

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL 2008

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors J Hamilton (Joint Chair: Remit 1), L Bell (Joint Chair: Remit 2), G Coull, S Cree, J Hogg, B Jarvis, G Leadbitter, J MacKay, M McConachie, G McIntyre, A McDonald, G McDonald, E McGillivray, A McKay, I Ogilvie, J Russell, M Shand, J Sharp, R Shepherd, D Stewart, A Wright, I Young, Mrs A MacLennan, Rev G Swanson, (Religious Representative), Mrs Frances Wardhaugh, (Primary Teacher Representative), and Miss Laura Young, (Pupil Representative).

IN ATTENDANCE

The Director of Educational Services, the Head of Educational Support Services, the Educational Resource Manager, Mr P Watson, Mr J Gibson, Mrs S Duffus, and Mr A Dunsire (Quality Improvement Officers), the Support Services Manager, the Leisure & Healthy Living Project Officer, the Active Schools Project Manager, the Director of Community Services, the Head of Social Services, the Head of Financial Services, Mrs D Brands and Mrs L Paisey (Principal Accountants), the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice, the Chief Legal Officer, Mr V Valiente, Trainee Solicitor and Mrs S Kennedy, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors J Divers, F Murdoch, P Paul, D Ross, Reverend C Stewart (Religious Representative) and Mrs S Slater, (Secondary Teacher Representative).

1. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct the meeting noted a SNP Group interest in regard to Agenda Item 6 "Inveravon/Knockando – Paired Headteacher Model".

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 nor any declarations of Members' interest in respect of any Item on the Agenda.

2. WELCOME

The meeting noted that Mr Andy Oliver the newly appointed PPP Project Officer was in attendance and the Committee joined the Chairman in welcoming him to the Education & Social Services Committee.

3. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Meeting noted that there were no written questions for Remit 1 (Education & Young People).

4. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETS 2008/09

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services informing the Committee of the projects and patterns of expenditure projected for Capital Budgets within Educational Services for 2008/09.

During discussion, Councillor Stewart sought assurance that Hythehill Primary School was included in the programme of Capital Works for improvements to primary school play areas referred to in Appendix 1 of the report.

In response the Educational Resource Manager confirmed that Hythehill Primary School was included in the programme of Capital Works.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) approve the programme of Capital Works proposed for Educational Services as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (ii) approve the implementation of the school projects as identified in paragraph 4.4 of the report.

5. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOLS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services seeking Committee approval for a revision to the Authority Policy 'Planning and Quality Assurance as detailed in Section 1 of the report, a Quality Assurance Framework for Schools'.

In response to a concern expressed by Councillor G McDonald in regard to the evaluation and scrutiny of the Quality Improvement Framework for Schools, Mr P Watson, the Quality Improvement Officer clarified the position and advised that a sample of schools would be selected for evaluation and that Head Teachers of the schools involved in the review would receive feedback indicating particular strengths or aspects of provision which could be improved on. He also advised that he was confident that sampling would give an accurate figure and a report on the sampling would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

In support of the proposal and to address a concern from Councillor Shand about the number of Head Teachers who did not support the framework, Ms F Wardhaugh, Primary Teacher Representative advised the Meeting that she was one of the Head Teachers who had not replied within the timescale but she truly welcomed the report and felt that it simplified the whole process and set out the exact process which offered a great amount of support for Head Teachers.

Thereafter, the Committee approved the revised and renamed 'Quality Improvement Framework for Schools' as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

6. INVERAVON/KNOCKANDO – PAIRED HEAD TEACHER MODEL

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to agree the proposal to pilot a second Paired Headteacher Model.

The Chairman advised the meeting that in his opinion the time was right to implement a second pilot. He was aware of the Trade Unions' and Head Teachers' concerns but his main concern was for the education of children and he was confident that their education would be enhanced with a second pilot. He also advised that should it prove necessary there was an opportunity to disengage from the paired model should the evaluations generate substantial concerns.

During discussion Members expressed some concerns about a second pilot scheme taking place without the first pilot being completed and evaluated; the onerous workloads for staff and possible absences due to stress and the risks to two schools if paired head teachers were absent; staff concerns, lack of continuity in schools; the lack of advertisement; the lack of information; the possible loss of head teacher posts and if pilots continue to be added there was a possibility that a policy would happen by default.

The Director of Educational Services clarified the position and stated that Joint Head Teachers was not a policy of this Committee and he had a potential desire to see a number of pilots in operation before a policy was decided upon. He further advised that he would like to see pilots run in other areas e.g. Buckie/ Forres but at present their were practical operational reasons why this had not happened.

Thereafter, Councillor Shand, seconded by Councillor McConachie moved that the Inveravon/ Knockando Paired Head Teacher Model does not go ahead until a full evaluation of the first Pilot is complete.

As an amendment, Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Wright moved approval of the recommendations as printed in the report.

On a division there voted:

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| For the Motion (10): | - | Councillor Shand, McConachie, Coull, Jarvis, Leadbitter, A McDonald, G McDonald, I Ogilvie, Sharp, and Stewart. |
| For the Amendment (14) | - | Councillor Hamilton, Wright, Bell, Cree, Hogg, A McKay, McGillivray, McIntyre, J MacKay, Russell, Shepherd, Young, Rev MacLennan and Rev Swanson. |
| Abstention (1) | - | Ms F Wardhaugh |

Accordingly the Amendment became the finding of the meeting and it was agreed:

- (i) to pilot a paired Headteacher model involving Inveravon and Knockando Primary Schools:
- (ii) that the pilot begin at a suitable date after 14 April 2008 and last until the end of session in July 2009; and
- (iii) that the pilot be evaluated on two occasions over its duration, involve input from staff, parents and pupils of both schools and be the subject of reports to Committee.

Following the tea break it was highlighted that there had been an anomaly in the vote for item 6 "Inveravon/Knockando – Paired Head Teacher Model" and that Councillor Sharp's details had not been registered on the voting system and therefore his vote had not been recorded.

The Meeting noted that the vote had been amended to take account of this anomaly and recorded as 10-14-1 above. The Meeting also noted that the amendment to the vote did not change the decision.

The Chair also took this opportunity to welcome Councillor Sharp to his first meeting of the Education & Social Services Committee since his election as a Councillor.

7. PILOT DEVELOPMENT OF NCH RESIDENTIAL PROVISION

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services updating the Committee on the operation of the NCH 'satellite unit' that was established as a pilot project, and seeking approval to continue the operation of the NCH 'satellite unit'.

Following discussion the Committee agreed to defer further consideration of this report to allow the Chief Legal Officer to seek clarification on issues relating to procurement.

8. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETS 2007/08

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services informing the Committee of the projects and patterns of expenditure projected for Capital Budgets within Educational Services for 2007/08 as at 29 February 2008.

In response to concern expressed by Members about the end of year financial expenditure the Educational Resource Manager and Mrs D Brands Principal Accountant clarified the position and advised that all invoices had not yet been received and processed for the end of the year and a report on the exact figures would be reported to a future meeting of this Committee.

Thereafter, the Committee noted the current position regarding Educational Services' Capital Programme.

9. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services providing a summary statement for Educational Services Revenue Budget as at 29 February 2008.

10. SINGLETON INSPECTIONS OF PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to scrutinise and note the singleton inspections of pre-school centres by the Care Commission which were published between January 2008 and February 2008.

11. INTEGRATED INSPECTIONS OF PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES – PUBLISHED REPORTS FROM FEBRUARY 2008 – MARCH 2008

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to scrutinise and note the integrated inspections of pre-school centres by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the Care Commission which were published between February 2008 and March 2008.

12. MONITORING REPORT: COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services informing the Committee of complaints received during the period 1 January to 29 February 2008.

In response to a query from Councillor G McDonald seeking clarification about the complaints received, the Director of Educational Services advised that the complaints detailed in the report referred to Headquarters only.

Thereafter, Councillor G McDonald, seconded by Councillor A Wright moved that a report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee providing figures of complaints received in Moray schools.

There being no-one otherwise minded the Committee noted the Complaints Procedure and agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee on the number of complaints received in schools.

13. SCHOOL INSPECTIONS – MORAY COUNCIL FOLLOW-THROUGH REPORTS JANUARY – MARCH 2008

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to scrutinise and note the most recent report published by the Moray Council Educational Services following an earlier school inspection by HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE).

14. PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING – EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND 2006/07

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services notifying the Committee of public performance information as detailed in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, of the report in regard to exclusion from schools in Scotland.

15. PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING – EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOL EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND 2006/07

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services notifying the Committee of public performance information with regard to expenditure on school education in Scotland as detailed in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the report.

16. PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING – PUPILS IN SCOTLAND 2007

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services notifying the Committee of information with regard to Pupils in Scotland, mainly derived from the latest annual pupil census, which took place in September 2007.

In response to a query from Councillor Leadbitter asking if there was an indication that pupil number trends were changing as a result of migrant worker populations, the Director of Educational Services advised that he was unable to provide this information at this point. He informed the meeting that a school census would be carried out in September 2008, which may provide these figures, however he was unsure if the census would identify these categories. The results of the School census would be reported to a future meeting of this Committee.

Thereafter, the Committee noted the public performance information contained in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report in relation to pupils in Scotland 2007.

17. PILOT DEVELOPMENT OF NCH RESIDENTIAL PROVISION

The Meeting resumed discussion of Agenda Item 7, 'Pilot Development of NCH Residential Provision'.

The Chief Legal Officer explained the background to the current pilot and suggested that Members approve the continuation of the service and that the funding of the project be referred to Policy Committee for approval.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed an increase in NCH residential provision in Moray through the continuation of the 'satellite unit' linked operationally to Forres Children's Home subject to financial issues being approved by Policy Committee.

18. EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT MONITORING REPORT 2007/08

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services providing an update on progress in respect of the Council's Efficient Government agenda as it affects Educational Services for the period to 29 February 2008 as detailed in the report and Appendix 1.

19. CELEBRATING SUCCESS

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services sharing with the Committee some of the successes and services within Educational Services which have been achieved in recent months.

20. LEISURE AND HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAMME – UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services informing the Committee on the progress made to date in relation to the Leisure and Healthy Living Programme and seeking prior approval for Officers to accept the lowest tender that matches best value for Buckie and Speyside Synthetic Turf Pitches.

In response to a query raised by Councillor Coull on behalf of Councillor Paul about Lottery funding the Leisure and Healthy Living Officer explained the reasons as to why lottery funding had been applied for on behalf of Buckie and not for Speyside.

During discussion, Councillor Hamilton supported by Councillor Wright highlighted to the Meeting that in future reports it should be recorded that the "lowest tender that matches best value is accepted".

Thereafter the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note the progress made in relation to the Leisure and Healthy Living Programme;

- (ii) note that the Leisure and Healthy Living Programme will remain as a distinct programme but will be administered and tracked through the Educational Services Capital Programme; and
- (iii) delegate authority to the Director of Educational Services, in consultation with the Joint Chairs, to accept the lowest tender that matches best value for Buckie and Speyside Synthetic Turf Pitches.

21. PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) PROJECT BOARD

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services inviting the Committee to appoint a Member to fill a vacancy on the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Project Board and to either appoint a Chairperson or delegate responsibility to the PPP Project Board to appoint a Chairman at its next meeting.

Councillor Wright seconded by Councillor A McKay moved that Councillor Hamilton be appointed as the Council's Representative on the PPP Project Board.

There being no-one otherwise minded Councillor Hamilton was appointed as the Council's representative on the PPP Project Board and it was further agreed that it be delegated to the Board to appoint a Chairperson at its next meeting.

22. CONTINUATION OF ACTIVE SCHOOLS IN MORAY – 2008-2011

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to approve the continuation of the partnership with Sportscotland in respect of Active Schools until 2011, including the continued part-funding of the Active Schools initiative for this period.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor A McKay regarding the Buckie Rugby Club the Educational Resource Manager agreed to follow up these issues with Councillor McKay following the Meeting.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor Wright in regard to the performance outcomes and measuring arrangements the Director of Educational Service advised that the Active Schools in Moray initiative was one of a suite of activities from the Scottish Government put in place to address the widest health agenda and there were a number of measures being carried out which will measure the impact of the active schools Agenda for improving health.

The Educational Resource Manager, and the Active Schools Project Manager advised that good health was a result of many different elements e.g. health, food and nutrition and they would be happy to look at other data sources that may provide a better picture. It was noted that Moray had exceeded the targets set and were developing links with other sports clubs and that increased physical activity at a young age had resulted in a cut in the number of deaths through coronary heart disease.

Thereafter, the Committee approved the continued partnership with Sportscotland in respect of Active Schools up to 2011 with the conditions as summarised in para 3.5 of the report and the financial implications as detailed in para 4(c) of the report and that further progress reports would be submitted to a future meeting of this committee.

23. QUESTION TIME

The Meeting noted that there were no questions.

24. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Meeting noted that there were no written questions for Remit 2 (Health & Social Care).

25. SOCIAL WORK REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2007/08

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services informing the Committee of the current position regarding the Social Work Revenue and Capital budgets and the revised rates for Free Personal and Nursing Care and Care Home Fees for 2008/09.

The Director of Community Services advised the meeting that the report identified a complicated budgetary position portraying a considerable underspend. He advised that there were clear reasons outlined in the report for the underspend which mainly related to new Learning Disability Services which were due to come on stream in Forres later in the year.

During discussion, Members expressed concern in regard to the accuracy, layout and presentation of the report and requested that a replacement Appendix 1 be circulated to all Members.

Councillor Jarvis took the opportunity to congratulate staff on meeting the National Care Contract Quality Standards for 2007/08 and welcomed the increase in Free Personal Nursing Care.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note the position of the revenue budget for Social Work as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) note the position of the capital programme for Social Work for 2007/8 as set out in APPENDIX 2 of the report;
- (iii) note the uplift for Free Personal and Nursing Care payments from 1 April 2008; and
- (iv) approve the uplift for Nursing and Residential Care Home Fees for 2008/09.

26. EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT MONITORING 2007/08

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services updating the Committee on the Council's Efficient Government Agenda as it affects Community Services.

The Director of Community Services updated the meeting on the current position relating to the end of the financial year and explained that some issues still had to be finalised for the year end figures. He responded to Members concerns in relation to achieving and sustaining targets in the future and advised that if there were any pressures in achieving targets in the future this would be reported to Committee. The Director stressed that in the pursuit of efficiency savings, he would not put at risk any statutory services for the public.

In response to Members concerns regarding the achievement of targets, the Chief Legal Officer explained that the schedule for services had been inherited as part of the Council's previous government settlement and clear common themes were set down in relation to Procurement and Vacancy Management. He advised that there were now clear guidelines and targets set by the Scottish Government and that there would be an element of transition from existing to new policy and practice which would be picked up on the 14 May 2008.

Thereafter the committee noted the report.

27. TENDERING FOR CARERS' SERVICES – PROGRESS UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services updating the Committee on progress in relation to the development of a specification for Carers Services and the indicative timetable for tendering.

The Director of Community Services advised the meeting of the current position in relation to the development of a specification for Carers Services and the indicative timetable for tendering. He intimated that they were slightly ahead of schedule and hoped to have new services in place later this

year. The specific detail of the types of services that need to be delivered has been informed with the help of the public

Councillor Bell congratulated staff for their work and efforts in meeting the timescales

Councillor Sharp commended the Community Services for the research work being carried out into best practice elsewhere.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the work that is underway to strengthen services for Carers across Moray;
- (ii) to note the timetable for specification development and tendering; and
- (iii) agreed that further updates are made available as necessary to Committee on progress.

28. OLDER PEOPLES' SERVICES DRAW DOWN

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services informing the Committee of plans for utilisation of new funding of £350k for Older People's Services, approved as part of the Budget for 2008/09 by the Moray Council on 13 February 2008.

The Head of Community Care updated the Meeting on the current position regarding Older People Services. She advised that the Council's key priority was to provide good quality services and to improve access and support to services that are properly and effectively managed. It was noted that a huge amount of work had been undertaken by staff on the ground to deliver services and shift the balance of care from institutional to home based care.

In response to a concern expressed by Councillor G McDonald regarding a rumour about the Muirton Ward at Buckie, the Director of Community Services and the Head of Community Care advised that they were not aware of any changes to service provision.

Councillor McIntyre agreed to raise this issue under the Community Planning Agenda.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to establish the following additional posts in local area teams as undernoted:-

- (i) 4.75 wte Community Care Officers
- (ii) 0.50 wte Care Organisers
- (iii) 1.00 wte Day Care Officer
- (iv) Begin new Home from Hospital Services in Buckie and Forres
- (v) 0.50 wte admin support, proposed Grade 3

29. JOINT PERFORMANCE INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK (JPIAF) ANNUAL EVALUATION AND THE NATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR COMMUNITY CARE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services informing the Committee of the Moray Community Health and Social Care Partnership (MCHSCP) progress against the Joint Performance Information and Assessment Framework (JPIAF) for 2006/7 and the changes in the performance management arrangements with the introduction of the National Outcomes for Community Care.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note the progress made against the JPIAF 2006/7;
- (ii) note the change from the JPIAF to a National Outcome Framework for Community Care for implementation in 2008/9; and
- (iii) refer this report to the Audit and Performance Review Committee for information.

30. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Leadbitter asked if a report could be provided on how the Council interacts with Social Enterprise Companies.

The Head of Social Care agreed to provide a report on Community based activities to a future meeting of this Committee.