

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

VIRTUAL MEETING, 24 JUNE, 2022

Present: Councillors J Whyte (Chair), G Owen, A Stirling and Ms S Padfield.

Apology: Councillor L McAllister.

Officers: Quality Improvement Manager, Education (Peter Wood), Legal Service Manager (Ruth O'Hare), Accountant (Wendy Evans), Team Leader, Finance (Fiona Massie) and Committee Officer (Kasia Balina).

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The Committee Officer called for nominations for the appointment of the Chair of the Aberdeenshire Educational Trust Sub-Committee.

Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Stirling, moved that Councillor Whyte be appointed as Chair of the Sub-Committee.

There were no other nominations and Councillor Whyte was duly appointed Chair of the Aberdeenshire Educational Trust Sub-Committee and took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

2. 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.

3A. 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.

3B. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Sub-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 item 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
6	4

4. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 11 MARCH, 2022

On consideration of the circulated Minute of Meeting of the Sub-Committee of 11 March, 2022, Members **approved** it as a correct record.

5. ABERDEENSHIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST (AET) – FINANCIAL UPDATE

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Sub-Committee of 19 March, 2021 (Item 6), when the regular updates on the Aberdeenshire Education Trust (AET) income and expenditure had been agreed, there was circulated a report dated 13 June, 2022, by the Director of Business Services, which outlined the financial position of the Trust for the period to 1 May, 2022.

The report advised that (1) at the start of the current financial year the balance held within AET was £4,459,429.08 and those monies were invested in a mixture of external investments and the Council's Loans Fund, (2) during the period 1 April, 2022 to 31 May, 2022 there had been £18, 470.71 paid out from the AET, (3) expenditure on travel grants and school excursions was increasing and to date grants of over £44,000 had been provisionally awarded for trips due to take place in the current financial year, (4) applications for further education grants were normally received after the start of the academic year so only a relatively small amount had been awarded as at 31 May, 2022, (5) the preference grants and school prizes were normally paid out annually at the financial year end, (7) in the period to 31 May, 2022 £3,099.00 had been received in dividends, and (8) interest from the Loans Fund would be calculated and allocated later in the financial year.

Having considered Members' comment with regard to the donation from the Robb's Trust, the Sub-Committee **agreed** to note the financial position of the Aberdeenshire Educational Trust as at 31 May, 2022, as detailed in the report.

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

With reference to the Minute of the Meeting of 3 December, 2021 (Item 5), when it had been agreed that any applications outwith travel and further education awards be presented to the Trustee Representatives for approval at their quarterly meetings, there had been circulated a report dated 13 June, 2022 by the Director of Business Services, which sought consideration of 4 applications received for the period from 1

March, 2022 to 10 June, 2022 for grant funding from the Aberdeenshire Educational Trust.

The Sub-Committee **agreed** to approve the applications received for grant funding from the Aberdeenshire Educational Trust (AET) for the period from 1 March, 2022 to 10 June, 2022, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

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