

LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 19 August 2009 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors E Grant, B Band, K Baird, G Hayton, M Lyle (substituting for Councillor B Vaughan), J Law (substituting for Councillor S Miller), E Maclachlan, A MacLellan, D Melloy, L Simpson, A Stewart, W Wilson and A Wylie; Mrs H Bridge, Mr S Clark, Mr I Jackson, Monsignor K McCaffrey and Mr D Stewart.

In attendance: John Fyffe, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); Maria Walker, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services); B Atkinson, G Bolland, J Harding, H Jack, A Taylor, A Turnbull, C Webb and A Yeung (all Education and Children's Services); J Coburn (Corporate Services); A Wilson and S Thornton (both Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors S Miller and B Vaughan and Mrs A McAuley.

Councillor E Grant, Convener, Presiding.

403. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

404. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) Lifelong Learning Committee

The Minute of Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 27 May 2009 (Arts. 271-279) was submitted, approved as a correct record, and authorised for signature.

(ii) Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff

The Minute of Meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff of 28 April 2009 was submitted and noted (**Appendix I**).

405. YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE YEAR 7

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (09/370), (1) providing a report on activity in Year 6 of the Initiative; and (2) seeking agreement on the proposed local application of the Scottish Government's Youth Music Initiative funding in Year 7.

Resolved:

- (i) Progress of the scheme to date be noted.
- (ii) The Year 7 proposals for the delivery of the Youth Music Initiative in Perth and Kinross be agreed.

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- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) report the results of Year 7 projects to the Committee in August 2010 along with proposals for Year 8 of the initiative.

406. CORPORATE PARENTING MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP – APPROVAL OF GROUP'S REMIT (Art. 401)

There was submitted and approved the remit of the Corporate Parenting Member/Officer Working Group (09/369), which it was noted was also being submitted to the Community Safety Committee and Housing and Health Committee for information.

407. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STRATEGY FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (Art. 320/07)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (09/371), (1) updating the Committee on progress made in respect of the Strategy for Looked After Children which was approved in June 2007 (Art. 320/07 refers); and (2) setting the priorities for the coming year.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress made against each action within the Strategy be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) take forward the action plan, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 09/371, within the timescales given, addressing in particular the priority to recruit additional foster carers to meet the accommodation needs of Looked After Children.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) report on the progress made in the third year of the Strategy in August 2010.

408. PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASS SIZES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (09/372), (1) summarising primary school class sizes within Perth and Kinross Council primary schools; and (2) seeking confirmation, as policy, of the existing practice of limiting Primary 1 classes to no more than 25 pupils per class.

Resolved:

- (i) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) continue to implement class sizes, as outlined in Paragraph 2.4 of Report 09/372.
- * (ii) The Scottish Executive (as it then was) commitment to reduce Primary 1 classes to a maximum of 25 pupils per class be adopted as Perth and Kinross Council policy.

409. COMMUNITY CAMPUS LET CHARGES (Art. 278)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (09/373) detailing proposed Community Campus Let Charges to be implemented on 20 August 2009 in respect of community, civic and cultural provision.

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Resolved:

- (i) The Community Campus Let Charges, as outlined in Appendix 1 to Report 09/373, be agreed.
- (ii) The charges be reviewed annually as part of the Services' review of charges report to Committee, including utilisation of the Community Campus facilities.

***410. PROGRESS ON ALCOHOL CONFERENCE ACTIONS (Art. 400)**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (09/360) identifying progress made by the Community Planning Strategic Health and Community Safety Partnerships and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership in delivering the nine actions identified through the 'Real Unit Cost' Conference on Alcohol held on 12 November 2008.

Resolved:

- (i) Progress made in delivering the key actions arising from the 2008 Conference, as detailed in Report 09/360, be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) submit a further report to the Community Safety, Housing and Health and Lifelong Learning Committees in six months time detailing the further progress made in the relevant action areas.
- (iii) It be noted that Report 09/360 was submitted to the Council's Community Safety Committee on 11 August 2009 and would be submitted to the Housing and Health Committee on 19 August 2009 for consideration.

411. AUTHORITY TO WRITE OFF BAD DEBTS AND OBSOLETE STOCK – STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 10 JUNE 2009 (Art. 311)

The decision taken by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 10 June 2009 to write off the various amounts set out in Report 09/288 but where appropriate that action would continue to be taken to recover the amounts being written off, be noted.

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