

# **ELECTED MEMBER SOUNDING BOARD**

Minute of Meeting of the Elected Member Sounding Board held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Monday 25 May 2020 at 11.00am.

Present: Councillors J Duff, P Barrett, C Purves, X McDade and G Laing; K Reid, Chief Executive; S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); and K Donaldson, Interim Chief Operating Officer.

In Attendance: S Hendry, Corporate and Democratic Services.

## **1. NOTE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The note from the previous meeting of 18 May 2020 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

## **2. OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

- KR advised that the Scottish Government's Test, Trace, Isolate and Support scheme was due to go live on 28 May 2020. PKC, Dundee City Council and Angus Council were working closely with NHS Tayside on the provision of short term staff to support this.
- KR reported that proposed legislation had not passed through the Scottish Parliament in relation to extending the timescales for public bodies to respond to freedom of information requests, so the timescale for response will revert to a 20 day maximum period for response.
- KR advised that a traffic modelling session in relation to the Cross Tay Link Road planning application would be arranged for members.
- Members were asked to provide a nomination from each of their political groups for the individual service sounding boards.
- SD advised that in addition to the updates recently provided on Abernyte Primary School, and also the national Education Recovery Group, it was expected that the Deputy First Minister would make a further statement the following day with more details on recent discussions surrounding education recovery. Further information was available on the PKC website and a report would be submitted to the June Council meeting that sets out the phasing plan for education delivery. Following queries from all members, SD confirmed that discussions were taking place with parents, employers and businesses, as well as negotiations with teaching unions. Work was also taking place on transition possibilities for those children entering P1 and those moving from P7 to S1. Contact had been made with relevant staff who had recently left the organisation in terms of the possibility of providing additional capacity. Other public buildings were being looked at in terms of their feasibility to host additional educational activities as part of social distancing measures.
- KD advised that a business barometer survey was circulated last week to local businesses.
- KD reported that in relation to the Registrars, the Scottish Government were currently consulting on reducing opening hours from 7 days to 6

days, and whether Councils were now in a position to support the registration of births / marriages / civil partnerships. KR reported that there were approximately 230 outstanding births to be registered.

### **3. FINANCE UPDATE**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Finance updating members on any significant financial issues arising from the Scottish Government's, or Council's, response to COVID 19 since the last meeting of the Board, together with any financial actions taken under delegated authority. The report also provided an update on the financial implications and consequences to date.

### **4. EMERGENCY POWERS – RECORD OF DECISIONS**

There was submitted and noted the record of decisions taken under emergency powers as of 25 May 2020.

It was noted that the recent decision by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) regarding postponing the closure date of Abernyte Primary School would be recorded at next week's meeting.

KR agreed to clarify if TTROs are being published and agreed under Emergency Powers. If so, they would be formally recorded as such.

### **5. LATEST GUIDANCE / LEGISLATION CONSIDERED BY GOLD COMMAND**

There was submitted and noted the latest guidance / legislation considered by Gold Command as of 25 May 2020.

### **6. LATEST STATISTICS**

The latest statistics as of 25 May 2020 were submitted and noted.

### **7. MEMBERS Q AND A**

Councillor McDade made reference to the closure of the Pitlochry Hydro Hotel at the weekend following it's owner group going into administration, and praised the work of staff in the Housing and Environment Service for their assistance. Councillor McDade suggested a future protocol for similar events, KR agreed to pass this on to the Executive Director (Housing and Environment).

Following queries by Councillors Barrett and Purves on communications surrounding the re-opening of recycling centres, KR advised that a briefing note would be issued to Group Leaders / representatives.

Following a query by Councillor Purves, KR advised that the Chief Officer / Director – Integrated Health and Social Care would be submitting a summary report on Care Homes to next week's sounding board meeting. Councillor

Purves sought further clarity on whether the additional social care funding from the Scottish Government had been received by the Council, KR advised she would seek clarity from the Chief Officer / Director.

Following a query by Councillor Purves on the Recovery and Renewal Member/Officer Working Group, KR advised that nominations were being sought from political groups for membership of the working group. The deferred presentations on Finance and Recovery and Renewal from the Council meeting of 20 May 2020 would take place on 1 June 2020.