

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 16 August 2006 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors Hayton, Baird, Bushby, Coburn, Culliven, Doig, A Grant, E Grant, Howie, Lennie, MacLellan, Simpson, Stewart, Mr I Jackson, Mr C Mackie, Father K McCaffrey, Mr F Shewan, Mr D Stewart and Mr G Young.

In Attendance: S Powell, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services), G Carstairs, N Copland, D Lingley, L Mason, L McConnell, B Renton, M Walker, S Watson, C Webb and A Young (all Education and Children's Services); P Munro (Chief Executive's); T Hart, A Wilson and J Adamson (all Corporate Services).

Apology for Absence: Mr A Dunlop

Councillor Hayton, Convener, Presiding.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener welcomed and introduced Mr Stuart Powell, the newly-appointed Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) and referred to the new appointments of Mr Chris Webb (Head of Education Services), Mr Alan Taylor (Head of Support Services), Mr Bill Atkinson (Head of Children and Family Services) and Ms Maria Walker (Head of Youth, Community, Arts and Cultural Services). The Convener also thanked Mr Len McConnell, who would now revert to Depute Director, for his services as Interim Executive Director.

514. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

515. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute of Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 31 May 2006 (Arts 371-385) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

516. MINUTE OF JOINT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEES OF HOUSING AND HEALTH AND LIFELONG LEARNING

The Minute of Joint Meeting of the Executive Sub-Committees of Housing and Health and Lifelong Learning of 28 June 2006 was submitted and noted. (*Appendix I*)

517. SCHOOL ESTATE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2006

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (06/566) seeking approval to submit the School Estate Management Plan, as appended to the Report, to the Scottish Executive as the Council's approved Plan as at 2006.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of the School Estate Management Plan be noted.
- (ii) The Plan be approved as the Council's submission to the Scottish Executive for 2006.

518. AYTOUN HALL, AUCHTERARDER

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (06/567) outlining the position of Perth and Kinross Council towards the local developments regarding the future of Aytoun Hall, Auchterarder, a Council-owned facility for community and civic activity, particularly in relation to the funding offered to the community by the Scottish Executive, and seeking approval to enter into a partnership with representatives of the community to facilitate the development of a business case in support of refurbishing Aytoun Hall.

Resolved:

- (i) The content of Report 06/567 be noted.
- (ii) The proposal, as outlined in Paragraph 5 of Report 06/567, be approved as follows:-
 - (a) Allow Auchterarder Leisure and Recreation Association (ALRA) to take the lead on the refurbishment of Aytoun Hall.
 - (b) Support ALRA in proceeding to develop a Refurbishment Plan, and encourage ALRA to consider all possible scenarios in thinking on the future of Aytoun Hall including, subject to its B Listed status, options for new build and refurbishment of existing facilities.
 - (c) Perth and Kinross Council/ALRA Partnership to be based on a Management Agreement which would be worked up and agreed during the remainder of 2006.
 - (d) In principle, to negotiate contracts, with refurbishment plans reflecting the needs of the community and the Council.
- (iii) It be recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee Property Sub-Committee that Aytoun Hall be leased to Auchterarder Leisure and Recreation Association on terms to be negotiated by the Head of Property.

519. SURPLUS PROPERTY – RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN’S UNITS IN CRIEFF AND PERTH

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services) (06/568) seeking approval to declare the Council’s three current Residential Children’s Units in Crieff and Perth surplus to the operational requirements of Education and Children’s Services as part of the planned reconfiguration of residential children’s services across the Perth and Kinross Area. The properties in question were: No 1, Police Houses, Corlundy Crescent, Crieff; 44 James Street, Perth; and 36 Woodside Crescent, Perth.

Resolved:

- (i) The residential children’s homes at Corlundy Crescent, Crieff; James Street, Perth; and Woodside Crescent, Perth be declared surplus to the operational requirements of Education and Children’s Services.
- (ii) It be noted that at this time, it would be necessary for the premises at Woodside Crescent to remain in operational use pending the commissioning of new facilities at which time the property would be made available for disposal by the Council.
- (iii) It be noted that the Lifelong Learning Committee had previously been advised that the sale proceeds from these three properties would be redirected back into the Service to fund the replacement facilities.
- (iv) Report 06/568 be referred to the Property Sub-Committee for its consideration to proceed with the early disposal of Corlundy Crescent, Crieff and James Street, Perth.
- (v) The Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services) be instructed to provide a further report to the Lifelong Learning Committee on the progress of the residential strategy before the end of 2006.

520. YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE YEAR 4

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services) (06/569) outlining in more detail the local application of the Scottish Executive’s Youth Music Initiative funding in Perth and Kinross.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress of the Youth Music Initiative to date, be noted.
- (ii) It be noted that Perth and Kinross had been allocated £273,328 per year for Years 4 and 5.
- (iii) Building on the results from Years 1-3, the Year 4 proposals for the delivery of the Youth Music Initiative in Perth and Kinross, as set out in Paragraph 3 of Report 06/569, be agreed and continued as follows:-
 - (a) The continuation of the six Saturday schools to realise the P6 target i.e. ‘to offer all pupils the opportunity to access a year’s free tuition by the time they reach P6’.
 - (b) To contribute to raising the achievement of those children least able to access opportunities because of family circumstances. This would be done by offering additional primary school located provision in Letham and Goodlyburn schools and be negotiated with schools and families. This would be as accessible as possible.

- (c) To continue to diversify the music service as a result of the recruitment of extra tutors and up-grading of existing part-time staff, particularly in the guitar/vocal and traditional genres.
- (d) To encourage traditional piping in the area by allocating funds to support the Vale of Atholl Piping Competition.
- (e) To provide a transport subsidy through partnership with the Perth Central Groups Transport Association to allow more rural pupils access to music activities/bands/concerts etc.
- (f) To support the development of the singing group Jambourre Choir attached to the Perth Young Performers.
- (g) To maintain and develop the highly successful WannaB project for the future by contributing to the Perth and Kinross Council/Perth College Partnership.
- (iv) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to report back to the Committee with the results of Year 4 projects in August 2007 with proposals for Year 5 of the Initiative.
- (v) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to evaluate formally the Youth Music Initiative and report back to the Committee in August 2007.

521. 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) (06/570) advising the Committee of the key findings and progress with main points for action, as set out in ten summary reports (Appendices 1-10) from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), Care Commission and Education Authorities.

Resolved:

- (i) The following summary reports, as attached in Appendices 1-10 to Report 06/570, be noted:
 - (a) Summary of the HMIE Inspection Report on Inchtute Primary School (Appendix 1);
 - (b) Summary of the HMIE/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on Stanley Primary School Nursery Class (Appendix 2);
 - (c) Summary of the HMIE/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on St John's RC Primary School Nursery (Appendix 3);
 - (d) Summary of the HMIE/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on Perth College Nursery (Appendix 4);
 - (e) Summary of the HMIE/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on Methven under Fives (Appendix 5);
 - (f) Summary of the HMIE/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on The Kindergarten, Methven (Appendix 6);
 - (g) Summary of the HMIE/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on Inchtute Primary School Nursery Class (Appendix 7)
 - (h) Summary of the HMIE/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on Glenlyon Primary School Nursery Class (Appendix 8);
 - (i) Summary of the HMIE/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on Dunning Stepping Stones (Appendix 9); and
 - (j) Summary of the HMIE Inspection Report on Breadalbane Academy, Aberfeldy (Appendix 10).
- (ii) It be noted that the Standards and Scrutiny Committee on 14 June 2006 had welcomed the reports and noted that improvements were required.