

THE MORAY COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE 2010

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors J Hamilton(Chairman), A McKay, G Coull, J Divers, J Hogg, M McConachie, A McDonald, I Ogilvie, D Ross, J Russell, M Shand, I Young, Mrs A MacLennan, Reverend C Stewart (Religious Representatives), Ms F Wardhaugh, Primary School Representative, Mrs S Slater, Secondary School Representative and Councillor A Wright (ex-officio).

IN ATTENDANCE

The Director of Community Services, the Director of Educational Services, the Head of Educational Resource Services, the Head of Educational Development Services, the Acting Head of Educational Support Services, the Educational Resource Manager, the Community Learning & Development Manager, the Placement Services Manager, the Head of Financial Services (in respect of item 21), the Sports Development Officer, Mr D MacDonald Quality Improvement Officer, Mrs D Brands, Principal Accountant, Mrs R Gunn, the Acting Principal Solicitor, (Litigation & Licensing),and Mrs S Kennedy, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor E McGillivray, Rev G Swanson (Religious Representative), Fiona Jagger, (Pupil Representative), and Councillor G McIntyre (ex-officio).

1. APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF COMMUNITY CARE

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chair advised the meeting that the Appointments Committee had met on the 8 June 2010 and Mrs J Mackie had been unanimously appointed as Head of Community Care. Mrs Mackie had been Acting Head of Community Care for the past year and had all the necessary experience and skills for the post and would assume the position with immediate effect. The Chair on behalf of the Committee congratulated her on her appointment.

2. DECLARATION OF GROUP INTERESTS

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct the meeting noted that Ms F Wardhaugh declared a personal interest in item 15, HMle School Inspections, Published Reports April to May 2010.

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.

3. 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 No of Schedule 7A</u>
42	4
43	5 & 9

4. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The meeting noted the following written question submitted by Councillor Ross and the Council's response thereto:

Further to the update given at Audit and Performance Committee on 28 April, and in light of recent announcements by the Scottish Government, are schools in Moray prepared for the introduction of Curriculum for Excellence and what additional support has been sought from the Scottish Government to assist with the roll-out of Curriculum for Excellence in August?

COUNCIL RESPONSE

Schools in Moray continue to develop and implement appropriate strategies, approaches and resources to enable and facilitate the continuing roll-out of Curriculum for Excellence. The Department, in discussion with Head Teachers, Quality Improvement Officers and HMle, has requested input and support from HMle on a number of areas including assessment and reporting.

As a supplementary question Councillor Ross asked what the Education Department is doing to gather more information and any proposals for changes in the examination process and how quickly that can be fed into teachers, pupils and parents considering that the new school term is just a few months away?

In response The Head of Educational Development Support Services advised that the concerns were part of the topic answered at Audit and Performance Committee which revolved around the complexity of Curriculum for Excellence and around resources including the support that has been requested by this authority and he was meeting with the District Inspector on Monday to pursue this matter further.

He clarified that Curriculum for Excellence is not as suggested being introduced from August as this has been an ongoing development since the report of the Task Group and significant work had been undertaken in Moray as was detailed in the report to

Audit and Performance and in the last report to this Committee in terms of the work within Moray since 2004.

With regard to the concerns around the examinations he advised that this is largely the national developing picture in terms of the SQA. The SQA has committed itself to work with professionals/teachers in terms of shaping those examinations, they have sought representatives for different groups to support the development. They are also very clear that the examination system will reflect the principles of Curriculum for Excellence and will build on the experiences and outcomes which we already have and there is a commitment to work with the profession as we move into the future.

5. ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Under reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of Educational Services Committee dated 5 December 2001, there was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services seeking Committee approval to reserve places in certain Moray Primary Schools for session 2010/11.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to reserve:

- two places at every stage of education in Bishopmill Primary School (14 spaces)
- two places at every stage of education in West End Primary School (14 spaces)

6. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services seeking Committee approval for the Authority's Parental Involvement Strategy.

Following consideration the Committee approved the Parental Involvement Strategy.

7. POLICY ON PAIRED HEADTEACHERS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services inviting the Committee to agree the policy on paired headteachers.

Following lengthy discussion, Councillor M Shand seconded by Councillor G Coull moved that the policy on paired Headteachers for Primary schools be deferred for further information.

As an Amendment Councillor J Hamilton, seconded by Councillor A McKay moved approval of the recommendation as printed in the report.

On a division there voted:

For the Motion (7) - Councillors Shand, Coull, McConachie, A McDonald, I Ogilvie, Ms F Wardhaugh and Mrs S Slater.

For the Amendment (8) Councillor Hamilton, A McKay, Divers, Hogg, Ross, Russell, Young and Mrs A MacLennan.

Abstentions (1)

Reverend C Stewart

The Amendment became the finding of the meeting and it was agreed to approve the policy on paired headteachers in primary schools.

8. KINSHIP CARE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services seeking approval from the Committee to implement a Kinship Care Scheme for Moray.

In response to concerns expressed in relation to the delays for the scheme, the Placement Service Manager advised that a new Kinship Care Officer had been appointed, however the delays related to legislation and under the terms of the Concordat the guidelines given are that the scheme should be in place by 2011 and many authorities were not even at this stage. Councillor Wright also advised that due to the variety of approaches taken it took a long time for COSLA to reach an agreement on the way forward.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to approve a Kinship Care Scheme for Moray as detailed in the report.

9. MORAY PERMANENCE PANEL

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services advising the Committee of the operational arrangements for the Moray Permanence Panel.

10. EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETS 2009/10: END OF YEAR POSITION

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services informing Committee of the level of expenditure and final position of the Capital Budgets within Educational and Community Services for 2009/10.

In response to a question from Councillor Ross with regard to the possibility of reducing the cost of professional of fees the Director of Educational Services advised that the bulk of fees relate to work done in-house by Architects and Quantity Surveyors and is the minimum amount that has to be spent on a project to get it to the stage at which informed decisions could be taken and was an unavoidable cost.

In response to a question from Councillor McConachie with regard to Cabrach School and in particular the transfer of solar panels, the Head of Educational Resource Services advised that the panels had been a gift, however there were some concerns about the installation of the panels around the structure of the roof. He urged caution about reference to the imminent closure of Cabrach School and advised that no decision on the closure of Cabrach School had been made and a full public and statutory consultation would have to take place before a decision is taken to close. In the event of closure the facility would move to the Council Estate and they would try and save any equipment at that time.

Thereafter, the Committee noted the end of year position with regard to the Capital budgets for Education and Community Services.

11. EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETS 2010/11

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services informing Committee of the projects and patterns of expenditure projected for Capital Budgets within Educational and Community Services for 2010/11.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the programme of Capital Works proposed for Educational and Community Services as identified within Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (ii) approve implementation of the capital projects as identified in Paragraph 4.4 of the report.

12. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services providing a summary statement for the Educational Services Revenue Budget as at 31 March 2010.

In response to a concern expressed by Councillor Coull with regard to the marketing of coffee bars the Director of Educational Services advised that Community Centres and Libraries were not set up as commercial entities, however he advised that the Chief Executive was currently carrying out a review and that this issue would be forthcoming as part of the budget review.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor Ross with regard to the issue of energy costs and in particular the possibility of seeking recompense for the Council the Director of Educational Services advised that this issue would be better addressed at the Policy and Resources Committee and that he would raise the issue with the Chief Financial Officer.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the budget position as at 31 March 2001 as detailed in the appendix to the report;
- (ii) that a report be submitted to Policy and Resources Committee with regard to the energy issues.

13. SINGLETON INSPECTIONS OF PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES - PUBLISHED REPORTS FROM APRIL 2010 TO MAY 2010

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 April 2010 and May 2010 in respect of:

Bishopmill Pre-school Centre, Elgin;
Burghead Primary School Nursery, Burghead;
Hythehill Primary School Nursery, Lossiemouth;
Miltonduff Playgroup, Miltonduff; and
New Elgin Primary School Nursery, Elgin

14. INTEGRATED INSPECTIONS OF PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES - PUBLISHED REPORTS - APRIL 2010

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the 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 April 2010 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report in respect of the Jack 'n' Jill Pre-school Centre & 1st Base Out of School Care, Elgin.

15. HMIE SCHOOL INSPECTIONS - PUBLISHED REPORTS APRIL - MAY 2010

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 following inspection by HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) of schools and nursery classes in Moray as detailed in Appendices 1 and 1a of the report in respect of the Inspection of Mosstowie Primary School.

16. HMIE SCHOOL INSPECTIONS - MORAY COUNCIL FOLLOW-THROUGH REPORT APRIL 2010

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 Moray Council Educational Services following earlier school inspections by HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report in respect of Glenlivet Primary School.

The Chair on behalf of the Committee congratulated all staff involved in the inspection process in respect of items 13-16 above.

17. AUTHORITY INTERIM FOLLOW THROUGH REPORT ON ELGIN ACADEMY

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services notifying the Committee of the progress made by Elgin Academy in responding to the areas for improvement in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) report on the school.

During discussion Councillor Russell recognised the ongoing work and action to date within our schools with regard to business and asked that a report be brought to a future meeting of this Committee on the business education going on within Moray.

Thereafter, the Committee noted the information as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report in respect of the Authority interim follow through report on Elgin Academy and agreed to submit a report on the business education and industry work across Moray to a future meeting of this Committee.

18. PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING - PRE SCHOOL EDUCATION AND PLACING REQUESTS

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services notifying the Committee of performance information with regard to Pre-School Education and Placing Requests 2008/09 derived from the latest Scottish Government Statistical Publication Notices as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

19. PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING - EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOL EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND 2008/09

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services notifying the Committee of information with regard to Expenditure on School Education in Scotland 2008/09, derived from the latest Scottish Government statistics publication notice.

In response to a query from Councillor Ross with regard to neighbouring authorities (Highland) spend on special education and devolved budgets the Head of Educational Resource Services advised the meeting that he did not know the answer to this as this was public performance reporting based on a Scottish Government report. The Moray Council only inputs its own data, however if required he would endeavour to find out the information but advised that it would come with a huge health warning in terms of what is devolved as budgets are utilised differently. Thereafter, he would provide the information in due course to Councillor Ross.

Following consideration the Committee noted the information contained in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 of the report with regard to Public performance reports of expenditure on school education in Scotland 2008/09.

Reverend C M Stewart left the meeting on the conclusion of this item.

20. PROGRESS UPDATE AGAINST SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN ACTIONS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR PERIOD JANUARY TO MARCH 2010

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services updating the Committee on progress against the Educational Services, Service Improvement Plan 2009-10 and the performance against Service Outcome and Service Standard indicators.

21. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PPP BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services providing a summary monitoring statement for the PPP Budget as at 31 March 2010. as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

22. MONITORING REPORT: COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to consider the details of complaints received during the period 1 January to 31 March 2010 as detailed in appendix 1 of the report.

23. SPORTS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services informing Committee of the Sports Development in the Moray area over the past year.

24. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SOCIAL WORK SERVICE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services asking for Committee approval for a revision of the Performance Management Framework for the Children and Families Social Work Service.

Following consideration the Committee approved the revised Performance Management Framework for the social work service to children and families in Moray.

25. PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR THE CHILDREN & FAMILIES SOCIAL WORK SERVICE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services asking Committee approval of the targets in relation to key performance indicators for the Children and Families Social Work Service.

Following consideration the Committee approved the Performance Targets for Children & Families Social Work Services as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

26. COMPLAINTS MONITORING REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER, JANUARY - MARCH 2010

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to scrutinise and note the Complaints Monitoring information for Children, Families Services, for the quarter, 1 January to 31 March 2010 as detailed in appendix 1 of the report.

27.INSPECTION OF MORAY FOSTERING SERVICE

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to scrutinise and note the inspection of Moray's Fostering Service by the Care Commission which was completed on 9 February 2010 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

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

28.MORAY ADOPTION AND FOSTERING PANELS' REVIEW JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2009

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services informing the Committee of the work undertaken by the Moray Panels during the period January to December 2009 as detailed in the Appendices to the report.

29.OUT OF AREA PLACEMENTS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCE PACKAGES

There was submitted a joint report by the Directors of Community and Educational Services providing the Committee with background information on out of area placements and additional resource packages for children and young people with exceptional needs.

Following discussion, the Committee noted the information provided on out of area placements and additional resource packages.

30.CHILDREN & FAMILIES PERFORMANCE REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER, JANUARY - MARCH 2010

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to scrutinise and note the Performance Indicators for the Children and Families Service for the quarter, 1 January to 31 March 2010, as detailed in Appendix 1. of the report.

Ms F Wardhaugh left the meeting on the conclusion of this item.

31.CHILDREN & 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 March 2010 regarding the Children & Families provisional revenue budget position at 31 March 2010 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

32. COMMUNITY SERVICES SERVICE DEVELOPMENT & IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2009-10, MONITORING REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER, JANUARY - MARCH 2010

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to scrutinise and note the Department's performance against the Service Development & Improvement Plan 2009-10 for the quarter, 1 January to 31 March 2010, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

33. FORRES AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to note the current situation regarding the operation of Forres After School Care Club and come to a decision on the future of this provision.

Following consideration the Committee:

- (i) noted the ongoing operation of the Forres After School Care Club as supported by Community Learning and Development; and
- (ii) agreed that Forres After School Care Club should be offered the same opportunities as Riverside After School Club received;
- (iii) agreed to continue funding for Forres after School Club, Forres, until June 2011, or a total deficit of £10,000 had been reached whichever is the sooner; and
- (iv) that a further report be submitted to this Committee before a final decision is made.

34. ICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SCHOOLS

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services informing the Committee about the ICT Development Plan for Schools.

35. PROTOCOLS FOR ASPECTS OF LINKS BETWEEN ELECTED MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to confirm and note the protocols outlined for links between Elected Members and Officers.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to confirm the protocols outlined for links between Elected Members and Officers.

36. SCOTTISH BOOK TRUST: EARLY YEARS BOOK GIFTING PROGRAMME

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services inviting the Committee to note the Early Years Book Gifting Programme which replaces the Bookstart initiative.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note that the Early Years Book Gifting Programme and in particular to note that:

- (i) this 4 stage Bookbug programme focussed on Scottish needs replaces the Bookstart initiative;
- (ii) this essential programme has a vital role to play in children's lives in the 0-5 age group and in supporting parents and carers;
- (iii) this programme directly addresses key national and local priorities, particularly early intervention and giving children the best possible start in life; and
- (iv) this programme will be delivered through an effective partnership involving libraries, the education service and the health service.

37. MEMBERSHIP OF SEEMIS LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services seeking Committee approval for the Moray Council to become a member of the Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) which would provide the most effective legal framework for SEEMIS to minimise risk to all member authorities.

Following consideration the Committee agreed that Moray become a member of the SEEMIS Limited Liability Partnership (LLP).

38. 'GAMES FOR SCOTLAND': EVENTSCOTLAND PROJECT FUNDING

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to consider whether or not to hold an event in Moray to highlight Scotland's involvement in the Commonwealth Games and to endorse a funding application for this purpose.

Following discussion, during which Members expressed concern with regard to the cost of the event and the proposed grants, the Committee agreed to endorse the application made to EventScotland and agreed that a further report be submitted to the August meeting of this Committee with detailed costings.

39. CABRACH PRIMARY SCHOOL

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services advising Committee of the procedures and timescales with regard to the potential closure of Cabrach Primary School.

Following consideration the Committee noted the information with regard to Cabrach primary school as detailed in the report.

40. PRIVATE FOSTERING

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services raising awareness within Committee of the duties required of the Local Authority relating to arrangements for Private Fostering.

Following consideration the Committee noted the duties and endorsed the processes outlined in the report with regard to arrangements relating to Private Fostering.

41. YOUTH JUSTICE

There was submitted, noted and endorsed a report by the Director of Community Services presenting the Committee with the 2009 Moray Youth Justice Report and 2010-12 Moray Youth Justice Plan.

42. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions raised.

43. DEVOLVED SCHOOL BUDGETS (PARA 4)

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services seeking Committee's decision on whether to allow four schools to retain larger than normally permitted carry forwards in their devolved budgets.

In response to concerns expressed as to the voting rights of the non elected members of this Committee, the Acting Principal Solicitor, (Litigation & Licensing) advised the meeting that it was her understanding that non-elected members on the Committee had full voting rights. Following discussion it was agreed that a report clarifying the voting rights of non elected Members be brought back to a future meeting.

Following further discussion, Councillor J Hogg, seconded by Councillor Russell, moved approval of paragraph 5(c) of the report in that the Chief Financial Officer, recommends that, given the dire financial outlook that the Council faces, the terms of the Devolved School Management Scheme are applied and schools are limited to carry forward a 10% underspend to future years.

As an Amendment Councillor A McKay, seconded by Councillor Ross moved approval of the recommendation for this year only and thereafter, adhere to the Chief Financial Officers recommendation at paragraph 5 (c) of the report.

On a division there voted:

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| For the Motion (6) | - | Councillors Hogg, Russell, Coull, Divers, Young and Mrs MacLennan |
| For the Amendment (8) | - | Councillors McKay, Ross, Hamilton, McConachie, A McDonald, Ogilvie, Shand and Mrs S Slater. |

Abstentions (0)

- -

Accordingly the Amendment became the finding of the meeting and it was agreed to allow 4 schools to retain larger than normally permitted carry forwards in their devolved budgets for this year only and thereafter that the terms of the Devolved School Management Scheme should be applied so that schools are limited to carry forward to future years of a 10% underspend.

It was also agreed that the Chief Legal Officer submit a report to this Committee clarifying the voting rights of the non-elected members on this Committee.

44. OUT OF AREA PLACEMENTS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCE PACKAGES (PARAS 5 & 9)

There was submitted and noted a joint report by the Directors of Community & Educational Services providing the Committee with background information on out of area placements and additional resource packages for children and young people with exceptional needs as detailed in the report.