kinross Primary School, be noted.

- (ii) It be noted that a planned programme of maintenance and replacement had been developed.

**(b) Robert Douglas Memorial Primary School**

The Convener invited Councillor Hayton, the Convener of the Lifelong Learning Committee to comment on the report in relation to accommodation issues. Councillor Hayton advised that a programme of works had been developed to address the issues raised.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The findings of the HMle Inspection Report on the standards and quality in Robert Douglas Memorial Primary School be noted.
- (ii) The model of organisational structure developed in the secondary sector be considered for its suitability in the primary sector.

**(c) Fossoway Pre-School Group**

**Resolved:**

The findings of the HMle/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on the standards and quality in Fossoway Pre-School Group be noted and all involved be commended for their efforts.

**(d) Muirton Community Nursery**

**Resolved:**

The findings of the HMle/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on the standards and quality in Muirton Community Nursery be noted.

**(e) The Toddle Inn Nursery, Perth**

**Resolved:**

- (i) The findings of the HMle/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on the standards and quality in The Toddle Inn Nursery be noted.
- (ii) Education and Children's Services continue their increased support for the nursery to address concerns raised in the report.
- (iii) Future reports identified the ownership status of pre-school nurseries.

**573. FOLLOW-UP REPORT BY HM INSPECTORS ON COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH PERTH AREA**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) (06/619) informing the Committee on the findings of HMle on their follow-up visit on 6 and 7 March 2006 and detailing the progress made on the five main points for action identified by HMle from the inspections of the functions of Community Learning and Development in the North Perth Area in March 2004.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The evaluation made by HM Inspectors on the progress made on the five main points for action as recommended in Report 06/619 be noted.
- (ii) The comments that very effective action had been taken to implement the recommendations of the report with very good progress being made on three action points and good progress on two action points be noted.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to bring forward a further report on the two main points for action, identified as good progress, in six months from the date of the published follow through report.
- (iv) All involved be commended for their efforts in achieving the outcome of the report.

**574. STANDARDS AND QUALITY IN EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2005-2006**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (06/620) presenting a report on the Standards and Quality in Education and Children's Services for 2005/2006 and subject to approval the report will be published and made widely available within Perth and Kinross as part of Education and Children's Services statutory requirement to report to the public on the performance of the services we provide as an integrated Education and Children's Services.

**Resolved:**

- (i) Report 06/620 on the Standards and Quality in Education and Children's Services in Perth and Kinross 2005-2006 be noted.
- (ii) Report 06/620 be remitted to the Lifelong Learning Committee for noting and consideration for distribution to stakeholders.

**575. REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES – INSPECTION REPORTS BY REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/621) commenting on the annual inspection reports from the Registrar General for Scotland on the provision of registration services in the Perth and Kinross local government area in 2005.

**Resolved:**

The contents of Report 06/621 with regard to the annual inspection reports by the Registrar General for Scotland for 2005 on the provision of registration services in the Perth and Kinross local government area and the actions being taken be noted.

**576. RISK MANAGEMENT YEAR END PROGRESS REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/622) detailing the progress made in Risk Management during 2005/2006 in complying with the Local Code of Corporate Governance and outlining the Risk Management Plan for the forthcoming year 2006/2007.

**Resolved:**

- (i) Report 06/622 which highlights the progress made during 2005/2006 in complying with the Local Code of Corporate Governance be noted.
- (ii) The Risk Management Plan for the forthcoming year 2006/2007 be approved.

**THE CONVENER RULED THAT IN HIS OPINION THE FOLLOWING ITEM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY IN TERMS OF SECTION 50(B)(4)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973**

**577. SCOTTISH PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN REPORTS**

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Corporate Services) (06/633) presenting the August commentary on reports by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman laid before the Scottish Parliament.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The Ombudsman's Commentary be noted.
- (ii) A full response to the findings of the report relating to Perth and Kinross Council be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.
- (iii) The Depute Director (Corporate Services) be asked to provide a report to members of the Committee on the current position in relation to the future work programme of the Committee.