

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
ABERDEENSHIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST SUB-COMMITTEE**

VIRTUAL MEETING, 3 DECEMBER, 2021

- Present:** Councillors I Davidson (Chair), R Bruce (as substitute for Councillor G Owen), L McAllister, J Whyte and Ms S Padfield.
- Apology:** Councillor G Owen.
- Officers:** Accountant (Wendy Evans), Team Leader, Finance (Fiona Massie) and Principal Committee Services Officer all Business Services.

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 declared.

2. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In taking decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Sub-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 of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster 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.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 19 MARCH, 2021

On consideration of the circulated Minute of Meeting of the Sub-Committee of 19 March, 2021, Members **approved** it as a correct record subject to Item 5, decision paragraph, being amended to replace the word Committee with Sub-Committee.

4. MEETING DATES 2022

A report dated 22 November, 2021 by the Director of Education and Children's Services had been circulated proposing quarterly meeting dates for meetings of the Sub-Committee in 2022.

The Sub-Committee **approved** the programme of meetings for 2022 as follows –

Friday, 11 March, 2022 10.15 a.m.
Friday, 24 June, 2022 10.15 a.m.
Friday, 9 September, 2022 10.15 a.m.
Friday, 9 December, 2022 10.15 a.m.

5. ABERDEENSHIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST (AET) – GRANT FUNDING AWARDS

There had been circulated a report dated 22 November, 2021 by the Director of Business Services, setting out options for consideration of some of the uncertainties around income levels and the impact on grant awards that the AET was facing. The report explained that (1) the annual income for the trust was received from both its external and internal investments and also a donation from the Robb Trust, (2) in 2020/21 the trust received income of £106,221.49, (3) income levels were difficult to forecast each year due to the volatility of the stock market and timing of income received and it was now proposed that, in future, the previous year's income value be set as the amount to be disbursed for the next year from the trust allowing trustees to make decisions on a known level of income, with any additional income received during that year being invested to allow for future disbursements the following year, (4) it was also proposed that future applications for funding not already delegated for disbursement to the Head of Finance be held on file and presented to Trustees for determination at future meetings of the Sub-Committee, and (5) the statutory instrument which was the foundation for the trust needed modernisation and tentative enquiries had been made to external legal firms with a view to this work being undertaken and a report would be presented to the Sub-Committee in due course.

The Sub-Committee **agreed**:

- (1) that the disbursement level for the current year is set at the amount of income received in the previous financial year;
- (2) that any applications for grants other than those already delegated for disbursement to the Head of Finance for travel and further education awards be presented to the Sub-Committee for determination; and
- (3) that the Council's website be updated to publicise the new arrangements and deadlines for submission and consideration of applications at future meetings of the Sub-Committee.

6. ABERDEENSHIRE EDUCATION TRUST (AET) – FINANCIAL UPDATES

Consideration was given to a report dated 11 November, 2021 by the Director of Business Services which provided an update on the financial position of the trust for the period 1 April, 2021 to 31 October, 2021. The report advised that (1) at the start of the current financial year the balance held within AET was £4,255,216.90, (2) during the period from 1 April, 2021 to 31 October, 2021 income of £68,083.41 had been received in interest and dividends and £50,466.72 had been paid in grants, (3) expenditure on travel grants and school excursions remained low with some

applications expected for trips later in the financial year, (4) several applications for further education grants were awaiting the submission of further information, (5) £32,000 had been awarded to Kellands Primary School to assist with a multi use games area, and (6) that preference grants and school prizes were normally paid out annually at the financial year end.

The Sub-Committee **agreed** to note the financial position of the Aberdeenshire Educational Trust as at 31 October, 2021 as detailed in the report.