

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE
29 October 2008

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 29 October 2008 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors E Grant, K Baird, B Band, G Hayton, E Maclachlan, A MacLellan, D Melloy, S Miller, L Simpson, A Stewart, B Vaughan, W Wilson and A Wylie; Mrs H Bridge, Mr I Jackson, Monsignor K McCaffrey and Mr D Stewart.

In attendance: J Fyffe, Executive Director, (Education and Children's Services); M Walker, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services); B Atkinson, C Beaton, M Birch, G Boland, G Brand, N Copland, S Devlin, H Jack, L Knowles, A McIntosh, H Richardson, K Robertson, R Rodger, S Watson, C Webb, J Winton, A Yeung and S Younie (all Education and Children's Services); J Cockburn (Corporate Services); A Wilson and C Irons (Chief Executive's Service).

Councillor E Grant, Convener, Presiding

Prior to the commencement of business the Convener:

- (a) welcomed Heather Jack, the new Head of Cultural and Community Services and Stuart Younie, the new Service Manager, Sport and Active Recreation in Education and Children's Services, to the Committee.
- (b) bade farewell to Liz Knowles, Services Manager (Lifelong Learning), who would be leaving the Council in December, and acknowledged her valuable contribution to the Council.

596. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct Councillors S Miller and W Wilson declared a non-financial interest in Art. 609; E Maclachlan declared a non-financial interest in Art. 610; and K Baird declared a non-financial interest in Art. 603.

597. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) Lifelong Learning Committee

The Minute of Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 20 August 2008 (Arts. 441-448) 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 17 June 2008 was submitted and noted (**Appendix I**).

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(iii) Review Sub-Committee

The Minutes of Meetings of the Review Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 6, 13 and 20 August and 11 September 2008 were submitted and noted (**Appendix II-V**).

598. ATTAINMENT IN PERTH AND KINROSS SCHOOLS 2008

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/542) presenting an analysis of pupil attainment in primary schools, S2 in secondary schools and the performance of candidates presented by Perth and Kinross schools in the 2008 diets of Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) examinations.

Resolved:

- (i) The proposals, as detailed in Report 08/542, designed to raise levels of attainment and achievement, be endorsed.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Service) be instructed to ensure that schools take appropriate action to secure improved levels of attainment and achievement in schools.
- (iii) Report 08/542 be referred to the Scrutiny Committee for its interest.

**599. CREATING A CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE
PART 2: EFFECTIVE LEARNING AND TEACHING
PART 3: ENTERPRISE AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
PART 4: ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/543) seeking approval from the Lifelong Learning Committee for the documents entitled *Effective Learning and Teaching; Enterprise and Vocational Education; and Assessment for Learning (Supporting and Improving Learning through Assessment 3-18)*. These papers constitute Parts 2, 3 and 4 of Education and Children's Services framework and guidance for the implementation of *Curriculum for Excellence* across all early years centres and schools in Perth and Kinross.

Sheena Devlin, Service Manager – School Improvement, gave a presentation to Committee.

Resolved:

- (i) *Creating a Curriculum for Excellence* Parts 2, 3 and 4, be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to submit a report to this Committee in October 2009 outlining the impact of the Curriculum for Excellence across all early years centres and schools in Perth and Kinross.

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600. MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE REVIEW

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/544) seeking approval to develop the scope of Mobile Library Services following a recent review of provision.

Resolved:

The development of Mobile Library Services, as outlined in Paragraph 3 of Report 08/544, be approved.

601. GIFT OF THE MARGARET MORRIS ARCHIVE

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/545) seeking approval to accept the offer of the gift of the Margaret Morris Archive, comprising several thousand items relating to her demonstrations and events, photographs, correspondence, day books, sketch books, paintings, drawings, illustrations and costume and set designs.

Resolved:

- (i) The generosity of the offer and the benefits it could bring to the Council be acknowledged.
- (ii) The acceptance of the Gift be approved.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to take forward the necessary arrangements to finalise and secure the Gift.

602. PROCESS FOR APPOINTMENT OF TEACHERS TO POSTS IN DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/546) outlining recommendations to introduce a revised process for the appointment of teachers to posts in denominational schools.

Resolved:

- (i) The process for appointment of teachers to posts in denominational schools be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to implement the revised process for appointment of teachers to posts in denominational schools.

603. STATUTORY CONSULTATION – SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/547) seeking approval for the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to enter into formal consultations to determine the revised School Admission Policy for Perth and Kinross Council.

Resolved:

- (i) The draft revised School Admission Policy, as detailed in Appendix 2 to Report 08/547, be approved.

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- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to consult formally the appropriate bodies and persons listed in Schedule 1 of the Education (Publication and Consultation Etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 (as amended 1987, 1988 and 1989) on the revised School Admission Policy in accordance with the timetable, as detailed in Appendix 3 to Report 08/547.
- (iii) Authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to determine whether amendment is required in light of comments received, and if so, report back to Committee.
- (iv) The implementation of the revised School Admission Policy for Session 2009/2010 for registrations from January 2009 be approved.

604. PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS FOR USE OF PREMISES – INVESTMENT IN LEARNING COMMUNITY CAMPUSES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/548): (1) seeking approval on the principles to be used to develop partnership arrangements within the Investment in Learning Community Campuses; and (2) outlining the actions to be taken to ensure the use of the premises to their maximum to support our communities.

Resolved:

- (i) It be noted that Education and Children's Services were working jointly with other services to implement a Corporate Booking System for all Council facilities, led by the Head of Operations, The Environment Service.
- (ii) It be agreed that Perth and Kinross Leisure charges apply where PKL ran the sports and leisure provision in the Community Campuses, that being consistent with practice at the Community School of Auchterarder and the George Duncan Athletics Arena.
- (iii) It be agreed that key community partners have access to the Integrated Team Bases within the Community Campuses, and Kinross Museum Trust has access to designated space within the Loch Leven Community Campus, at no charge.
- (iv) A simplified pricing structure for Letting of premises be brought forward early in 2009.
- (v) It be agreed that the simplified pricing structure should take account of all running costs including increased energy costs.

605. CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 07/08 AND BUSINESS PLAN FOR 08/09

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/549) seeking endorsement of the Child Protection Committee Annual Report and Business Plan, which summarised the progress of the work of the Child Protection Committee in the last year and identified key areas of work for the Child Protection Committee for the year July 2008 to June 2009.

Resolved:

The Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2007/08 and Business Plan 2008/09 be endorsed.

606. COUNCIL RESPONSE TO SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON THE REFORM OF THE CHILDREN'S HEARINGS SYSTEM – STRENGTHENING FOR THE FUTURE

There was submitted a Joint Report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) and the Head of Democratic Services (08/550) outlining the proposed response to the Scottish Government Consultation Document *Reform of the Children's Hearings System – Strengthening for the Future*.

Resolved:

The proposed response to the Scottish Government consultation document *Reform of the Children's Hearings System – Strengthening for the Future*, be approved as the basis for its submission, with the inclusion of the words "and fund" in the response to question 3 to read "Some concerns remain on the uncertainty over the detail of how the national body is to deliver and fund these remits" and the addition of the following:

The Scottish Government take full cognisance of the current extent of the contribution presently made to the Hearings System by local authorities in terms of resources, both financial and in kind, for training, recruitment and monitoring of Panel Members, administrative support to the Children's Panel and the CPAC, and recruitment and training of Safeguarders and maintenance of a panel of legal representatives of children at children's hearings, and that the Government ensures a continuation of at least equivalent levels of support in future.

With particular reference to Question 3 in the Response, dealing with the proposed national body, the Council's answer is as follows:

The body is welcomed as providing a framework within which local delivery could/should take place – in other words, the national body should be 'light touch'. It will enable promotion of standardisation and good practice to take place; uniformity of support across Scotland for Children's Panels; greater focus on quality assurance; and will be an appropriate body to deliver the strategic aims of the Scottish Government. It will be particularly useful in introducing quality assurance for Safeguarders and legal representatives.

Some concerns remain on the uncertainty over the detail of how the national body is to deliver and fund these remits. The Council's preference would be that recruitment and monitoring of Panel Members continue to be done utilising the skills and expertise of the lay members currently within the CPAC network, however constituted in future, in accordance with the framework and standards set and maintained by the national body.

As far as the title of the body is concerned, the term 'Service' is preferred to 'Agency'. The public appears more familiar with the term 'Children's Panel', rather than 'Children's Hearing', so the suggestion is 'Scottish Children's Panel Service'.

607. FORMER CHERRYBANK ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS SCHOOL SURPLUS PROPERTY

There was submitted a Joint Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) and Head of Property (08/551) recommending: (1) that the former Cherrybank Additional Support Needs School and adjacent school house be declared surplus to the requirements of Education and Children's Services; and (2) the "Lower School" building continue to be occupied by Education and Children's Services and be retained pending any future rationalisation of accommodation needs.

Resolved:

- (i) The former Cherrybank Additional Support Needs school, including the adjacent former school house, be declared surplus to the requirements of Education and Children's Services.
- (ii) Report 08/551 be submitted to the Property Sub-Committee on 5 November 2008 recommending that the availability of the surplus property be circulated to all Services in accordance with the approved Surplus and Vacant Property Protocol.
- (iii) It be recommended to the Property Sub-Committee that, in the absence of any identified internal interest, the properties be disposed of in accordance with the approved protocol.
- (iv) It also be recommended to the Property Sub-Committee that the Head of Property be instructed to investigate options for maximising the potential of the site and any necessary alterations required to improve access to both the retained and surplus portions of the site.

COUNCILLOR W WILSON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

608. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SIX MONTHLY PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/552) reviewing the performance of Education and Children's Services, for the period 1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008, against the Business Management and Improvement Plan.

Resolved:

The Education and Children's Services Six Monthly Performance Summary, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 08/552, be approved.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS SHOULD 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

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609. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND HORSECROSS 2007/08

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/553) providing an assessment of the performance of Perth Theatre and Concert Hall (Horsecross) under the Service Level Agreement for 2007/08. It was noted that paragraph 2.2 of the report should refer to Horsecross and not Perth Theatre Board.

Resolved:

- (i) The overall assessment of the performance of Horsecross under the auspices of the provision of the Service Level Agreement, be agreed.
- (ii) The proposals, as detailed in Paragraph 4.5 of Report 08/553, be agreed.

610. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND PERTH AND KINROSS LEISURE 2007/09

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/554) providing performance information related to the Service Level Agreement for 2007/08 between Education and Children's Services and Perth and Kinross Leisure.

Resolved:

- (i) The overall assessment of the performance of Perth and Kinross Leisure under the auspices of the provision of the Service Level Agreement be agreed.
- (ii) The proposals, as detailed in Paragraph 5 of Report 08/554, be agreed.

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