

THE MORAY COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2015

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

Present

Councillors A Skene (Chair), G Alexander (Depute), J Allan, G Coull, L Creswell, J Divers, M Howe, E McGillivray, A McLean, K Reid, M Shand, C Tuke, and A Wright; Reverend S Dicks, Reverend C Ketley and Mrs E Hewitt (Religious Representatives); Ms K McCalman (Primary School Representative); Mrs S Slater (Secondary School Representative); Mrs A Sutherland (Parent Representative) and Miss E Robertshaw (Pupil Representative).

Apologies

There were no apologies for absence however Rev C Ketley had advised he would be late arriving.

In Attendance

The Corporate Director (Education and Social Care); the Acting Head of Schools and Curriculum Development; the Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture and Sport; the Head of Integrated Children's Services; the Business Support Unit Team Manager; the Education Resources Manager; the Senior Education Adviser and Mrs C Howie, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

1. WELCOME AND TRIBUTE

The Committee joined the Chair in welcoming Councillor K Reid and Mrs A Sutherland (Parent Representative) to this their first meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Committee.

The Committee also joined the Chair in paying tribute to the success of some of the young musicians from across Moray. She advised that several of Moray's Secondary School pupils have gained places on the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland (NYOS) with 2 pupils invited to join the NYOS Symphony Orchestra, 3 invited to join the senior orchestra, 1 the junior orchestra and 1 the jazz orchestra respectively and 5 other pupils asked to join training groups.

The Reverend Ketley entered the meeting at this juncture.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

In terms of Standing Order 28 the meeting agreed to vary the order of business set down on the agenda and take item 18 "School Staffing Concerns" prior to item 7 "Elgin Primary School Zoning"; item 7 would then be followed by item 19 "Moray Hydrotherapy Pool: Request for Continued Funding" as the Chair was of the opinion these items would generate discussion and they would be better placed at the start of the business to allow them time, attention and clear focus.

3. DECLARATION OF GROUP INTERESTS

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillors Code of Conduct Councillor Shand declared an interest in item 19 'Moray Hydrotherapy Pool: Request for Continues Funding' and advised he would withdraw from the meeting during discussion of said item.

The meeting noted that there were no other declarations from Group Leaders or spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how Members will vote on any item on the Agenda or any declarations of Member's interest in respect of any other item on the Agenda.

4. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The meeting resolved that in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items of business appearing at the relevant paragraphs of this minute as specified below, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the appropriate paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

<u>Para No of Minute</u>	<u>Para Nos of Schedule 7A</u>
22	4
23	1
24	5

5. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

6. EDUCATION CHAMPIONS SCOTLAND

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) asking Committee to endorse Moray Council becoming a Stonewall Scotland's Education Champion.

Following consideration the Committee agreed that Moray Council become a Stonewall Scotland Education Champion.

7. FOOD EDUCATION STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) asking Committee to approve the Draft Food Education Strategy for Moray schools and pre-school establishments.

Following consideration the Committee approved the Draft Food Education Strategy for implementation in Moray schools and pre-school establishments as set out in appendix 1 of the report.

8. SCHOOL STAFFING CONCERNS

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) advising Committee of the extent of staffing challenges in both primary and secondary schools across the authority and also looking at the wide variety of initiatives currently being considered/undertaken in order to support schools.

During discussion Councillor Divers sought clarification on the possibility of temporarily increasing class sizes in P2 and P3 to help alleviate the challenges currently being faced.

In response the Chair, following discussion with the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care), suggested that the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) be instructed to investigate the process required to authorise any possible increase in class sizes and report the outcome back to a future meeting of this committee. This was agreed.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the contents of the report;
- (ii) to receive regular updates on progress; and
- (iii) that the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) investigate the process to be used to allow temporary increases in P2 and P3 class sizes and report the outcome back to a future meeting of this Committee.

9. ELGIN PRIMARY SCHOOL ZONING

Under reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of this Committee dated 19 November 2014 there was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) seeking Committee approval to bring forward draft proposals for a formal consultation on primary school zoning in Elgin under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.

During discussion Councillor Divers stated he had been in discussion with the other Elgin Ward Members and the Senior Education Adviser on the proposed new Greenwards catchment. He further stated the consensus was that an area currently associated with West End Primary School, as detailed in paragraph 3.6.7 of the report, and proposed to be rezoned into Greenwards Primary should remain within the West End Primary catchment area. This was agreed.

Following further discussion Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Creswell, moved that, contrary to paragraph 3.6.8 of the report, consideration be given to integrating Mosstowie Primary zone within another zone.

In response, the Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture and Sport advised that integrating Mosstowie Primary could result in the closure of Mosstowie Primary. He further advised that the decision had been taken at the special meeting of the Moray Council on 3 November 2014 not to close any rural schools and under the Scottish Government rules Mosstowie is classed as a rural school.

Following further discussion on the pressures currently being faced within the Elgin Primary zone Councillor Alexander, with the agreement of Councillor Creswell, agreed to withdraw his motion.

Thereafter the Committee agreed:

- (a) the key principles for rezoning Elgin primary schools as detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report;
- (b) the draft proposals for Elgin primary school zones;

- (c) to instruct the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) to undertake the next steps in preparing for the consultation and report back to this Committee in order that Committee may agree the consultation proposals; and
- (d) that the specified area currently associated with West End Primary School as detailed in paragraph 3.6.7 of the report and proposed to be rezoned into Greenwards Primary School remain within zoning for West End Primary School.

Councillor Shand left the meeting at this juncture.

10. MORAY HYDROTHERAPY POOL: REQUEST FOR CONTINUED FUNDING

Under reference to paragraph 6 (iv) (a) of the Minute of the Moray Council there was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) asking Committee to consider a request by Moray Hydrotherapy Pool Limited to extend their grant funding beyond the agreed 3 year period.

During discussion Councillor Coull, seconded by Councillor McLean, moved that financial support be provided for a further year and that the report be referred to the Community Planning Board for consideration in relation to future funding support for the Moray Hydrotherapy Pool.

As an Amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Wright, moved that the Committee agree not to support the request by Moray Hydrotherapy Pool Limited for financial support to be continued beyond the agreed 3 year time limit

On a division there voted:

For the Motion (6) Councillors Coull, Creswell, Divers, Howe, McLean and Reid

For the Amendment (6) Councillors Alexander, Allan, McGillivray, Skene, Tuke and Wright

Abstentions (0)

There being an equality of votes the Chairman, in terms of Standing Order 63 (e), cast her casting vote in favour of the Amendment.

Accordingly the Amendment became the finding of the meeting and it was agreed not to support the request by Moray Hydrotherapy Pool Limited for financial support to be continued beyond the agreed 3 year time limit.

Councillor Shand rejoined the meeting at this juncture.

11. SCHOOL INSPECTION – FOLLOW THROUGH REPORTS

Under reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the Meeting of this Committee dated 24 April 2013 there was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informing Committee on Lossiemouth High School and Portknockie Primary School progress following inspection.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and joined the Chair in thanking the staff and congratulating them on the very good progress made

12. DEPARTMENTAL SELF-EVALUATION PROGRESS AND PLANS

Under reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the Meeting of this Committee dated 12 December 2012, there was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informing Committee on the department's progress in evaluating aspects of its work over the last two years and outlining future plans.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the contents of the report;
- (ii) note the progress in evaluating aspects of the work of the department as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (iii) endorse future plans for departmental self-evaluation as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

13. EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE CAPITAL BUDGETS 2014/15

There was submitted and noted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informing Committee of the projects and patterns of expenditure projected for Capital Budgets within Education and Social Care for 2014/15.

14. SCHOOL 'B B' (CONDITION AND SUITABILITY) PROGRAMME 2015/16

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informing Committee of the projects and patterns of expenditure projected for the Schools 'B B' Programme within Education and Social Care for 2015/16.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (a) note the report; and
- (b) approve expenditure on those projects identified within Appendix 1 of the report.

15. SINGLETON INSPECTIONS OF PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES – PUBLISHED REPORTS FROM NOVEMBER 2014 TO DECEMBER 2014

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informing Committee of the content of singleton inspection reports of pre-school centres by the Care Inspectorate which were published between November 2014 and December 2014. These were:

Aberlour and Craigellachie Pre School Nursery, Aberlour
Findochty Primary School Nursery, Findochty
Moray Steiner School Kindergarten, Forres
V.I.P. Childcare – Moray, Elgin

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and joined the Chair in thanking the staff for their hard work and congratulated them in achieving such fine grades.

16. INSPECTION OF MORAY FOSTERING SERVICE

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) inviting Committee to scrutinise and note the inspection of Moray's Fostering Service by the Care Inspectorate which was completed on 21 November 2014.

Prior to discussion the Chair stated this was the beginning of a series of very good reports which demonstrate the high standard of service delivery within Moray.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the content of the inspection report into the Moray Fostering Service; and
- (ii) highly commend the staff for the continual improvement.

17. INSPECTION OF MORAY ADOPTION SERVICE

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) inviting the Committee to scrutinise and note the inspection of Moray's Adoption Service by the Care Inspectorate which was completed on 21 November 2014.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the content of the inspection report into the Moray Adoption Service; and
- (ii) highly commend the staff for the continual improvement.

18. INSPECTION OF MORAY SUPPORTED LODGINGS PROJECT

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) inviting the Committee to scrutinise and note the inspection of Moray's Supported Lodgings Project (MSLP) by the Care Inspectorate which was completed on 14 October 2014.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the content of the inspection report into the Moray Supported Lodgings Project; and
- (ii) highly commend the staff for the continual improvement.

19. MORAY FOSTERING AND ADOPTION PANEL REVIEW 2014

There was submitted and noted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informing Committee of the work undertaken by the Moray Fostering and Adoption Panel during the period January to December 2014.

20. PERFORMANCE REPORT (EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE) – HALF YEAR TO SEPTEMBER 2014

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) outlining the performance of services for the period 1 April to 30 September 2014.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note performance against Education and Social Care Performance Indicators as at the end of September 2014;

- (ii) note progress against Education and Social Care Service Plan actions for 2014/15, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report;
- (iii) welcome good performance as indicated in the report, as set out in paragraph 4 of the report; and
- (iv) note the actions being taken to seek improvements where required.

21. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2014/15

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informing Committee of the budget position for Education and Children and Families Services as at 30 November 2014.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) the revenue budget position as at 30 November 2014; and
- (ii) the Full Year Forecast as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

22. EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE – PARENT CONSULTATION

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informing Committee of the outcome of a recent parental consultation and recommendations on how to deliver early education and childcare in Moray in the future.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:

- (i) to continue to develop more appropriate early learning and childcare for eligible children by enabling parents to use the funded 600 hours flexibly and by enabling parents to use childminders as well as nursery and playgroups;
- (ii) to further analyse current children in need data prior to deciding if the provision of additional day care would be of value over other support services currently provided;
- (iii) that the outcome of this survey be published with a view to external parties considering the viability of providing flexible day care in Moray; and
- (iv) that discussion be held with the Moray Economic Partnership to establish if there are any options for supporting and encouraging any proposed child care developments.

23. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Wright asked the Committee to commend improvements at Mosstodloch Primary School today as a report would not be presented until March.

In response the Chair agreed to commend the progress made and advised this would be reiterated when the report is presented to this Committee in March.

24. MORAY AND NAIRN EDUCATIONAL TRUST – DISBURSEMENT 2014/2015 [PARA 4]

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) providing information and seeking approval for the payment plan as set out in Section 3 of the Moray & Nairn Educational Trust to be used to assess applications to the Moray & Nairn Educational Trust and to consider applications to the trust.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) approve grants at the rates provided in the payment plan; and
- (ii) that the Moray & Nairn Educational Trust be advertised to encourage more applications.

25. COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB OFFICER FOR MORAY [PARA 1]

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) seeking approval to extend the contract of the Community Sports Hub Officer post for a further four year period in partnership with sportscotland.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee to extend the contract of the Community Sports Hub Officer post for a further four year period in partnership with sportscotland and for Moray Council to continue its in-kind support towards this post.

26. SCHOOL PLACINGS AND EXCLUSIONS [PARA 5]

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Legal and Democratic Services informing Committee of meetings of the School Placings & Exclusions Appeals Committee that have taken place in respect of the following cases:

- (i) 08/14, held on 10 September 2014; and
- (ii) 10/14, held on 19 November 2014.

The Secondary Representative sought clarification on membership of the School Placings and Exclusion Committee and referred to information on the Moray Council Website.

In response the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) advised the Moray Council Website would have to be checked and suggested that consideration of the report be deferred until the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Committee. This was agreed.