

EDUCATION RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 14 November 2017

Chair:

Councillor Katy Loudon

Councillors Present:

Alex Allison, Margaret Cooper, Poppy Corbett, Margaret Cowie, Peter Craig (Depute), Fiona Dryburgh, Lynsey Hamilton, Ian Harrow, Mark Horsham, Ann Le Blond, Monique McAdams, Ian McAllan, Jim McGuigan (*substitute for Councillor Fulton*), Julia Marrs, Lynne Nailon, Carol Nugent, Mo Razzaq, Graham Scott, David Shearer (*substitute for Councillor Ross*), Bert Thomson (*substitute for Councillor Walker*), Sheena Wardhaugh

Councillors' Apologies:

John Anderson, Stephanie Callaghan, Alistair Fulton, Gladys Miller, John Ross (ex officio), Margaret B Walker, David Watson

External Members Present:

Dr Nagy Iskander, Gillian Coulter, Bill Ramsay, Susannah McIntosh, Hilary Kirby

External Member's Apology:

John Mulligan

Attending:

Education Resources

T McDaid, Executive Director; D Dickson, Head of Education (East Kilbride); A Donaldson, Head of Education (Inclusion); S Nicolson, Head of Education (Curriculum, Learning and Teaching); V Quinn, Quality Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

L Harvey, Finance Manager (Resources); M Milne, HR Business Partner; L O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Strategy); L Paterson, Administration Officer

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Education Resources Committee held on 5 September 2017 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Education Resources - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2017/2018

A joint report dated 10 October 2017 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 15 September 2017 against budgeted expenditure for 2017/2018 for Education Resources.

Details were provided on proposed budget virements to realign budgets.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the breakeven position on the Education Resources' revenue budget at 15 September 2017 be noted;
- (2) that the forecast to 31 March 2018 of a breakeven position be noted; and
- (3) that the budget virements, as detailed in the appendix to the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 5 September 2017 (Paragraph 2)]

4 Education Resources - Capital Budget Monitoring 2017/2018

A joint report dated 11 October 2017 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources and (Education Resources) was submitted advising of the progress on Education Resources' capital programme 2017/2018 and summarising the expenditure position at 15 September 2017.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 5 September 2017 (Paragraph 3)]

5 Education Resources - Workforce Monitoring - July to September 2017

A joint report dated 11 October 2017 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Education Resources for the period July to September 2017:-

- ♦ attendance statistics
- ♦ occupational health
- ♦ accident/incident statistics
- ♦ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ♦ analysis of leavers

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 5 September 2017 (Paragraph 4)]

6 Education Resources' Resource Plan - Quarter 2 Progress Report - 1 April to 30 September 2017

A report dated 24 October 2017 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the Education Resources' draft Resource Plan for 2017/2018. Details were provided on progress made at the end of quarter 2, covering the period April to September 2017, in implementing the priority projects identified in the draft Resource Plan.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 8 March 2017 (Paragraph 28)]

7 South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan

A joint report dated 24 October 2017 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) and Director, Health and Social Care was submitted on the development of a new Children's Services Plan (CSP) for South Lanarkshire.

Part Three of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 placed a duty on the Council and Health Board to put in place a CSP that followed the legal framework set out in the Act. It also placed a duty on Partners to work together to integrate service provision to facilitate better outcomes, prevent the occurrence of negative outcomes and to improve efficiency by avoiding duplication.

Within South Lanarkshire, there existed a strong partnership ethos and governance structure which, together with the 2016/2017 Performance Improvement Plan and the work of various strategic sub groups, had helped the process of scoping out the new CSP. The draft CSP had also been informed by the wealth of data available in the Council and input from a wide range of stakeholders. Key drivers, which had been considered in developing the draft CSP, were detailed in the report.

Partners, on behalf of the Getting it Right for South Lanarkshire Partnership Board, had been working on 'Realigning Children's Services', a national programme led by the Scottish Government, to support local improvement in joint strategic commissioning practice. This programme focused on improved evidence collection, analysis and a strengthening of partnership working across all agencies involved in Children's Services.

The priorities set out in the draft CSP centered on the following 3 key themes:-

- ◆ **Prevention and Early Support** - children to have the best start in life and be supported to realise their potential
- ◆ **Health and Wellbeing** - the health and wellbeing of children and young people to be improved
- ◆ **Supporting Vulnerable Groups and Keeping Children Safe** - the life chances of our children with additional support needs and our most vulnerable children and young people to be improved

Priority areas, which had been identified for action under each of the 3 key themes, were detailed in the report.

The draft CSP had been made available in the members' areas and would be presented to a future meeting of the Executive Committee for approval.

The Committee decided: that the progress made with the development of a new Children Service's Plan be noted.

8 Review of the Impact of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006

A report dated 20 October 2017 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on a review of the impact of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006.

In November 2015, the Scottish Government had announced that the National Parent Forum for Scotland (NPFS) would conduct a review into the impact of the Act and associated policy framework. The Act had required each local authority to facilitate the establishment of Parent Councils and to prepare a 'Strategy for Parental Involvement'. There were 146 Parent Councils, in addition to other groups for parents, such as Parent Teacher Associations, operating in South Lanarkshire.

The NPFS review set out to address the following questions:-

- ◆ what progress had schools and local authorities made in implementing the 2006 Act?
- ◆ how had the landscape, practice and approaches to parental involvement evolved since 2006?
- ◆ how effective were Parent Councils?
- ◆ to what extent were parents informed by, and involved with, their school and engaged in their child's learning?

A summary of some of the key findings under each of the questions, which was provided in the report, had confirmed that the 2006 Act had assisted a step-change in the way parents were recognised and supported to be involved in their child's education. A summary of the NPFS' recommendations was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

A working group would now be established to review the Council's Parental Involvement Strategy, 'Making a Difference – Working Together to Support Children's Learning', in light of the NPFS' review report. Representatives from the Parents as Partners Focus Group, Parent Councils, Pupil Councils and other stakeholders would be involved in the review process, following which, a report on the working group's findings would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the National Parent Forum for Scotland's report on the impact of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 be noted; and
- (2) that a report on the findings of the working group to review the Council's Parental Involvement Strategy, 'Making a Difference – Working Together to Support Children's Learning', be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

[Reference: Minutes of 3 March 2009 (Paragraph 7)]

9 Developing our Young Workforce - Scotland's Youth Employment Strategy

A report dated 26 October 2017 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted providing an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce (DSYW).

On 22 November 2016, the Committee had noted the Council's involvement in responding to the DYW, Scotland's Youth Employment Strategy, and the range of activities and developments which had been undertaken, in partnership with stakeholders, to meet the ambition set out in the Scottish Government's 7 year national programme to develop the young workforce.

Significant work continued to be undertaken across a range of Resources and services to progress aspects of DYW and in the area of employability. Strategic support for schools was provided by a Lead Officer for DYW within the Curriculum and Quality Improvement Service, who managed a team of Head Teachers to deliver the strategic implementation of the DYW Framework, building upon and continuing with the work undertaken in previous schools' sessions.

The importance of a partnership approach to develop opportunities for schools, colleges and employers to work together to plan, support and deliver opportunities that transformed learning for young people was recognised.

Information was provided on:-

- ◆ activities which enhanced vocational and foundation apprenticeship pathways
- ◆ the Careers Education Standard which ensured that enhanced careers guidance was available to young people on the world of work
- ◆ work placements which provided opportunities for young people to build upon learning experiences in the classroom and contextualise skills for work
- ◆ school/employer partnerships which focused on a manageable number of priorities embedded in school improvement plans and demonstrated improved outcomes for learners
- ◆ the 'Talking Tomorrows' resource, developed by 4 South Lanarkshire schools, which offered a cross-section of S3 learners the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion about their skills development before transition to their Senior Phase
- ◆ enhanced professional learning activities that enabled teachers to work with a range of partners
- ◆ schools' engagement with parents/carers to develop a shared understanding of DYW

The Council had been successful in a recent bid to Skills Development Scotland for funding in 2018/2019. This funding would significantly enhance the current number of Foundation Apprenticeships and it was anticipated that 250 opportunities would be provided to young people from 2018.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 22 November 2016 (Paragraph 10)]

10 Leadership Development - Professional Learning Trios

A report dated 19 October 2017 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the Education Resources' Professional Learning Trios (PLTs).

On 1 September 2015, the Committee had noted the development of the Education Resources' 'Leadership Framework: Aspiring Heads and Head of Establishments' which would enhance personal and professional leadership capacities of aspiring Heads and current Heads of Establishments. The rationale for PLTs was clearly set out in the Leadership Framework.

In 2016/2017, over 40 establishments had been involved in the first cohort of PLTs and, following the programme's success, the programme was expanded in 2017/2018. 101 schools from across all 4 geographical areas, with representation from ASN, primary and secondary, were now participating in the 2017/2018 programme. The focus of the PLTs would be on how strategic planning for change and implementing improvement and change could lead to increased attainment and achievement. Participating schools would have the opportunity to work with other similar schools from outwith their learning community and, where possible, within their geographical area.

It was Education Resources' intention to continue PLTs in session 2018/2019, as an integral part of the Leadership programme, providing Heads and strategic leaders with valuable opportunities to share, reflect, support and learn from each other. The aspiration was to have all schools fully involved by the next session.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 September 2015 (Paragraph 11)]

11 Spotlight on Learning

A report dated 19 October 2017 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the 'Spotlight on Learning' event which had been held from 30 October to 10 November 2017.

The Council had participated in the annual Scottish Learning Festival (SLF), organised by Education Scotland, which celebrated and shared effective and innovative educational practices across the Scottish education community.

'Spotlight on Learning' was the Council's own annual version of the SLF which provided schools and establishments with the opportunity to showcase effective and innovative practices across the authority.

The Programme for 2017 included 29 separate events which were detailed in an appendix to the report. Events were held across all 4 geographical areas and covered a rich diversity of educational topics, including events which focused on raising attainment in literacy and numeracy.

An evaluation of the Programme would be undertaken to help inform and influence the 2018 'Spotlight on Learning' showcase.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted

[Reference: Minutes of 22 November 2016 (Paragraph 11)]

12 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

13 Exclusion of Press and Public

The Committee decided: that, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it was likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information in terms of Paragraph(s) 5 and 14 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

14 Scottish Historical Child Abuse Inquiry

A report dated 19 October 2017 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted to advise of the:-

- ♦ ongoing work of the Internal Working Group established to progress work streams generated by the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry
- ♦ Council's response to Section 21 Notices issued by the Inquiry

Future updates would be provided to this Committee as appropriate.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.