

## **REPORT TO EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE - 27 MAY 2021**

### **REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP OF ABERDEENSHIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST SUB-COMMITTEE**

#### **1 Reason for Report / Summary**

- 1.1 The Aberdeenshire Educational Trust (AET) Sub-Committee has recommended, on the advice of external audit, to review the membership of the Sub-Committee and this report seeks approval of the proposed change.

#### **2 Recommendations**

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- 2.1 Confirm that the Sub-Committee should remain a 5 member group;**

- 2.2 Agree that the membership of the Sub-Committee should be:-**

**1. Either the Chair or Vice Chair of the Education and Children's Services Committee (with one substituting for the other),**

**2. Either the Chair or Vice Chair of the Communities Committee (with one substituting for the other),**

**3. Two additional councillor members,**

**4. A Head Teacher Representative to be appointed by the Education Service;**

- 2.3 Appoint members to the AET Sub-Committee on the basis of the formula as set out at 2.2**

#### **3 Purpose and Decision Making Route**

- 3.1 Audit Scotland made a recommendation for the AET Sub-Committee to consider appointing the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Education and Children's Services Committee to be members of the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee considered this at their meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and agreed to recommend to this Committee to formally structure the membership of the Sub-Committee as per the recommendations.

#### **4 Discussion**

- 4.1 The current membership of the Sub-Committee was appointed by the Education and Children's Services Committee at its meeting on 14th June 2017 following the local government elections. The Trustees who were appointed were Cllrs Davidson, Findlater, Forsyth and Whyte with the teacher

representative to be advised in due course. The teacher representative was later appointed by the service as being Ms A Guy who has now left Aberdeenshire Council. The new representative is Ms S Padfield, Head Teacher of Daviot Primary School.

- 4.2 The Sub-Committee considered the existing membership of the Sub-Committee and discussed whether the membership should be extended to an 8 member sub-committee, however agreed that the most efficient structure is to retain the 5 member sub-committee with more formal requirements in terms of membership. The Sub-Committee recommend that either the Chair or the Vice Chair of both the Education and Children’s Services Committee and the Communities Committee should be included in the membership. This is in recognition of the broad purposes that funds in the AET can be used for in terms of the remits of both Committees.
- 4.3 The Sub-Committee agreed that a Head Teacher representative is important and so should retain a place on the Sub-Committee. This leaves two spaces on the Sub-Committee follow the political proportionality: 3 members of the administration, 1 of the partnership and 1 Head Teacher.

## 5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 The Council is acting through powers granted to them by the Aberdeenshire Educational Trust Scheme 1955 as amended by the Aberdeenshire Educational Trust Amendment Scheme 1966 and not through the Scheme of Governance. The work of the Sub-Committee has the potential to impact on all of the Council’s priorities including Our People – Education and Health and Wellbeing, Our Environment – Resilient Communities and Our Economy – Economy and Enterprise.
- 5.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			x
Staffing			x
Equalities			x
Fairer Scotland Duty			x
Town Centre First			x
Sustainability			x
Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing			x

- 5.4 An equality impact assessment is not required because the purpose of this report is to allow for consideration of the membership of the Sub-Committee. This is also the case for financial, staffing and all other implications as indicated in the table above.

## **6 Scheme of Governance**

- 6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the relevant legislation.

**Laurence Findlay**  
**Director of Education and Children's Services**

Report prepared by Lauren Cowie, Principal Solicitor (Governance)  
Date 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021