

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE –
REMOTE MEETING**

7th September, 2021

10.00 a.m. – 1.50 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Craig Walker (Convener), Bobby Clelland, Dave Dempsey, Linda Erskine, Ian Ferguson, Derek Glen (substituting for Councillor Julie Ford), Gary Guichan, Helen Law, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Jane Ann Liston (substituting for Councillor James Calder), Ross Paterson, Fay Sinclair, Alistair Suttie and Mr. Alastair Crockett and Mr. George Haggarty.

ATTENDING: Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director, Kathy Henwood, Head of Education & Children's Services; Maria Lloyd, Head of Education & Children's Services; Angela Logue, Head of Education & Children's Services; Shelagh McLean, Head of Education & Children's Services; Alan Cumming, Education Manager, Deborah Davidson, Education Manager, Sarah Else, Education Manager, Lynn Porter, Education Manager; Avril Graham, Sustainable Estate Officer, Education; Lesley Henderson, Quality Improvement Officer, Stuart Booker, Improvement Officer, Sandy McIntosh, Rector, Zoe Thomson, Depute Rector, Education & Children's Services; Lynn Gillies, Service Manager, Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services; Alan Paul, Senior Manager (Property Services), Louise Playford, Service Manager (School Estate), Property Services, Assets Transportation & Environment; Chris Campbell, Team Manager, Social Work Resources Service; Alison Binnie, Business Partner, Finance; Margaret McFadden, Solicitor, Legal & Democratic Services; and Diane Barnet, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services, Finance & Corporate Services.

**APOLOGY FOR
ABSENCE:** Mr. William Imlay.

Prior to the start of business, the Convener, on behalf of the Sub-Committee, welcomed Councillor Heer to the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee, having replaced Councillor Nolan. The Sub-Committee acknowledged Councillor Nolan's contribution during the period of his membership.

The Convener also welcomed Councillors Glen and Liston to the meeting, substituting for Councillors Ford and Calder respectively on this occasion.

218. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 7.1.

219. MINUTE

The Sub-Committee considered the minute of the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee of 11th May, 2021.

Decision/

Decision

The Sub-Committee agreed to approve the minute, subject to an amendment to reflect that Councillor Nolan had declared an interest in Para. 216 - 'Support for Voluntary Organisations' - as he was a Council appointed member of an organisation from whom Families First, St Andrews had received funding.

220. MINUTES OF EDUCATION APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE

The Sub-Committee considered the minutes of meetings of the Education Appointment Committee of 4th, 14th, 17th, 21st, 25th, 27th and 31st May, 2021; and 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 15th and 21st June, 2021.

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted the minutes.

221. MINUTES OF EAST FIFE EDUCATION TRUST COMMITTEE AND WEST FIFE EDUCATION TRUST COMMITTEE

The Sub-Committee considered the minutes of the East Fife Education Trust Committee and the West Fife Education Trust Committee of 2nd June, 2021.

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted the minutes.

222. STATUTORY CONSULTATION REPORT ON THE PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE ST COLUMBA'S RC AND WOODMILL HIGH SCHOOLS

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services presenting the statutory Consultation Report, in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of the proposal to relocate St Columba's RC High School from the existing school site of Woodmill Road, Dunfermline, and to relocate Woodmill High School from the existing school site of Shields Road, Dunfermline to a new single site south of Calaiswood Crescent, adjacent to Roe Deer Place, Dunfermline (former Shepherd Offshore site), a site which would also encompass a new Fife College (Dunfermline) campus, for full consideration by members. The report also sought approval to proceed with the recommendations contained within the Consultation Report.

Decision

The Sub-Committee agreed to approve the proposal to relocate St Columba's RC High School from the existing school site of Woodmill Road, Dunfermline, and to relocate Woodmill High School from the existing school site of Shields Road, Dunfermline, to a new single site, south of Calaiswood Crescent, adjacent to Roe Deer Place, Dunfermline (former Shepherd Offshore site), a site which would also encompass a new Fife College Campus.

Councillor Clelland joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

223./

223. DIRECTORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2021-23

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services providing an update on the publication of the Education and Children's Services (ECS) Directorate Plan 2021-23, setting the plan in the context of other key strategic plans for children and families in Fife, and presenting a draft reporting timetable to Committee covering progress against those statutory plans.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) noted the ECS Directorate's draft reporting timetable for reporting on delivery of the Directorate Plan; and
- (2) agreed to continue to support the work across other key strategic plans for children, young people and families.

224. PROFESSIONAL LEARNING & LEADERSHIP STRATEGY UPDATE

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services providing an update on the Education and Children's Services Professional Learning and Leadership Strategy for education staff.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) noted the progress made with the Professional Learning and Leadership Strategy since the report approved by the Education, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee in January, 2016; and
- (2) noted the leadership models as agreed in the Professional Learning and Leadership Strategy (2016) which had been progressed successfully over the last five years and the intention to continue with the development and implementation of Leadership Model 2 - School grouping model of leadership; and Model 3 - Learning journey model of leadership - to best meet the needs of schools and local communities.

The meeting adjourned at 11.45 a.m.

The meeting re-convened at 11.55 a.m.

225. SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS - UPDATE

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services providing an update on the re-modelling of Children and Families Commissioned Services and recommendations for funding for 2021-22.

Decision/

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) noted the progress that had been achieved relating to commissioning arrangements;
- (2) approved the predicted overspend of £127,614 in the current financial year - this being accommodated within the projected underspend for Children and Families Service;
- (3) noted that this overspend was one off and non-recurring; and
- (4) noted the required activity to bring service briefs 2A and 6 in line with the available budget by the end of March, 2022.

Mr. Crockett left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

226. SQA RESULTS OF 10TH AUGUST, 2021

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services including:

- (1) the background to the awarding of SQA qualifications 2021;
- (2) the Alternative Certification Model (ACM) for awarding SQA qualifications 2021;
- (3) Fife guidance and approaches to supporting the ACM via quality assurance;
- (4) attainment outcomes for young people 2021 including analyses by SIMD; and
- (5) conclusions and next steps for session 2021-22.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) congratulated Senior Leaders in schools, teachers and students on their hard work and results awarded, which generally showed trends in line with national trends;
- (2) endorsed the next steps identified for Session 2021-22; and
- (3) requested an update report on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Review Recommendation (Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence: Into the Future) - the OECD's working paper, due to be published in September, which would outline possible options to enhance qualifications and assessment moving forward.

227. ATTAINMENT SCOTLAND FUND 2020/2021

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services outlining the progress of the Attainment Scotland Fund (ASF), which encompassed the Schools Fund and Pupil Equity Fund, through updating members/

members on the work of schools in their practice to address the challenge of Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap. The report presented an overview of the rationale, implementation and impact, to date, of the Attainment Scotland Fund across Fife school establishments.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report;
- (2) agreed to continue to seek updates on the impact of these interventions on improving educational outcomes for our children, at a Fife wide level through this Sub-Committee and locally through Local Area Committees; and
- (3) noted the work of schools in developing their practice to address the challenge of Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap.

228. EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE REVENUE BUDGET 2020-21 PROVISIONAL OUTTURN

The Sub-Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services and the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services advising on the provisional outturn for the 2020-21 Education and Children's Services Directorate Revenue Budget, for the areas in scope of the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) noted the provisional outturn position (subject to audit) for 2020-21, as detailed in the report and the reasons given for the main variances;
- (2) noted the impact of the Education and Children's Services Directorate's Children and Families Strategy in reducing the reliance on purchased care placements and increasing the number of children who could be looked after safely at home, or in kinship care;
- (3) noted the position regarding the costs and funding of the impact of Covid-19 across the Directorate; and
- (4) otherwise noted the contents of the report.

229. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN 2020-2021: PROVISIONAL OUTTURN REPORT

The Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services and the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services providing a summary of the financial position of Education and Children's Services Directorate's capital programme for the current financial year 2020-21, including progress on major projects.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the provisional outturn position for the 2020-21 Capital investment Plan, the figures being provisional and subject to audit; and
- (2) the reported spend of £44.851m represents 86% of the approved capital programme for 2020-21.

230. EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE REVENUE BUDGET 2021-22 PROJECTED OUTTURN

The Sub-Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services and the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services providing an update on the forecast financial position for the 2021-22 financial year, for the areas in scope of the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) considered and noted the current financial performance and activity as detailed in the report;
- (2) noted that the Education and Children's Services Directorate's implementation of the Children and Families Strategy had reduced the reliance on purchased care placements and increased the number of children who could be looked after safely at home or in kinship care; and
- (3) noted the estimated costs and related funding in relation to the continuing impact of Covid-19 on the Directorate.

231. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN 2021-2022: PROGRESS REPORT

The Sub-Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services and the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services providing information on the overall progress of the Education and Children's Services Directorate's capital programme for the current financial year 2021-22, including progress on major projects.

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted:-

- (1) the financial position as detailed in the report; and
- (2) that the budget had been revised to reflect the outcome of the Capital Plan review undertaken in February, 2021 and the subsequent re-phasing exercise carried out in July, 2021.

**232. EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE FORWARD
WORK PROGRAMME**

The Sub-Committee considered the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee Forward Work Programme 2021/22.

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee Forward Work Programme 2021/22, subject to amendment as necessary.
