

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

21 May, 2019

10.00 am - 1.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Fay Sinclair, Councillors David Barratt, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Linda Erskine, Ian Ferguson, Helen Law, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Jane Ann Liston, Ross Paterson, Ryan Smart and Alistair Suttie and Mr George Haggarty.

ATTENDING: Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director, Education and Children's Services, Shelagh McLean, Head of Education and Children's Services (Early Years and Directorate Support); Kylie Watson, Closing the Gap Development Officer, Education Services; Rona Weir, Education Manager; Louise Wood, Acting Headteacher, Dairsie Primary School and Avril McNeill, Rector, Glenrothes High School: Alan Paul, Senior Manager (Property Services) and Colin Mccredie, Programme Manager Building Fife's Future, Assets Transportation and Environment Services; Christine Moir, Senior Manager, Children and Families and Criminal Justice Services and Alan Small, Independent Chair, CPC, APC, MAPPA SOG; and Liz Box, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Dominic Nolan and Mr Alastair Crockett, Mr William Imlay and Bailey-Lee Robb.

123. CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP

The Committee was asked to note that Councillor Jane Ann Liston had replaced Councillor James Calder as a member of the Education and Children's Services Committee.

Decision

The Committee noted that Councillor Jane Ann Liston had replaced Councillor James Calder as a member of the Education and Children's Services Committee.

124. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Decision

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

125. MINUTES

(a) Minute of meeting of the Education and Children's Services Committee of 19th March, 2019

In/

In terms of accuracy, Councillors Alistair Suttie and Dave Dempsey asked that the minute be amended to reflect that they had been present at the meeting. Councillor Colin Davidson asked that Paragraph 117 (4) the of minute be amended to reflect that Area Committees be consulted, rather than Area Committee Conveners.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute subject to the amendment to record that Councilors Suttie and Dempsey had been present and amendment to paragraph 117 (4) to replace the words "Area Committee Conveners" with "Area Committees".

- (b) Minutes of meetings of the Education Appointment Committee of 21st and 22nd March, 2019

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the above minutes.

126. VALEDICTORY

The Convener advised that Dougie Dunlop, Chief Social Work Officer had recently retired from the Council. Members joined with the Convener in expressing their appreciation to Dougie for all his work with the Council and wished him well for the future in his retirement.

127. CHILDREN'S SERVICES INSPECTION

Councillor Ryan Smart joined the meeting during discussion of the following item.

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services informing of a recent inspection of Children's Services in Fife by the Care Inspectorate, advising of the outcomes from the inspection and setting out proposals for further improvement.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the outcome of the inspection and the range of good practice identified by the Care inspectorate;
- (2) noted that further work was required across children's service partners to address areas for further improvement; and
- (3) agreed that a report on progress in relation the areas identified by the Care Inspectorate for further improvement be submitted to the Committee in twelve months.

128./

128. BUILDING FIFE'S FUTURE

Prior to consideration of the following item, the Convener referred to Colin McCredie's forthcoming retirement from the Council. Members joined with the Convener in expressing their appreciation to Colin for his work with the Council and wished him well for the future.

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

An update was given by the Head of Education Service, the Senior Manager, Building Services and Programme Manager, Building Fife's Future recommending that, following the completion of the phase 1 assessment exercise, the Inverkeithing South site No. 18 at Caldwell Mill/Balast Park be removed from the list of sites to be considered for phase 2 assessment, due to the challenges associated with addressing flood prevention and mitigation, potential contamination and other challenges associated with the development of these sites for a school. Questions were asked by members and answered by officers.

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;
- (2) agreed that the Inverkeithing South site 18 at Caldwell Mill/Balast Park be removed from the list of sites for assessment at the phase 2 stage, due to the challenges associated with addressing flood prevention and mitigation, potential contamination and other challenges associated with the development of these sites for a school; and
- (3) agreed that six sites required further consideration and authorised the preparation of phase 2 feasibility studies to be reported to Committee in August on the remaining six sites as follows:-

Inverkeithing North –

- Site 3 – Inverkeithing High School
- Site 4 - North of the A921 – West
- Site 22 – North of A921 – East

Rosyth –

- Site 10 – Fleet Grounds
- Site 11 – HMS Caledonia
- Site 12 – West Rosyth

129. COST OF SCHOOL DAY UPDATE

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services, providing an update on the work around the cost of the school day which was being undertaken in Fife schools, setting out a three year plan, presenting a number of "Top Tips" towards reducing the cost of the school day and advising on training in relation to poverty matters.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) note the contents of the report;
- (2) note the progress of the work to date and ongoing plans for further development;
- (3) endorse the 'Top Tips' and Poverty Matters training; and
- (4) agreed that members of the Committee be provided with the opportunity to attend a Poverty Matters training session.

The Committee adjourned at 12.10 p.m. and resumed at 12.20 pm with the following members present:-

Councillor Fay Sinclair, Councillors David Barratt, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Linda Erskine, Ian Ferguson, Helen Law, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Jane Ann Liston, Ross Paterson, Ryan Smart and Alistair Suttie.

130. OUR MINDS MATTER: SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services, providing an update on the strategic approaches around supporting young people's emotional wellbeing in Fife, advising on the implementation of the Our Minds Matter framework since its introduction in June 2017 and proposing that an information session be held for elected members to provide the opportunity for members to learn more about the 'Our Minds Matter' work in Fife and to discuss challenges and next steps.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the report and feedback given at the meeting on the initiatives and programmes underway to support and strengthen our approaches to meeting YP's emotional wellbeing needs in Fife;
- (2) noted the suggested next steps set out in the report and including a review of the Framework at the end of the three year funding period in March 202; and
- (3)/

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- (3) agreed that an 'Our Minds Matter' information session be held on 30th May, 2019 for elected members and that further sessions be arranged for elected members as requested.

Councillors Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey and Kathleen Leslie left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

131. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the work programme for the Committee.

Decision

The Committee noted the current version of the Work Programme which would be further updated as appropriate and would include reports to the Committee on workforce planning and the learning campus in Dunfermline.
