

## 2018.E.Ch.S.C.53

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

6th November, 2018

10.00 a.m. – 1.20 p.m.  
2.00 p.m. - 3.05 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Fay Sinclair (Convener), David Barrett, James Calder, Bobby Clelland, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Linda Erskine, Ian Ferguson, Julie Ford, Helen Law, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Dominic Nolan and Alistair Suttie and Mr Alastair Crockett, Mr George Haggarty and Mr William Imlay and Mr Bailey-Lee Robb.

**ATTENDING:** Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director (Education & Children's Services), Shelagh McLean, Head of Education & Children's Services (Equity & System Improvement), Dougie Dunlop, Head of Education & Children's Services (Enhancing Opportunities for the Vulnerable/Chief Social Work Officer), Peter McNaughton, Head of Education & Children's Services (Primary Schools & Improvement Support), Phil Black, Head of Education & Children's Services (Secondary Schools & Specialist Support), Sarah Else, Education Manager, Jackie Funnell, Education Manager, Stuart Booker, Improvement Officer (Strategy & Knowledge Management), Neil Finnie, Senior Compliance Officer, Avril Graham, Sustainable Estate Officer and Emma Harley, Acting Head Teacher, Kelty Primary School, Education & Children's Services Directorate; Gary Moyes, Category Manager - Transport & Travel, Morag Ferguson, Head of Legal Services, Alison Binnie, Business Partner, Andrew Ferguson, Committee Services Manager and Susan Williams, Committee Administrator, Finance & Corporate Services Directorate.

#### **APOLOGY**

**FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Ryan Smart.

#### 89. **CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP**

##### **Decision**

The Committee:-

- (a) noted that Councillor James Calder had replaced Councillor Jonny Tepp, Councillor Dave Dempsey had replaced Councillor Richard Watt and Councillor Julie Ford had replaced Councillor Craig Walker; and
- (b) welcomed the new members to the meeting.

#### 90. **MINUTES**

- (a) Education & Children's Services Committee - 28th August and 18th September, 2018

##### **Decision/**

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The Committee approved the minutes.

- (b) Education Appointment Committee of 11th and 21st September and 24th October, 2018

### Decision

The Committee approved the minutes.

## 91. **SCOTTISH NATIONAL STANDARDISED ASSESSMENTS (SNSA)**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) in response to a Motion passed at the recent Fife Council meeting of 4th October, 2018 which had requested that a report be prepared for the next meeting of the Education & Children's Services Committee outlining whether and how Fife schools could withdraw from participation in Scottish National Standardised Assessments for P1 children and detailing the Directorate's response.

### Motion

Councillor Fay Sinclair, seconded by Councillor David Barrett, moved that in light of feedback from staff in Fife, and legal advice received, Committee resolves that Fife should continue with SNSA and contribute to the National Review. Officers are asked to bring a paper to the Committee following completion of the National Review.

### Amendment

Councillor Helen Law, seconded by Councillor Kathleen Leslie, moved that:-

- This Committee notes a decision of full Council in regard to SNSA assessment in P1 in Fife and agrees to suspend undertaking SNSA P1 pending the outcome of the National Review.
- Committee recommends to the Scottish Government as part of the Review all P1 staff should be consulted and allowed to contribute anonymously.
- That Fife has a positive record on education and raising attainment.
- The Committee agrees to return to the PIPs assessment in Fife.

### Vote

Amendment - 8 votes  
Motion - 9 votes

The Motion was carried.

### Decision/

**Decision**

The Committee agreed that in light of the feedback from staff in Fife, and legal advice received, Committee resolves that Fife should continue with SNSA and contribute to the National Review and Officers bring a paper to the Committee on completion of the National Review.

92. **ESTABLISHING A WALKED ROUTES TO SCHOOLS ASSESSMENT POLICY**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) seeking comment and approval of a Walked Routes to School - Assessment Policy.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (a) noted the content of the Walked Routes to Schools - Assessment Policy for use in defining the availability of Walked Routes to Schools, from the date of the Committee;
- (b) agreed to apply the assessment methodology to any new Walked Route Assessments, from the date of this Committee, pending the outcome of any consultation processes required;
- (c) agreed to authorise officers to proceed to relevant consultation, as appropriate; and
- (d) agreed that a briefing note be issued to all Elected Members in advance of the consultation detailing the routes within each Ward Area that would be affected.

*(Councillor Kathleen Leslie left the meeting following discussion of the above item).*

93. **CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18**

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Social Work Officer presenting the 2017-18 Annual Report on the role of the Chief Social Work Officer in Fife Council.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

94. **SCHOOLS WORKFORCE PLANNING: ACADEMIC SESSION 2018/19**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) providing an update on progress in relation to Schools Workforce Planning for 2018/19.

**Decision/**

**Decision**

The Committee noted the report.

95. **BUILDING FIFE'S FUTURE - EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) detailing the Directorate response from the decisions taken at the Committee on 28th August, 2018 and setting out the processes and timescales for the implementation of changes to secondary school infrastructure across Fife, particularly referencing those relating to determining detailed proposals for change.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to:-

- (a) note the contents of the report; and
- (b) authorise officers to undertake the steps necessary to prepare proposals for change.

**The Committee adjourned at 1.20 p.m. and reconvened at 2.00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Fay Sinclair (Convener), James Calder, Bobby Clelland, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Linda Erskine, Ian Ferguson, Julie Ford, Helen Law, Rosemary Liewald and Alistair Suttie and Mr. George Haggarty and Mr William Imlay.

96. **REPORT ON ATTAINMENT AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) advising of the outcomes achieved by pupils at high schools including the outcomes for Health & Wellbeing, Literacy & Numeracy and wider achievement, Equity & Employability. The report also provided an overview of the range of strategies being developed to ensure that the levels of pupils' attainment and achievement would continue to increase.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (a) noted progress in raising levels of engagement, attainment and achievement; and
- (b) endorsed the approach being taken to further develop attainment.

97./

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### 97. **EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE – REVENUE BUDGET 2018/19 PROJECTED OUTTURN**

The Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) and the Executive Director (Finance & Corporate Services) providing details on the projected outturn for the 2018/19 Education & Children's Services Revenue Budget.

#### **Decision**

The Committee agreed to:-

- (a) note the current financial performance and activity as detailed in the report;
- (b) note that officers would continue to manage the budget whilst ensuring that the risks associated with Looked After Children were appropriately managed.
- (c) note that the Education & Children's Services Directorate would continue to implement a strategy approved by the Executive Committee on 15th January, 2015 to reduce the reliance on purchase care placements and increase the number of children who could safely be looked after at home or in kinship care;
- (d) note that a report on the Strategy for Looked After Children would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee;
- (e) note that Alison Binnie, Business Partner would circulate the reasons for the variations in budgets to Councillor Dave Dempsey.

### 98. **EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE - CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN 2018/19 PROJECTED OUTTURN**

The Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) and the Executive Director (Finance & Corporate Services) providing details of the Education & Children's Services projected financial position against the Capital Budget for the current financial years, 2018/19, as well as an overview of progress on individual projects.

#### **Decision**

The Committee agreed to:-

- (a) note the financial position as detailed in the report; and
- (b) note that the budget had been revised to reflect the outcome of the Capital Plan re-profiling undertaken in June, 2018.

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### 99. **SOUTH EAST IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE PLAN, PHASE 2**

The Committee considered a report by Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) outlining the requirement for a plan for the South East Improvement Collaborative as detailed in a joint agreement between COSLA, SOLACE, ADES and the Scottish Government. Phase 2 of the Plan was appended to the report.

#### **Decision**

The Committee:-

- (a) endorsed the South East Improvement Collaborative Plan (Phase 2); and
- (b) provided comments on the South East Improvement Collaborative Plan (Phase 2) to help inform any further work.

### 100. **EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME**

#### **Decision**

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

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