

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

**9th November, 2021**

**10.10 a.m. – 10.55 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Linda Erskine (Vice-Convener), James Calder, Bobby Clelland, Dave Dempsey, Ian Ferguson, Gary Guichan, Andy Heer, Helen Law, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Ross Paterson, Fay Sinclair, Alistair Suttie, Derek Glen (substitute for Councillor Craig Walker), Lea McLelland (substitute for Councillor Julie Ford) and Mr. William Imlay.

**ATTENDING:** Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director, Education & Children's Services; Shelagh McLean, Head of Education & Children's Services (Early Years and Directorate Support); Avril Graham, Sustainable Estate Officer; Gillian Johnston, Project Manager (Early Learning and Childcare); Stewart Westwater, Headteacher, Education & Children's Services; and Diane Barnet, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr. Alastair Crockett and Mr. George Haggarty

Prior to the start of business, the Vice-Convener, on behalf of the Sub-Committee, extended best wishes for a speedy recovery to the Convener, Councillor Craig Walker. Councillor Erskine, in the absence of the Convener, thereafter took the Chair for this meeting.

Councillor Erskine also welcomed Councillors Glen and McLelland to the meeting, substituting for Councillors Walker and Ford respectively.

**233. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**234. MINUTE**

The Sub-Committee considered the minute of meeting of the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee of 7th September, 2021.

**Decision**

The Sub-Committee agreed to approve the minute.

**235. MINUTES**

The Sub-Committee considered the minutes of meetings of the Education Appointment Committee of 24th, 29th and 30th September and 4th October, 2021.

**Decision/**

**Decision**

The Sub-Committee noted the minutes.

**236. REVIEW OF THE MOTHBALLING OF MILTON OF BALGONIE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services providing the outcome of the formal review of the mothballing of Milton of Balgonie Primary School.

**Decision**

The Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (1) to continue with the existing mothballing arrangements for Milton of Balgonie Primary School;
- (2) that, during the mothballing period, any children wishing to enrol at Milton of Balgonie Primary School would continue to be offered a place at Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School and provided with free transport if they met the distance criteria; and
- (3) that a further review by the Education Service would take place in June 2022, reporting the outcomes to the earliest relevant and available Committee of the Council thereafter.

**237. EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE – ADMISSIONS**

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services providing the results of the 2020/21 Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Consultation and an update on future consultation relating to – amending the priority criteria within the ELC Admissions Policy; providing further detail regarding the decision that the Education Service agreed discretionary deferrals delivered through a partner provider; and detailing the deferral process from the initial application through to decision.

**Decision**

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) noted the outcomes of the ELC Consultation, detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, and that they would be reflected in the ELC offer and Admissions process for 2022/23;
- (2) agreed that use of the biennial ELC Consultation was the most appropriate mechanism to consult with parents/carers regarding any change to application priority levels within the ELC Admissions Policy;
- (3) noted the action taken in response to the Scottish Government invite for notes of interest in the P1 Deferral Pilot and agreed that officers progress with the work required to deliver the pilot, as Fife Council had now been invited to become a funded pilot authority for 2022-23; and
- (4)/

- (4) noted the P1 deferral process, from the initial application through to decision.

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

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

**Decision**

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

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