

STIRLING COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING of the EDUCATION COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD VIEWFORTH, STIRLING on THURSDAY 11 JANUARY 2018 at 10.00 am

Present

Councillor Susan MCGILL (in the Chair)

Councillor Alistair BERRILL	Councillor Graham LAMBIE
Councillor Neil BENNY (Substitute)	Nick MORRIS, Religious Representative
Councillor Martin EARL	Colin O'BRIEN, Religious Representative
Councillor Danny GIBSON (Substitute - present from Item ED27)	Councillor Evelyn TWEED Ann SKILLEN, Teacher Representative

In Attendance

Sarah Anderson, Team Leader – ASN & Wellbeing
Bryony Monaghan, Service Manager – Additional Support Needs, Health & Wellbeing
Judy Edwards, Service Manager – Early Years & Early Intervention
Morven Graham, Principal Education Psychologist
Colin Gunning, Service Manager, Skills & Youth Employment
Siobhan Hewitt – Acting Headteacher, Killearn Primary School and Nursery
Kevin Kelman, Senior Manager – Schools & Learning (Chief Education Officer)
Carolyn McDaid, Service Manager – Broad General Education
Lyndsay MacNair, Headteacher, Doune Primary School and Nursery
Kirsty McReight, Senior Pupil, Wallace High School (Item ED26)
Aileen More, Team Leader – Business Improvement
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services, Falkirk Council
Giorgia Sanchez, Senior Pupil, Wallace High (Item ED26)
Anne Skillen, EIS Representative
David McDougall, Governance Officer (Clerk)
Mary Love, Committee Officer (Minute)

AGENDA

The Convener intimated her intention to alter the order of the Agenda. The items were taken in the order minuted below.

ED22 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Margaret Brisley, Councillor Bryan Flannagan and Mary Rennie, Statutory Religious Representative.

Councillor Danny Gibson was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Brisley and Councillor Neil Benny was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Flannagan.

ED23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

ED24 URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CONVENER

There were no items of urgent business.

ED25 MINUTES – 19 OCTOBER 2017

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 October 2017 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The Committee approved the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2017 as an accurate record of proceedings.

ED26 PRESENTATION ON EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES

Morven Graham, Principal Education Psychologist, presented information relating to Education Psychology Services. The importance of nurture for development of wellbeing was discussed and links with two senior pupil representatives in secondary schools had been established to create a wellbeing group and identify areas to look into. Education Scotland had produced a nurturing approach and it was noted that over 200 staff had been trained since August last year. A brief video of the work carried out by the Young People's Wellbeing Group was shown to Members, with key aspects taken forward by the Educational Psychology Services. Two senior pupils from Wallace High School were also in attendance at today's meeting and provided information to Members on how the workshops had been created in order for pupils to gain more information and help with issues such as exam stress, anxiety and LGBT issues. Mental Health Champions were in place and trained to identify issues from young people, who may need help.

The Chair thanked the Educational Psychologist and pupils from Wallace High School for their presentation and the Committee agreed that this was an excellent service for young pupils who were experiencing stress and anxiety through various issues in their life and that it would be excellent if this could be embedded in all schools.

Councillor Danny Gibson joined the meeting at this point in the proceedings.

ED27 PERFORMANCE & SERVICE PRIORITIES PROGRESS REPORT

A report by the Chief Officer - Education presented the latest information on the performance indicators, and on progress in implementing objectives, overseen by the Schools, Learning and Education Committee.

In response to a question from the Committee regarding the shortfall for capital and revenue funding for the expansion of early learning and childcare, the Service Manager for Early Years advised that a blueprint was produced in March 2017 and that Education Services were encouraged to bid for what was needed for the best possible

offer to continue the good work in Stirling. It then became evident that the money ring-fenced for this was not going to meet local authority demands. Workshops with national the ELC Delivery Team in November 2017 provided a clearer indication of funding to be awarded. It was noted that officers were confident that they could deliver statutory requirement in terms of expansion and that they were in the final stages of preparing a revised delivery plan for re-submission in January 2018, which would not be as flexible and accessible as hoped.

It was noted that a paper was brought to Committee in August 2017 but this did not include all the relevant information, due to the tight timescale to put a bid together. It was agreed, at the request of the Committee, that Officers would circulate the original bid paper to all relevant parties, in order to look at the comparison.

Discussion then took place regarding the Regional Improvement Collaborative and the Chief Officer – Education introduced Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services, Falkirk Council, who was taking the lead with this. Officers from Stirling, Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and West Lothian local authorities had been meeting to develop plans for collaboration across the following themes: Early Years, Literacy, Numeracy, Professional Learning and Performance/Data. Stirling Council were leading on Early Years and Childcare. It was noted that the culture between the four authorities was encouraging and that regional improvement plans had to be submitted by the end of January 2018. Each local authority was working on the themes identified, with working groups being established. It was noted that educational psychologists from each local authority had met twice and were keen to have educational psychology collaboration included within the plan.

A regional summit would be taking place on 22 January in Alva Academy with various representatives from Education Services attending, which would include headteachers across Early Years, Primary and Secondary Schools from each local authority. The Committee agreed that an interim update report regarding the Regional Improvement Collaborative should be brought to Committee by no later than August 2018.

Members enquired whether Stirling Council had formerly agreed to join the Collaborative. It was agreed that this would be followed up with the Chief Officer – Governance for clarity.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

1. to note the performance of reported indicators;
2. to note progress on the objectives, which are overseen by the Education Committee;
3. to note the updates on key areas of work within Schools, Learning and Education;
4. to approve the draft policy guidelines (Stirling is Included, Engaged and Involved: A Positive Approach to Preventing and Managing School Exclusions);
5. to approve the draft guidance and procedures (Child Protection and Safe-Guarding); and

6. that an interim update report regarding the “Regional Improvement Collaborative” should be brought to Committee by no later than August 2018.

(Reference: Report by Chief Education Officer, dated 1 December 2017, submitted).

ED28 SCHOOL ESTATE BI-ANNUAL REVIEW 2017

A joint report submitted by the Senior Manager, Infrastructure and the Chief Officer - Education provided a review of the education property estate using data gathered on the current condition, suitability and energy performance of all schools and nurseries. This report updated on progress made to improve the condition of the education estate since the last review reported to Education Committee in May 2016 and reconfirmed current approved investment priorities and sought approval for the coming year.

The report detailed the changes in the recently refreshed Scottish Government Core Facts Reporting process, which was the basis of how investment was prioritised across the Education Estate.

The report presented an interim picture for the short term and set out a joint proposal for Schools, Learning and Education and Infrastructure Delivery for a wide ranging review of the school estate, developing a future investment plan on the refreshed condition and suitability assessment identifying a medium to long term vision to support the full educational service needs.

The Team Leader for Strategic Asset Management introduced the report and it was noted that going forward, an annual risk assessment was required and an annual report would be completed.

In response to a question from the Committee regarding Callander Nursery School, the Team Leader advised that Early Years plans for options would involve a new provision, as the current unit was deemed unfit for purpose. Once funding was confirmed, the plans would then be confirmed. Officers were asked to ensure that this was addressed within the Capital Funding Programme if it was not confirmed in the plans.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

1. to note the completion of St. Margaret’s Primary School, Cowie Nursery, St. Ninians Primary School and St. Ninians Nursery which were now fully operational;
2. to note the work started at Strathyre Primary School due for completion in August 2018;
3. to note the works progressing through the action plan, within Appendix 3 to the report, to deliver the capital and revenue investment, with the constant commitment to improving of the school estate; and
4. that a report would be required after a full reassessment on the basis of the refreshed Condition and Suitability Core Fact Reporting process, showing the future pressures and the investment for the learning estate.

(Reference: Joint Report by Chief Education Officer and Senior Manager – Infrastructure Delivery, dated 4 December 2017, submitted).

ED29 OFFICER TASK GROUP RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT FROM THE REVIEW OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TUTORING, PRIMARY MUSIC SPECIALIST SERVICE AND RELATED SERVICES IN STIRLING COUNCIL AREA

A report by the Chief Officer – Education presented to Committee the Summary Document of the Response to Recommendations in Report of Review of Instrumental Music Tuition, Primary Music Specialist Service and Related Services in Stirling Council produced by an officer task group.

The Team Leader, Broad General Education, introduced the report and noted that 18 recommendations from the report of review had been presented to the Education Committee in January 2017, when it was agreed that a further report would be brought to Committee today, which identified actions that had been taken since the report publication in January 2017 and steps recommended to improve the Instrumental Music Service and Primary Music Specialist Service.

Discussion took place around consideration given to the impact on service delivery if the Instrumental Music Tuition Service was rationalised. Members agreed that for clarity, an additional recommendation would be added to highlight that no financial savings were being made from the overall budget area and that recommendation 4 within Appendix 2 to the report referred only to the instrumental music tuition service.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

1. to note the responses in the Summary Document of Responses to the Recommendations in the Report of Review of Instrumental Music Tuition, Primary Music Specialist Service and Related Services in Stirling Council;
2. to the formation of an action plan for Stirling's Music Service to implement the next steps proposed in the Response to Recommendations in Report of Review of Instrumental Music Tuition, Primary Music Specialist Service and Related Services in Stirling Council;
3. to the continuation of an officer task group to seek structured feedback from staff, parents, children and the community on proposed next steps and points for consideration;
4. to remove direct work with Big Noise from the Music Review to reflect the review of the Partnership Agreement work led by the Economic Development and Regeneration Service and reported to the Community Planning and Regeneration Committee; and
5. to note that no financial savings were being made from the instrumental music tuition service and that recommendation 4 within Appendix 2 to the report referred only to the instrumental music tuition service.

(Reference: Report by Chief Education Officer, dated 21 December 2017, submitted)

ED30 COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A report by the Chief Officer – Education advised of an interim Community Learning and Development action plan for Stirling, which was developed for 2017 – 2018. The action plan was taken forward within the context of the current Stirling and Clackmannanshire Community Learning and Development Plan 2015 – 2018, but with a focus on the needs of Stirling's communities.

The interim action plan and Stirling's new three year Community Learning and Development Plan for 2018 – 2021 reflected the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. The Community Learning and Development approach ensured partners work with, and support communities and individuals in Stirling.

The Chief Officer – Education introduced the report to the Committee and discussion took place around the content.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

1. to approve the interim Community Learning and Development action plan for 2017 – 2018; and
2. to note a new Community Learning and Development Plan will be developed for the period 2018 – 2021.

(Reference: Report by Chief Education Officer dated 7 December 2017, submitted).

ED31 DRAFT PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY (2017 – 2020)

A report by the Chief Officer – Education provided an update to Education Committee on the draft Stirling Council Parental Engagement Strategy (2017 – 2020).

The Service Manager, Early Years & Early Intervention introduced the report. In response to queries regarding the role of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), the Service Manager advised that the recommendation was for schools to have a Parent Council and that the PTA was to become part of this. There were currently 4 or 5 PTAs left within schools and the remaining schools had a Parent Council.

The Committee noted concern around that the report, which seemed to focus on parental strategy and not community strategy, which did not translate and was often down to the ethos and/or attitude of the school with Committee advising that it would like to see this more challenged in this document and brought in to communities, as long as people had current life skills to support pupils. The Service Manager agreed that this was a good point and that the Community Learning and Development (CLD) plan had a section on family learning. The aspiration going forward was that the two would be aligned and would change over time and become more focussed around CLD work.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

1. to approve the Parental Engagement Strategy.

(Reference: Report by Chief Education Officer dated 1 December 2017, submitted).

ED32 PLACING REQUESTS – RESERVED PLACES

A report by the Chief Officer - Education identified the number of places calculated as requiring to be reserved in Stirling schools during session 2018/19 to ensure there was a sufficient provision for children at their catchment school. Reserving places allowed the education authority to manage the admission to schools, ensuring that children arriving late in the catchment area could be accommodated with no detriment to provision of education.

The Council's placing request policy took account of reserved places. This report updated the reserved places position for academic session 2018/19.

This new session, there was some schools with increased reserved places due to a new methodology previously approved by Education Committee.

The list of schools where reserved places were recommended was shown at Appendix 2 to the report. In addition, some background information was provided in Appendix 3 to the report.

The Team Leader, Business Improvement, introduced the report. In response to a question from the Committee regarding the increased amount of reserved places at Riverside Primary School, the Team Leader explained that the amount was often historically based and included Gaelic and ASD provision. The Service Manager also added that late enrolment requests often came from travelling families and students.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

1. to approve the recommended places to be reserved for catchment area children for session 2018/19 in the schools listed in Appendix 2 to the report; and
2. to delegate authority to the Chief Education Officer to determine allocation of reserved places at specific year stages in each school.

(Reference: Report by Chief Education Officer, dated 1 December 2017, submitted).

ED33 MOTHBALLING OF BUCHANAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

This report outlined the declining roll at Buchanan Primary School, as a result of which, there were currently no children attending the school.

It was proposed that the school be mothballed with effect from 15 January 2018 for the remainder of 2017/18 session and 2018/19 session.

The Service Manager, Broad General Education introduced the report and responded to a number of questions from the Committee. It was noted that staff were happy with the current arrangements and the plan was to communicate the decision to all stakeholders. It was noted that pupils in Drymen Primary School, as a result of a

placing request, would be entitled to transport if they matched the criteria for mothballing.

Decision

The Committee agreed:

1. to mothball Buchanan Primary School for the remainder of the 2017/18 session;
2. to mothball Buchanan Primary School for the 2018/19 session;
3. that during the period of mothballing, the catchment of Drymen Primary School would be extended to include the current catchment of Buchanan Primary School; and
4. that a further report be brought to Committee prior to the start of the 2019/20 session. This would seek permissions to either continue mothballing or re-open the school for the 2019/20 session.

(Reference: Report by Chief Education Officer, dated 21 December 2017, submitted).

ED34 CARE INSPECTION REPORTS

This report was to inform the Education Committee on the outcome of the published reports by the Care Inspectorate on their inspections of Doune Nursery and Killearn Primary School Nursery Class.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

1. to note the outcome of the inspections and the key findings identified in the published inspection reports, which were attached as appendices.

(Reference: Report by Chief Education Officer, dated 1 December 2017, submitted).

ED35 INSPECTION OF CORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PUBLICATION OF EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT

This report informed the Education Committee on the outcome of the published letter by Education Scotland on their inspection of Cornton Primary School.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

1. to note the outcome of the inspection and the key findings identified in the published inspection letter.

(Reference: Report by Chief Education Officer, dated 21 December 2017, submitted).

The Convener declared the Meeting closed at 12 noon.