

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 12 OCTOBER, 2017

Present: Councillors M Findlater (Vice Chair), Mr D Bilsland, Dr I R Findlay, Ms A Guy, Councillors R Bruce, M Buchan, S Dickinson, A Evison, M Ford, V Harper, A Kille (as substitute for Cllr Ingleby), R McKail, D Robertson (as substitute for Councillor C Buchan), A Ross (as substitute for Councillor G Owen), A Simpson, J Whyte and L Wilson.

Apologies: Councillors C Buchan, M Ingleby, G Owen (Chair), Dr E Anderson and Mrs M Nelson.

Officers: Director of Education and Children's Services, Head of Primary and Curriculum Development, Head of Secondary and Additional Support, Head of Resources and Performance, Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure, Head of Children's Services, Lead Officer Primary Education, Chief Accountant, Principal Solicitor, Governance (Mrs L Cowie) and Principal Committee Services Officer (Mrs A Riddell).

CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair Councillor M Findlater took the Chair.

The Vice Chair stated that Councillor Owen, Chair of the Committee, would be undergoing surgery that day and on behalf of all members of the Committee extended his best wishes to Councillor Owen for a speedy recovery.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Vice Chair made reference to a number of events and achievements including the attendance of HRH the Duchess of Rothesay at the Aboyne Academy Harvest Day festivities; the DELITE programme winning the Excellence Award at the CoSLA Excellence Awards; the commemoration event to mark the closure of Market Place School, Inverurie and the 20th anniversary celebrations at Macduff Marine Aquarium.

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No interests were intimated.

2. RESOLUTIONS

A. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In taking decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;

- (b) advance equality and opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and
- (2) to consider, where an equality impact assessment has been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

B. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the items specified below so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the undernoted paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Item No	Paragraph No of Schedule 7A
8	8 and 10
9	8 and 10

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE OF 31 AUGUST, 2017

The Minute of Meeting of the Education and Children's Services Committee of 31 August, 2017 was circulated and approved as a correct record subject to Item 6, decision paragraph, being amended with the words "defer determination of the Notice of Motion pending receipt" being replaced with "receive" in the first line thereof, and was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. ANALYSIS OF ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ABERDEENSHIRE SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ACCREDITED AWARDS: YEAR ENDING JUNE, 2017

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 31 August 2017 (Item 10), there had been circulated a report dated 19 September 2017 by the Director of Education and Children's Services providing an analysis of attainment in Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations results and other accredited awards in Aberdeenshire schools for the year ending June 2017. The report stated that the data and analysis was sourced from the Scottish Government's benchmarking tool called Insight, which focused on looking at performance across four key national benchmarking measures and encouraged a holistic approach to evaluating attainment and achievement.

Discussion took place on how the information was used to inform next steps, improving attainment for middle ability and looked after pupils, ensuring that S5 pupils would have a complete timetable, analysing the information over a longer period of time to demonstrate changes put in place previously had achieved expected outcome, including information on positive destinations and understanding poverty in areas of affluence.

Thereafter, the Committee **agreed**: -

- (1) that Area Committees receive a subsequent report on attainment and achievement providing information at school level;

- (2) to recognise and congratulate young people, their parents and carers, teachers and support staff and the wider children's services across Aberdeenshire on the level of success and achievement outlined within the report; and
- (3) that the 2018 report include statistics for the previous four year period providing a more detailed analysis including impact –
 - (a) of changes previously put in place,
 - (b) of issues with teaching staff recruitment,
 - (c) on course choices available, and
 - (d) on areas of deprivation including other issues relating to deprivation and understanding poverty in affluent areas

5. SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENT OF CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE LEVELS SURVEY JUNE 2017 FOR ABERDEENSHIRE SCHOOLS

There had been circulated a report dated 12 September, 2017, by the Director of Education and Children's Services containing a summary of achievement of Curriculum for Excellence levels at June 2017 in Aberdeenshire schools. The report advised that the Authority was required to submit data annually to the Scottish Government on Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) level achieved in literacy and numeracy for each child in primary school stages P1, P4 and P7, each child in secondary school stage S3 and each child in special schools. The report highlighted notable improvement across all curriculum areas at P4 and P7; that P1 figures were broadly stable compared with 2016 and improvement across all curriculum components at secondary schools, particularly at Level 4.

After discussion, the Committee **noted**:-

- (1) the ongoing requirement to support teaching staff to undertake assessment activity and complete necessary documentation;
- (2) that additional support was available to pupils to assist them in achieving the expected level; and
- (3) that the survey information and other resources were available to help teachers set targets and for improvement planning.

6. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE EXCEPTION REPORTING: APRIL TO JUNE, 2017

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of 26 May 2016 (Item 8, Page 1854), there had been circulated a report dated 21 September 2017 by the Director of Education and Children's Services advising how Education and Children's Services was performing against key performance measures and associated targets as set out in the Education and Children's Services Service Plan 2016 – 2019 in the period from April to June, 2017. The report commented on the 5 performance measures which were currently performing on target and as a result no exceptions were noted.

The Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to acknowledge the performance achieved April – June 2017 as detailed in paragraphs 2.4 to 2.7 of the report;
- (2) to note the publication of the complete April – June 2017 Performance Report on Ward Pages; and

- (3) that the Director of Education & Children's Services continue to report, by exception, to Committee quarterly performance measures against Service objectives.

7. REVISED PRIMARY SCHOOL CAPACITIES

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 23 May 2013 (Item 7, Page 2438) when the current methodology for primary school capacities had been approved, there was circulated a report by the Director of Education and Children's Services setting out a revised methodology for assessing primary school capacities, in line with Scottish Government recommendations, and seeking authority to conduct a review based on the revised methodology.

Officers responded to questions from Members on the potential impact of the proposals on current practices; definition of temporary accommodation; consultation with parents; consistency of approach across Scotland; space standards and class set up; impact on developers' contributions and new builds.

Thereafter, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to approve the commencement of a review of primary capacities, with a follow up report provided to the Committee in December, 2017; and
- (2) that contact be made with Parent Council Chairs to alert them to the content of report.

8. INVERURIE COMMUNITY CAMPUS – GATEWAY 3 AND FINANCIAL CLOSE

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 23 March 2017 (Item 10) when it had been agreed, amongst other things, to approve the design of the campus based on the building footprint proposed at that time, there had been circulated a joint report by the Directors of Business Services and Education and Children's Services providing an update on progress with the Inverurie Campus Project and seeking comments for consideration by Full Council on (a) the Business Case for the project as detailed in Appendix D of the report, (b) the increase in capital funding required to meet additional inflation, floor space and project management costs, and (c) a temporary delegation to the Director of Business Services to accept the contract for delivery of the project, subject to the overall project cost being within the Capital Plan allocation.

Following a full discussion on project funding and finances, engagement with partner organisations, optimum build and delivery model, timescale for completion and occupation, proposed increase in footprint and expected capital receipt for the sale of St Andrews School site, the Committee **agreed** that the Directors' report to Full Council should include:-

- (1) full financial details of the project including options to mitigate and offset costs;
- (2) reassurance that no authority would be financially disadvantaged by the collaborative group based funding model detailed in the report;
- (3) confirmation that potential partner organisations were aware of the project timeline and deadline for response; and
- (4) the Committee's concerns with regard to potential challenges in terms of the timescale for completion of the project and occupancy of the premises.

9. 2017/18 SUPPLEMENTARY PROCUREMENT WORK PLAN

There had been circulated a report dated 8 September 2017 by the Director of Education and Children's Services seeking approval for the addition of four items to the Directorate Work Plan for 2017/18 for the procurement of services in respect of cash in transit, therapeutic outdoor learning, childcare and family learning and supply of biomass fuel.

The report explained that the cash in transit and biomass fuel items were cross service and cross area procurements and that the Business Services Committee would be the lead Committee for those procurements. Approval of the remaining two items to the work plan with an estimated value up to £1million would provide officers with the necessary authority to proceed with the procurements.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) approve the addition of the four items on the Supplementary Work Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Directorate Work Plan 2017/18 as approved by the Education & Children's Services Committee on 14 June 2017;
- (2) note that approval of the Business Cases for the Cash in Transit and Biomass Pellets contracts would be determined by Business Services Committee; and
- (3) note that the relevant Chief Officer would determine the Business Cases for the remaining two items.

