

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE -  
GLENROTHES**

Agenda Item No. 4 (a)

**19 March, 2019**

**10.00 a.m. – 13.55 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Linda Erskine (Vice-Convener (in the Chair)); Councillors David Barratt, James Calder, Alastair Crockett, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey; Linda Erskine, Ian Ferguson, Helen Law, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Dominic Nolan, Ross Paterson, Ryan Smart and Alistair Suttie and Mr Alastair Crockett and Mr George Haggarty and Mr William Imlay.

**ATTENDING:** Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director, Education and Children's Services; Andrew Ferguson, Manager - Committee Services, Democratic Services; Philip Black, Head of Education & Children's Services (Secondary Schools and Specialist Support), Education; Stuart Booker, Improvement Officer (Strategy & Knowledge Management), Education; Dougie Dunlop, Head of Education & Children's Services (Community and Social Work), Education; Sarah Else, Education Officer, Education; Shelagh McLean, Head of Education & Children's Services (Early Years and Directorate Support), Education; Peter McNaughton, Head of Education & Children's Services (Primary Schools and Improvement Support), Education; Gary Moyes, Category Manager - Transportation & Travel, Revenue & Commercial Services; Karyn Rennie, Headteacher, Cowdenbeath Primary School; Colin McCredie, Programme Manager, Building Fife's Future; Alan Paul, Senior Manager (Property Services), AT&E Property Services; and Lynn Gillies, Service Manager (Family Support), Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Bailey-Lee Robb, Fay Sinclair

**110. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**111. CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to note that Councillor Ross Paterson had replaced Councillor Bobby Clelland as a member of the Committee.

**112. MINUTES -**

(a) Education & Children's Services Committee of 22nd January, 2019.

(b)/

\* Amendment to para 117 (4) at Education and Children's Services meeting on 21 May, 2019

(b) Education Appointments Committees of 11th and 20th February, 2019.

**Decision**

The Committee approved the minute.

**113. REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES IN FIFE 2017-18**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services providing an update on the attainment outcomes achieved by pupils in Fife's schools during the school year 2017/18 and also providing an overview of the range of strategies being developed to support the key priority to further raise attainment.

**Decision**

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the further progress in raising levels of attainment; and
- (2) the strategies being implemented to further raise attainment.

**114. SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services recommending support to voluntary organisations funded by Education and Children's Services in Fife for the period 2019-2020 including recommendations for voluntary organisations funded through the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) and Our Minds Matter (OMM) funding.

Introducing the report, Dougie Dunlop indicated that paragraph 1.8 of the report should be changed to say that application of the already agreed savings targets of £410,000 to the voluntary sector organisations would be the subject of a separate report to be brought back to a future Committee.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) approved the level of funding to voluntary organisations as detailed in the Schedule attached to the report;
- (2) agreed to consider an update report with recommendations from the review at the Education and Children's Services Committee in August 2019; and
- (3) noted with concern the potential future impact of the savings on voluntary organisations and that briefings on progress would be supplied to the Committee as appropriate.

**115./**

**115. ANNUAL UPLIFT IN PAYMENTS TO FOSTER CARERS**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services providing an update on the proposed uplift in payments to Foster Carers for the year 2019/2010.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to a 2.5% increase in the maintenance payments made for children in a foster care setting; and
- (2) to an uplift of 2.5% in the fees paid to Foster Carers.

**116. ESTABLISHING THE WALKED ROUTES TO SCHOOLS - ASSESSMENT POLICY**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services presenting the revised Walked Routes to Schools - Assessment Policy for consideration. This policy was subject to review by elected members of the Scrutiny Committee, on 26th February, 2019 and included their feedback to allow the opportunity to consider the amendments proposed.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to approve:-

- (1) the content of the Walked Routes to Schools - Assessment Policy (attached as Appendix one to the report), as amended in light of the feedback from the Education and Children's Services Committee of 22nd January, 2019 and the Scrutiny Committee of 26th February, 2018, subject to the further amendment that the Review Panel should always include 3 members of the Committee; and
- (2) a post implementation review report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee, after a period of at least one year from implementation, i.e. after August, 2021.

**117. PUPIL EQUITY FUND**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services outlining the progress of the Pupil Equity Fund through an update on the work of schools in their practice to address the challenge of Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap. The report also presented an overview of the rationale, implementation and impact, to date, of the Pupil Equity Fund across Fife school establishments.

**Decision/**

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report;
- (2) noted the aim of the interventions detailed;
- (3) agreed to continue to seek detailed updates of the impact of these interventions on improving educational outcomes for our children, at a Fife wide level through this Committee and locally through Area Committees;
- (4) agreed that \*Area Committees be consulted to determine how they wished to be informed about the work and impact of the Pupil Equity Fund within their area; and
- (5) noted the work of schools in developing their practice to address the challenge of Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap.

**118. MOTHBALLING OF GATESIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services proposing the mothballing of Gateside Primary School with immediate effect - as a result of the declining school roll at the Primary School, and due also to the fact that no children had enrolled for session 2018/19 or 2019/20.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to mothball Gateside Primary School with immediate effect;
- (2) that, during the mothballing period, any children wishing to enrol at Gateside Primary School would be offered a place at Strathmiglo Primary School and provided with free transport if they met the distance criteria; and
- (3) to consider a further report in October, 2019 reviewing the decision.

**119. BUILDING FIFE'S FUTURE - WOODMILL AND ST. COLUMBA'S SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services providing an outline of the educational requirements and initial assessment of site options for the replacement of St. Columba's RC High School and Woodmill High School, while considering development of a joint learning campus in conjunction with Fife College.

**Decision/**

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) agreed to approve a project proposal for a joint learning campus with Fife College be progressed;
- (2) approved submission of a project proposal to Scottish Government to endeavour to secure funding;
- (3) requested the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services engage in formal discussions with the communities and, if necessary, prepare a report for this Committee to commence a statutory education consultation;
- (4) endorsed a proposal that the Head of Legal Services, in conjunction with the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment, agreed terms for an Option Agreement with Shepherd Offshore (Scotland) Limited for the purchase of a site for a joint learning campus (a separate report with the details of the Option Agreement to be submitted to Policy and Co-ordination Committee); and
- (5) approved the appointment of the necessary teams to progress a planning application.

**120. BUILDING FIFE'S FUTURE - STRATEGY FOR THE EXPANSION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE IN WEST FIFE AREA**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services outlining the proposed strategy to address the major capacity issues for the secondary school infrastructure in the wider Dunfermline area.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report;
- (2) endorsed the strategy for expansion; and
- (3) agreed to authorise officers to undertake the steps necessary to prepare proposals for further consideration.

**121. BUILDING FIFE'S FUTURE - INVERKEITHING HIGH SCHOOL**

*Mr Crockett, Mr Imlay, and Councillors Davidson and Nolan left during consideration of this item.*

*The/*

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services outlining progress towards the assessment of the sites for the replacement of Inverkeithing High School, in accordance with the Education Authority requirements.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the completion of the Phase 1 site assessment exercise, in line with the education criteria previously set by the Executive Committee, but asked that the Phase 1 exercise be extended eastwards to establish if there were sites east of the existing site which merited inclusion in the phase 2 feasibility studies;
- (2) agreed that the six sites set out in the report, as well as the Spencerfield and Caldwell's Paper Mill require further consideration, and authorised the preparation of phase 2 feasibility studies on those sites, to be reported to this Committee in May; and
- (3) agreed to authorise the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services, to engage in formal discussions with the communities and, if necessary, to prepare a report for this Committee's consideration with a view to commencing a statutory education consultation.

**122. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

**Decision**

The Committee noted the current version of the Work Programme which would be further updated, as appropriate.