

HAMILTON AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 29 November 2023

Chair:

Councillor Allan Falconer

Councillors Present:

Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Colin Dewar, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Celine Handibode, Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Cal Johnston-Dempsey, Councillor Gavin Keatt, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Lesley McDonald, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Mo Razzaq (Depute), Councillor John Ross, Councillor Helen Toner

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Ross Clark, Councillor Martin Hose, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor Bert Thomson

Attending:

Education Resources

M Farr, Quality Lead Officer (Supporting Families); L Mitchell, Quality Improvement Officer; G Sivas, Headteacher, Hamilton Grammar School

Finance and Corporate Resources

S Jessup, Administration Assistant; E-A McGonigle, Administration Officer

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Hamilton Area Committee held on 20 September 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Committee decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

Councillor McLachlan entered the meeting following consideration of the above item of business

3 Education Scotland Report – Hamilton Grammar School

A report dated 23 October 2023 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of the inspection of Hamilton Grammar School made by Education Scotland.

The inspection had taken place in October 2022 as part of a national sample of primary education and the inspection letter reporting on the findings had been published on 3 October 2023.

A number of particular strengths of the school had been highlighted in the inspection letter. The areas for improvement, agreed with the school and education authority, had been incorporated into the school's improvement plan and parents would be informed of progress.

G Sivas, Headteacher and L Mitchell, Lead Officer, having spoken on key aspects of the report, were congratulated on the positive inspection report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

4 Participatory Budgeting – Education Resources - Pupil Equity Funding

A report dated 9 November 2023 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Participatory Budgeting (PB) in relation to Pupil Equity Funding (PEF).

Before the summer holidays, head teachers were informed PB would continue into session 2023/2024. They were asked to allocate a minimum of 5% of their 2023/2024 PEF allocation and identify a staff member to lead/facilitate this activity in their school. Schools were informed that the principles and practices of PB were applicable across their full PEF allocation as per PEF National Operational Guidance. Schools were, therefore, encouraged to put aside more than the recommended 5% where possible.

PB training was held on 21 August 2023 for head teachers and PB Leads who required a refresh or were new to the process. The training outlined expectations, timescales and support available and also drew on lessons learned previously in relation to good practice and signposting resources. The training was then shared with schools thereafter.

Schools within the Hamilton area had allocated £224,076.30 of their £3.656,910 PEF allocation for PB. A breakdown of the allocation for each learning community was provided in Appendix 1 to the report. Appendix 2 of the report summarised the percentage of PEF which schools had allocated for PB. A further school-by-school breakdown was outlined in Appendix 3 of the report.

PB Stakeholder groups, comprising pupils, parents and staff, were currently leading the PB process in their schools. The outcome for each school would be reported to Education Resources by 9 October 2023. Information on the outcome of the process would be shared at future Area Committee meetings. Appendix 4 provided a summary on what stakeholders chose as their PB outcome.

Education Resources would provide Area Committees with:-

- ◆ case studies of school activity, which had particular impact/success
- ◆ a detailed financial report of how PEF money allocated for PB had been spent

Education Resources would support schools and monitor and track the impact of this activity. Findings would inform any future PB activity within the Resource.

The Quality Lead Officer (Supporting Families) responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 21 June 2023 (Paragraph 7)]

Councillor Ross entered the meeting during consideration of the above item of business

5 Community Grant Applications

A report dated 13 November 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on applications for community grants.

The Committee decided: that community grants be awarded as follows:-

- (a) Applicant: St Cuthbert's Bowling Club, Hamilton (HA/25/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £300
- (b) Applicant: Hamilton Bowling Club Winter Section (HA/26/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300
- (c) Applicant: Larkhall Community Growers (HA/27/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £350
- (d) Applicant: Saffronhall Art Club, Hamilton (HA/29/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £350
- (e) Applicant: Hamilton and District u3a (HA/30/23)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £600

[Reference: Minutes of 20 September 2023 (Paragraph 7)]

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.