

LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 13 April 2005 at 3.00pm.

Present: Councillor Hayton, Howie, Barrett (substituting Councillor E Grant), Baird, Coburn, Cowan (substituting for Councillor Bushby), Culliven, Doig, A Grant, Lennie, MacLellan, Simpson, Stewart, Mr A Dunlop, Mr I Jackson, Mr C Mackie, Mr F Shewan and Mr D Stewart.

In Attendance: G Waddell (Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)), L McConnell (Depute Director (Education and Children's Services)), J Cockburn, J Halawi, D Knipe, P McAvoy, B Renton, S Strang, A Taylor, M Taylor, A Thomson, A Turnbull and M Walker (all Education and Children's Services); M Underwood (Chief Executive's); A Wilson and J Adamson (Corporate Services).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bushby and E Grant and Mrs J Whitfield.

Councillor Hayton, Presiding.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener referred to the recent death of George Wilson, Head Teacher of Kinross Primary School, and extended deepest sympathy to the family.

272. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

273. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 23 February 2005 (Arts. 138-152) were submitted, noted and authorised for signature.

274. MINUTES OF MEETING OF REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of Meeting of the Review Sub-Committee of 15 February 2005 were submitted and noted. (*Appendix I*)

275. MINUTES OF MEETING OF ATTENDANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of Meeting of the Attendance Sub-Committee of 10 March 2005 were submitted and noted. (*Appendix II*)

276. MINUTES OF MEETING OF JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHING STAFF

The Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee of 21 March 2005 were submitted and noted. (*Appendix III*)

277. DRAFT CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR PERTH AND KINROSS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/219) on the adoption of an over-arching strategic approach to cultural activities in Perth and Kinross and introducing the first draft cultural strategy for the Council area, which had been the subject of wide consultation with key stakeholders and Community Planning Partners and which would be a key document in developing the cultural life of Perth and Kinross.

Resolved:

- (i) The strategy be agreed as a working draft, pending the outcome of the work of the Cultural Commission currently tasked by the Scottish Executive to report on cultural issues.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to work with Community Planning Partners and other stakeholders to produce action plans to take forward the key priorities as detailed in the draft strategy appended to Report 05/219.

- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to bring forward a further report to the Committee once the results of the Cultural Commission are known, and feedback on the initial use and implementation of the Strategy document is available.

278. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES – FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIC POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING (Art. 827/04)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/229) outlining the feedback from the formal consultation exercise on the draft framework for strategy and policy and decision-making, and the Executive Director's consultation/communication strategy, which documents sought to ensure that the strategic lead and direction for the whole service was clear, transparent and understandable to all key stakeholders while outlining the roles/remits/memberships of these stakeholders groups.

Resolved:

- (i) The feedback received as a result of the formal consultation exercise be noted.
(ii) The publication of the framework for strategy policy and decision-making and the Executive Director's consultation/communications strategy contained in Appendix 1 to Report 05/229 be agreed.

279. INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S SERVICE PLAN (2005-08)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/224) seeking approval for the "Integrated Children's Services Plan 2005-08" for Perth and Kinross which would enhance the Council's continuing commitment to achieving better integrated services for children and young people and ensure that there was more co-ordinated working towards the delivery and efficiency of these services.

Resolved:

- (i) The Integrated Children's Services Plan 2005-08 be approved.
(ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) provide an update report on progress made by May 2006.

280. HMIE, CARE COMMISSION AND EDUCATION AUTHORITY REPORTS ON STANDARDS AND QUALITY IN SCHOOLS, PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS (Art. 196)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/220) advising the Committee of the key findings and progress with main points for action as set out in Appendices 1-6 to the report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), Care Commission and Education Authorities.

Resolved:

- (i) The following summary reports of the Care Commission/HMIE Integrated Inspection Reports on the following six establishments be noted:
Abernethy Primary School
Balbeggie Primary School
Greenloaning Primary School
Moncreiffe Primary School (follow-through progress report)
Alyth Primary School Nursery Class
Breadalbane Academy
- (ii) It be noted that the positive nature of the HMIE/Care Commission reports were welcomed at the Standards and Scrutiny Committee on 9 March 2005.

281. DRAFT EQUALITIES POLICY FOR EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/225) on the Council's commitment to equality of opportunity both as a service provider and as an employer and seeking approval for the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to consult with key stakeholders on the draft Equalities Policy.

Resolved:

- (i) "Sexuality" be added to the discriminations listed in paragraph 3.2 of Appendix A to Report 055/225.

- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to consult with key stakeholders on the Draft Equalities Policy as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 05/225.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to report back to the Committee on the outcome of this consultation in September 2005.

282. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT – COMPLAINTS MONITORING PROCEDURE

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/226) seeking approval of the principles and proposals set down for the effective tracking and monitoring of complaints received which would highlight emerging trends for service continuous improvement priority purposes and ensure the delivery of services in a customer-centred manner.

Resolved:

- (i) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to proceed with the implementation of the points for actions proposed in Report 05/226.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to report back to the Committee on progress made.

283. FRAMEWORK FOR LEARNING – SOCIAL SERVICES WORKFORCE – EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (Art. 146)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/222) referring to previous reports to Committee on Continuous Improvement advising how, within a revised structure and a single service, the Social Services Workforce would use the Framework for Learning to meet its requirements for registration including addressing core training needs for different staff roles.

Resolved:

- (i) The new framework as contained in Appendix 1 to Report 05/222, be agreed as part of the agenda for continuous improvement within Education and Children's Services.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to bring back a progress report to the Committee by April 2006.

284. THE STRUCTURE OF CLASSES IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/227) proposing a policy and appropriate guidance on the structure of classes in the primary school, making specific reference to arrangements for forming composite classes and including an information leaflet for parents on composite classes.

Resolved:

- (i) The policy and guidance on the structure of classes in the primary school as set out in Appendix 1 of Report 05/227 be noted.
- (ii) The proposed policy with regard to the formation of composite classes be approved.
- (iii) The proposed leaflet containing information for parents on composite classes contained in Appendix 2 of Report 05/227 be supported.
- (iv) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to bring forward a report in 18 months time detailing the progress and impact of the policy.

285. ACHIEVEMENT AND MONITORING VISITS – CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/223) detailing the findings of the first round of Achievement and Monitoring visits within Cultural and Community Services which were part of the Quality Improvement Framework for that Service. The report highlighted the main service issues arising from the visits and made recommendations for future arrangements.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 05/223 be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to embed this process in the Improvement Framework of Cultural and Community Services.
- (iii) The outcomes from the visits be reported to the Standards and Scrutiny Committee.