

# 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 28 February 2007 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors Baird, Bushby, Culliven, A Grant, E Grant, Hayton, Howie, Lennie, Lumsden (substituting for Councillor Coburn), Simpson, Stewart, Mr I Jackson, Mr C Mackie and Father K McCaffrey.

In Attendance: S Powell, L McConnell, M Walker, C Webb, G Boland, J Allan, B Kirkpatrick, N Copland, L Mason, A Taylor, W Atkinson, A Turnbull, S Watson and K Robertson (all Education & Children's Services); J Cockburn (Corporate Services); A Wilson and J Adamson (Democratic Services). Also K Stevenson and R Webster of the Click Youth Arts Group.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Coburn, Mr D Stewart and Mr G Young

Councillor Hayton, Convener, Presiding.

## 131. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

## 132. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### (1) Lifelong Learning Committee

The Minute of Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 10 January 2007 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

### (2) JNC for Teaching Staff

The Minute of Meeting of the JNC for Teaching Staff of 11 December 2006 was submitted and noted. (*Appendix I*)

### (3) Attendance Sub-Committee

The Minute of Meeting of the Attendance Sub-Committee of 25 January 2007 was submitted and noted. (*Appendix II*)

## 133. A MODERN YOUTH SERVICE DELIVERING SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY (Art. 05/06)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (07/158) updating the Committee on progress made with the restructure of Youth Services. A presentation was given by K Stevenson and R Webster of the Click Youth Arts Group.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The progress made with the restructure of Youth Services since January 2006 be noted.
- (ii) The contribution being made by the new structure to a new, revitalised and modern youth service, addressing the needs of young people in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, be acknowledged.
- (iii) An official launch of Youth Services in the Summer 2007 be approved.

## 134. SURPLUS PROPERTY – ST FILLANS SCHOOL AND SCHOOL HOUSE (Art. 397/06)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (07/165) seeking the Committee's approval to declare St Fillans School and School House surplus to the operational requirements of Education and Children's Services following this Committee's decision on 31 May 2006 to close the school.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) St Fillans School and School House be declared surplus to the requirements of Education and Children's Services.

- (ii) The report be referred to the Property Sub-Committee for its consideration and to proceed with the disposal of St Fillans School and School House.

### **135. NEW ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS (ASN) SCHOOL – OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION PROCESS ON A NAME FOR THE NEW SCHOOL**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (07/166) updating Members on the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken to determine a name for the new ASN School currently under construction at the Perth Academy/Viewlands Primary School site.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The outcome of the consultation process undertaken to establish a name for the new school and the wider campus at this site be noted.
- (ii) The new ASN school be called Fairview School.
- (iii) A decision on a name for the campus on which this school, Viewlands Primary School and Perth Academy were located, be deferred until such time as the Council had taken a decision on the wider issue of campus management arrangements across its entire property estate.

### **136. THE SCOTTISH SCHOOLS (PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT) ACT 2006**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (07/167) on the progress made in implementing the commencement orders of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006. The Act aimed to improve the quality and extent of parents' involvement in their child's learning, and in education matters and schools more generally. The Act also introduced a new system of Parent Councils to replace the current School Boards. The Council's Strategy for Parental Involvement would be produced as a result of meaningful engagement with parents to ensure it best met the needs and expectations of parents in Perth and Kinross.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The progress made in implementing the commencement orders of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 be noted.
- (ii) The content of the Parental Involvement Strategy Group Outline Project Plan be endorsed.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to report on the draft Parental Involvement Strategy to the Committee, following consultation, in September 2007.

### **137. REVISED CAPACITIES FOR ALL COUNCIL RUN PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITHIN PERTH AND KINROSS**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (07/159) seeking approval to set new pupil capacity figures for all Council-run primary schools in Perth and Kinross.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The revised school capacities outlined in Appendix 1 of Report 07/159 be agreed, to be effective from the August 2007 intake on a phased basis.
- (ii) The impact of these capacities on individual schools as set out in Appendix 2 of Report 07/159, and the work being undertaken with Head Teachers to manage this position, be noted.
- (iii) The officers in Education and Children's Services and The Environment Service be instructed to bring forward a protocol to Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee which would ensure that decisions on housing development applications took due cognisance of the capacity and accommodation issues in the local primary school.

### **138. RESERVED PLACES IN SCHOOLS 2007/2008**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (07/160) proposing the number of reserved places for session 2007/2008 within primary and secondary schools in accordance with Section 28A of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 as amended, allowing places to be protected for local children in their local school.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The number of reserved places within schools which appeared to be close to capacity for session 2007/2008 as shown in Appendix A of Report 07/160 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) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to review the reserved places for all schools in light of any building work and in light of residential development.

### **139. PROGRESS REPORT – EDUCATION SERVICES – EARLY YEARS (Art. 400/05)**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (07/161) (1) the progress made in implementing the '*Recommendations for Future Improvement*' and (2) providing a comprehensive update on the action taken to secure continuous improvement of the Early Years Service, within Education and Children's Services subsequent to the review undertaken in May 2005.

**Resolved:**

The very good progress made with regard to the *Recommendations for Future Improvement* contained in Report 07/161 be noted and commended.

COUNCILLORS DOIG AND STEWART LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

### **140. PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (07/162) (1) outlining the Scottish Executive's proposals for the funding of pre-school education provision in session 2007/2008 and (2) presenting for approval the proposal for pre-school education provision within Perth and Kinross. The report set out the Education and Children's Services' plan to enhance support for partner providers and to enable the service to ensure that commissioned places were of high quality for children.

**Resolved:**

- (i) Places continue to be commissioned from centres in the private and voluntary sectors to meet the demand for places for 3 and 4-year-old children in those areas where the Council cannot make provision or where there is high parental demand for provision to be made more locally.
- (ii) The Council continue to work with registered partner providers to improve the quality of provision.
- (iii) It be noted (a) that in 2007/08 it was proposed to increase the payment made for a fully-loaded part-time place (5 sessions of 2 1/2 hours per week for a minimum of 33 weeks) commissioned from a partner provider, from £1251 per child per annum to £1290 per annum; (b) that it was intended in 2008/09, to uplift the floor rate further to £1332 per annum to allow partner providers to plan for the future; and (c) that the resource implications in report 07/162 would be contained within the revised Education and Children's Services budget for 2007/08 which included an additional £150,000 from the Scottish Executive.

### **141. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (07/169) to the effect that recent national studies (eg *Extraordinary Lives*, SWIA, 2006) and local experience highlighted the need to review and update Perth and Kinross strategy to ensure 'looked after' children received the best possible care and support. The report contained the key constituents of such a strategy and identified initial steps that needed to be taken to progress this aim. Specific proposals would be brought to Committee for consideration in respect of residential care, multi-disciplinary working, foster care and corporate planning.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The development of a strategy for Looked After Children, which built on existing practice and took account of national research and developments, be approved.
- (ii) Proposals for immediate action which lay the foundation for future development of a 'looked after' strategy in the following areas be approved:-

- (a) a feasibility study of replacement residential provision and a multi-disciplinary work setting;
  - (b) revised fostering allowances as part of the strategy;
  - (c) developing the concept of corporate parenting in Perth and Kinross.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to put in place a short-life officer working group to develop the strategy and bring the completed strategy back to the Committee in June 2007 for consideration.
- (iv) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to report by September 2007 on the implications of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007.

**142. EDUCATION APPEAL COMMITTEES – PROPOSALS FOR REFORM: RESPONSE TO SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Democratic Services (07/168) setting out a proposed response to the Scottish Executive consultation document issued in November 2006 on improvements to the Education Appeal system. The aim of the consultation was to seek views on how to make the appeal system more fair, impartial and transparent, particularly in the perception and experience of those who used it. The research arising from the consultation had shown that, while there were areas of concern in the operation of Education Appeal Committees, many of these had already been addressed by Perth and Kinross Council. The findings of the consultation would help the improvement process nationally and locally.

**Resolved:**

The response attached as Appendix 1 to Report 07/168, for final submission to the Scottish Executive, be approved

**143. REVIEW OF CHARGES 2007/2008**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (07/163) detailing the proposed service charges for financial year 2007/2008 affecting the following areas:

**Resolved:**

- (i) The proposed charges for Blairgowrie High School Recreation Centre as outlined in Appendix 1 to report 07/163 be approved.
- (ii) The proposed charges for Consultancy, Staff Development Opportunities and Curriculum Materials as outlined in Appendix 2 to report 07/163 be approved.
- (iii) The proposed charges for Cultural and Community Services as outlined in Appendices 3 to 11 to report 07/163 be approved.
- (iv) The new school meal charges as outlined in Appendix 12 to report 07/163 be noted.
- (v) The proposed Lets charges in Appendix 13 to report 07/163 be approved.

**144. SCRUTINY OF CARE COMMISSION, HMIE AND EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES EVALUATION REPORTS ON SCHOOLS OR OTHER ASPECTS OF THE SERVICE**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (07/170) on the process by which the Lifelong Learning Committee operated the scrutiny process for Care Commission, HMIE and internally specified Education and Children's Services reports on schools or other discrete aspects of the service.

**Resolved:**

The process by which the Lifelong Learning Committee operated scrutiny subsequent to the publication of any reports from Care Commission or HMIE or internal reports, as designated as appropriate by the Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) for consideration by the Lifelong Learning Committee be approved as follows:-

- (i) All members of the Lifelong Learning Committee have access to the full text of each report.
- (ii) The Convener of Lifelong Learning have the responsibility to identify at least one member of the Committee to lead the discussion of the outcomes of each report at the meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee.
- (iii) The Service Manager with overview of the particular school or section attend the meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee.

- (iv) The head teacher, partner provider or responsible manager from the nursery, school or section to which the report refers be invited to attend the Committee meeting.
- (v) The head teacher, partner provider or manager be invited to contribute to the response to any issues, related to the report, which might arise in the course of the Committee meeting.
- (vi) The head teacher or manager be invited to give an outline of the actions to be taken to address the action points in the report. This outline should last no more than 3 or 4 minutes.
- (vii) When considered appropriate by the Committee, a follow up report be sought from the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) in order that progress on the action points may be scrutinised.
- (viii) In the case of HMIE reports, related to schools, there continue to be a meeting constituted subsequent to the publication of the report with invitations going to parents, the local Councillor and the Convener or a representative of the Lifelong Learning Committee, in order to maintain continuity of what had been successful practice.

#### **145. 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) (07/164) advising the Committee of the key findings and progress with main points of action as set out in two summary reports (Appendices 1-3) from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), Care Commission and Education and Children's Services.

**Resolved:**

The summary reports as attached in Appendices 1-3 of report 07/164 be noted:-

- (i) Summary of the HMIE Inspection Report on Crieff High School (Appendix 1).
- (ii) Summary of the HMIE/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on Careshare at Croftbank Nursery, Kinross (Private Sector) (Appendix 2).
- (iii) Summary of the HMIE Follow-through Inspection on Balbeggie Primary School (Appendix 3).

#### **146. VALEDICTORY**

This being the last meeting of the Committee before the Local Government Elections on 3 May 2007, the Convener thanked all members and 'lay' representatives on the Committee for their contribution over the last four years and also expressed his appreciation to Education and Children's Services staff, in particular to L McConnell, Depute Director, who was due to retire. C Mackie and Jackson responded in appropriate terms.