

**THE MORAY COUNCIL**  
**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2010**  
**COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN**

**PRESENT**

Councillors J Hamilton (Chairman), A McKay (Depute), G Coull, J Divers, J Hogg, A McDonald, I Ogilvie, D Ross, J Russell, M Shand, I Young, Mrs A R MacLennan, Rev C M Stewart and Rev G Swanson (Religious Representatives), Mrs S Slater (Secondary Representative) and Miss F Jagger (Pupil Representative).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Director of Community Services, the Director of Educational Services, the Head of Children, Families & Criminal Justice, the Head of Educational Resource Services, the Acting Head of Educational Support Services, the Active Schools Manager, the Head of Financial Services, the Libraries and Museums Manager, the Sports Development Officer, Mr J Gibson, Mrs S Duffus, Mr P Watson, Ms L Whitelaw, Mr D MacDonald Quality Improvement Officers, Mrs D Brands, Principal Accountant, Mrs R Gunn, the Acting Principal Solicitor, (Litigation & Licensing) the Public Relations Co-ordinator, Mr J Akehurst, Performance and Strategy Manager, Mr D Westmacott, Apprentice Committee Services Officer, and Mrs S Kennedy, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors M McConachie, E McGillivray, Ms F Wardhaugh, (Primary Teaching Representative) and Councillors G McIntyre and A Wright (Ex-Officio).

**1. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS**

There were no 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. WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

The meeting noted the following written question submitted by Councillor Hogg and the Council's response as undernoted:

### **QUESTION**

There are many reports from across the UK of school children, parents and teachers contributing in various ways to snow clearing in their local communities.

Here in Moray, Gordonstoun provided one such example of community spirit.

Can I ask whether any similar efforts associated with this Education Authority's schools have been identified and if so that they are reported to a future meeting of this Committee for recognition?

### **COUNCIL RESPONSE**

No similar efforts have been identified by officers to date but schools will be contacted for information and a further response will be provided for Committee at an appropriate future date.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

As a supplementary question, Councillor Hogg asked that the efforts of the individual schools be reported to the next meeting of this Committee on 14 April 2010 and that individual schools be urged to report their efforts to Officers at the earliest opportunity and this was agreed.

## **3. STRATEGIES FOR RAISING ATTAINMENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services inviting the committee to scrutinise and note the strategies for raising attainment in secondary schools for session 2010-2012.

During discussions the meeting noted the concerns expressed by Councillor Hogg with regard to an action plan relating to the strategies for raising attainment and agreed a meeting be arranged following the meeting with Councillor Hogg, the Chairman and Director to discuss his concerns further.

In response to Councillor Young's query re comparator stats, the Director of Educational Services agreed to re-issue this information to members.

In regard to Councillor Shands's query re the targets the Director of Educational Services agreed to ask the Head of Educational Services to discuss this further with Councillor Shand.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note and endorse the strategies for raising attainment in secondary schools for session 2010-2012;
- (ii) arrange a meeting with Councillor Hogg, Director of Educational Services and the Chair of Children & Young People's Committee to discuss further concerns expressed by Councillor Hogg.

#### **4. ADVERTISING AT COUNCIL OWNED FOOTBALL GROUNDS**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to consider whether or not to allow the use of 'permanent' advertising boards at Council owned football grounds.

During discussion, Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Divers moved that recommendation 2.1 (b) of the report relating to delegated authority to officers to determine an interim charge for the use of advertising boards at the identified sports pitches be removed and that no charge be introduced.

As an Amendment Councillor Russell moved approval of the recommendations as printed.

Following further discussion and clarification from the Head of Educational Resource Services, Councillor Russell agreed to withdraw his motion with the assurance that should the position with regard to additional admin costs change for the Department then a report would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

In response to a question from Councillor Ross seeking clarification of what level of indemnity, Football Clubs will require to have Mrs R Gunn, Acting Principal Solicitor advised that she expected that Clubs would require to have standard indemnity for negligence in place so that the Council is not liable.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to approve in principle, the use of 'permanent' advertising boards at Council sports pitches with spectator fences at Pinefield, Elgin and Coularbank, Lossiemouth as described in paragraphs 3.7 to 3.11 of the report;
- (ii) to instruct officers to inform clubs that the use of 'permanent' advertising boards is subject to planning consent and that clubs would be solely responsible for obtaining such consent;
- (iii) that in terms of indemnity that all Football Clubs be given clear guidance for any injuries that may be caused through the use of advertising boards; and
- (iv) that should the position change in terms of additional costs to the Council the Head of Educational Resources Services would submit a report to a future meeting of this Committee.

## **5. REVISED STAFF SUPERVISION POLICY**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services seeking Committee approval for a revised Staff Supervision Policy for the Children and Families Social Work Service.

Following discussion the Committee agreed to approve the revised staff supervision policy.

## **6. EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETS 2009/10**

There was submitted a joint report by the Directors of Educational and Community Services informing the Committee of the projects and patterns of expenditure projected for Capital Budgets within Educational and Community Services for 2009/10 to 31 December 2009.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the current position with regard to the Educational and Community Services Capital Programme for 2009/10 as at 31 December 2009; and
- (ii) approve implementation of the capital projects as detailed in paragraph 4.4 of the report.

## **7. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services providing a summary statement for the Educational Services Revenue Budget as at 31 December 2009 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Councillor Ross queried the lack of progress towards resolution of the energy budget difficulties and the Head of Educational Resource Services undertook to investigate this if necessary in consultation with Legal Services.

## **8. SINGLETON INSPECTIONS OF PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES**

There was submitted 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 December 2009 and January 2010.

The Chair on behalf of the Committee congratulated all staff involved in the inspection process.

Following consideration the Committee noted the Singleton inspections in respect of:

- (i) Double Decker Playgroup, Duffus;
- (ii) Milne's Primary School Nursery, Fochabers; and

- (iii) Playmates Pre-5 Centre, Forres.

### **9. INTEGRATED INSPECTIONS OF PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES - PUBLISHED REPORTS FROM DECEMBER 2009 TO JANUARY 2010**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Children and Young People's Services Committee to scrutinise and note the integrated inspection of pre-school centres by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the Care Commission (CC) which was published in December 2009 and January 2010.

Following consideration the Committee noted the integrated Inspections as detailed in Appendices 1 & 2 of the report in respect of:

- (i) Torridon Pre-School Nursery, Lossiemouth;
- (ii) Moray Leisure Centre Childcare Centre, Elgin;
- (iii) Noah's Ark Day Care and Developmental Playgroup, Forres; and
- (iv) the follow through report in respect of Cullen Play Centre, Cullen.

### **10. HMIE SCHOOL INSPECTIONS - PUBLISHED REPORTS DECEMBER 2009 - JANUARY 2010**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to scrutinise and note the most recent reports published following inspections by HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) of schools and nursery classes in Moray.

Following consideration the Committee noted the most recent published report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) as detailed in Appendices 1, 1a, 2 and 2a of the report in respect of:

- (i) Findochty Primary School and Nursery Class; and
- (ii) St Sylvester's RC Primary School.

### **11. AUTHORITY INTERIM FOLLOW THROUGH REPORT ON LHANBRYDE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services notifying the Committee of the progress made by Lhanbryde Primary School in responding to the areas for improvement in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) report on the school as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

The Chair on behalf of the Committee congratulated the Acting Head teacher, staff, parents and pupils for all their hard work in turning the school around in a short timescale and also thanked the Numeracy and Literacy Officers and the Quality Improvement Officer for their support.

## **12. ELGIN ACADEMY STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO HMIE INSPECTION SEPTEMBER 2009**

There was submitted, noted and endorsed a report by the Director of Educational Services notifying the Committee of the action plan prepared in response to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) findings on Elgin Academy as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

## **13. PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING - ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE/DESTINATION OF LEAVERS**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services notifying the Committee of performance information with regard to school attendance, absence and destination of school leavers 2008/09 following publication of the Scottish Government Statistical Notice on 8 December 2009 as detailed in Appendices 1-4 of the report.

## **14. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PPP BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

There was submitted and noted a joint report by the Director of Educational Services and the Chief Financial Officer providing a summary monitoring statement for the PPP Budget as at 31 December 2009 and the revised forecast revenue budget position as at 31 March 2010 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

## **15. MONITORING REPORT: COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to consider the Complaints Monitoring Report for the period 1 October to 31 December 2009 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Councillor Russell and the Reverend C Stewart left the meeting on the conclusion of this item.

## **16. ACTIVE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services informing the Committee of the progress of the initiative, specifically against the performance detailed in the Active Schools Annual Action Plan 2009-2010.

During discussion Elected Members requested that in future reports, performance information is provided in both percentage and number format.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the progress achieved to date with regard to Active Schools in Moray and specifically the progress against the performance indicators contained in the Active Schools Annual Action Plan for 2009-2010 as detailed in the report; and
- (ii) that consideration is given in liaison with SportsScotland to provide performance indicators in both number and percentage format for future reports.

### **17. COMPLAINTS MONITORING REPORT, THIRD QUARTER, OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2009**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to scrutinise the Complaints Monitoring information for Children, Families Services, for the quarter, 1 October to 31 December 2009, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

In response to a concern expressed by Elected members with regard to the level of detail contained within the report, the Director of Community Services advised that he was happy to change the report detail.

### **18. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services informing the Committee of the position at 31 December 2009 regarding the Children & Families Revenue budget as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

### **19. SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION AGENCY (SWIA) - OUTCOME OF FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION 2009**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services advising the Committee on the outcome of SWIA's follow-up performance inspection which took place in June and August 2009. The report also outlined what has been both undertaken and planned in relation to the four areas where SWIA considers more progress is required.

The Chair on behalf of the Committee congratulated staff on their progress.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to note:

- (i) the outcome of the follow-up performance inspection of Social Work Services in Moray; and
- (ii) the progress made and actions planned in relation to the remaining areas of practice which required further development with regard to services for Children and Families.

## **20. 2006 ACCORD FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN SCOTTISH SPORT**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services informing the Committee that the Sports Development and Active Schools have signed up to the 2006 Accord for the protection of children in Scottish sport. The Committee further noted the devised action plan as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

## **21. LIBRARIES INTEGRATION PROGRAMME**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services inviting the Committee to note the timetable for the Libraries Integration Programme which should be completed by October 2010.

## **22. MORAY PARTICIPATION IN THE AMERICAN EVALUATION ASSOCIATION 2009 CONFERENCE 'EVALUATION IN CONTEXT'**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services informing the Committee of the outcome of Moray's participation in the American Evaluation Association 2009 Conference "Evaluation in context" and the implications for Moray's Realtime Evaluation programme in measuring outcomes and evaluating services for Children and Families.

The Chair advised the Committee that the Evaluation for Practice Conference scheduled to take place on the 9-11 March 2010 had regrettably been cancelled due to low uptake. He also extended his thanks to Nicola Milne, Lori McQuaker and Jeremy Akehurst for progressing arrangements for the conference and to Graeme Shanks and Philip Buckle for their technical support.

Thereafter, the Committee noted the outcome of Moray's participation in the American Evaluation Association 2009 Conference "Evaluation in Context" and the implications for Moray's Realtime Evaluation programme in measuring outcomes and evaluating services for Children and Families

## **23. LIBRARIES: LOCAL HERITAGE SERVICE AND ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services inviting the Committee to note the results of the options appraisal study in respect of a new Local Heritage Centre; to approve the recommendations in respect of the continued use of the old East End School premises, to approve the recommendations in respect of the Council seeking to meet its statutory obligations in respect of libraries and historic records, and to consider how possible uses of the Tolbooth might be addressed.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the conclusions of the options appraisal study in respect of a new Local Heritage Centre and agree that, given the current financial pressures on local government and reduced availability of external funding opportunities, such a centre cannot be considered in the short to medium term.

- (ii) that in order for the Council to ensure an effective Local Heritage Service that contributes to the social, cultural and economic regeneration of Moray and meets its statutory obligations in respect of libraries and historic records, Committee approves the following recommendations which can be achieved from within existing financial resources and which have been the subject of consultation with the Keeper of the Records in Scotland:
- (a) that the Local Heritage Centre continues to be located at Old East End School, Elgin;
  - (b) that, should the current meeting rooms within the premises become available, Committee recommends to the Council's Asset Management Group that they be used for records and archival storage purposes, thereby enabling valuable collections to be returned and located to Moray;
  - (c) that the James S MacPherson bequest be used to fund the development of the proposed storage area within the Local Heritage Centre and that appropriate recognition be made by designating the existing search room the "James S MacPherson Room";
  - (d) that the existing Greshop store be used to house the Council's archives including those currently stored at the Tolbooth, Forres;
  - (e) that, as essential measures, conservation and preservation programmes be prepared in consultation with appropriate organisations including the National Archives of Scotland and, whenever possible, seeking external funding.
- (iii) That in respect of the Tolbooth, Forres, the Committee:
- (a) noted that the Libraries and Museums Service would have no further interest in the property should alternative provision be agreed for archive storage and that the museum offices transfer to the museum store;
  - (b) agreed that the future use of the Tolbooth be referred to the Council's Asset Management Group for consideration while noting that there are very strong expressions of interest from the community in managing the premises, and;
  - (c) noted that by vacating the Tolbooth annual savings of £10,000 can be achieved.

## 24. QUESTION TIME

In response to a question from Councillor Coull with regard to the GLOW project in schools the Director of Educational Services advised that it was a real issue for the department and the project would only work if supported and that he would be happy to

provide an update and presentation to Elected Members on the importance of on-going training.

It was agreed that the Director of Educational Services would make arrangements for a presentation on the GLOW project to Elected Members.

In response to a question from Councillor Young with regard to the prospect of Trust status for schools, the Head of Educational Resource Services advised that he had contacted Don Ledingham, Director of Educational Services, East Lothian Council who is currently looking into this, however a lot of work still has to be done and he has asked East Lothian Council to update him on any further developments.