

LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee held virtually on Wednesday 26 August 2020 at 9.30am.

Present: Councillors C Shiers, J Duff, H Anderson, K Baird, A Forbes, X McDade, T McEwan, B Pover, C Purves, J Rebbeck, C Reid, F Sarwar and L Simpson; Mr J Bell, Mr A Charlton, Mr A Ferguson, Mr M Gowrie, Miss T Moran and Mrs C Weston.

In attendance: Councillor McCole, S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); J Pepper, G Boland, S Johnston, F Mackay, B Martin Scott, D Macluskie, G McKendrick, H Robertson, K Robertson and C Taylor (all Education and Children's Services); A O'Brien, S Rodger, L Simpson, C Flynn and L Brown (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Apologies for absence: Mrs P Giles, Mrs A McAuley and Mr D McBride.

The Convener led discussion on Items 1-5 and 8 and Vice-Convener Duff on Item 6 and 7.

Councillor C Shiers, Convener, Presiding.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct,

3. MINUTES

(i) Lifelong Learning Committee

The minute of meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 22 January 2020 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

(ii) Executive Sub-Committee of Lifelong Learning Committee

The minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 27 January 2020 was submitted and noted.

(iii) Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff

The minute of meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff of 3 December 2019 was submitted and noted.

4. UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN UNDER COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS

Prior to inviting the Executive Director to give an update on activities undertaken by Education and Children's Services under COVID-19 arrangements, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, thanked all Education and Children's Services staff for their efforts since 23 March 2020 when the country went into lockdown. Their support to children, young people and families and especially from amongst those who are most vulnerable had been greatly appreciated.

Thereafter the Committee received a verbal update and overview from the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) on: (1) the activities which had continued during the initial lockdown period and since in the provision of services to children, young people and families in Perth and Kinross, (2) the situation in relation to SQA results in Perth and Kinross and (3) an update on the most recent modification to the schools guidance concerning the wearing of face coverings in school.

5. EXPANSION OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE PROGRESS UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (20/139) providing an update on: (1) the progress made to date in regard to the readiness to deliver 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) from August 2020 within Perth and Kinross; (2) outlining the delivery of the phasing of 1140 hours of ELC and, (3) detailing the progress made since May 2019 towards full implementation, and the contingencies which had been put in place as a result of COVID-19.

Thereafter the Committee viewed a short video showing the progress as well as the impact and recovery of the programme during the COVID-19 period and beyond.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress made to date as detailed in Report 20/139 be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be requested to submit a further progress report on implementation by March 2021.

6. RAISING ATTAINMENT STRATEGY 2020-2023

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (20/140) providing an update of the Education and Children's Services Raising Attainment Strategy and Implementation Plan for the period 2020-2023, including taking into account the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Resolved:

- (i) The structure and content of the Raising Attainment Strategy 2020-2023 and the Raising Attainment Implementation Plan 2020-2023 be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be requested to provide an annual progress report on the Raising Attainment Implementation Plan, commencing November 2020.

THERE FOLLOWED A 5 MINUTE RECESS, THE COMMITTEE RECONVENED
at 11.05

7. THIRD ANNUAL UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REACH

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (20/141) providing an annual update on the progress of the REACH Project, following the successful implementation of all elements of the team in January 2019. The report details the positive impact REACH has had on the lives of young people and their families across Perth and Kinross and who are "on the edge of care".

Resolved:

- (i) The progress of the REACH project in the first year of full implementation be noted.
- (ii) The approach to ongoing evaluation and the growing evidence of the impact of REACH be noted.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be requested to provide a fourth progress update on REACH by September 2021.

8. ABERNYTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (20/142(Revised)) providing an overview of the decisions which had been taken in relation to the proposal to close Abernyte Primary School, the rationale for the Judicial Review actions and the outcome from the School Closure Review Panel.

Motion (Councillors Shiers and Duff)

- (i) Notes and comments on the content of the report;
- (ii) Approves the next steps in relation to the review of Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Securing the Future of the School Estate Review;
- (iii) Notes that the matter will be considered by the Scrutiny Committee and
- (iv) Request the Executive Director undertake a further review of the catchment area at Abernyte Primary School to consider all possible options to build a sustainable roll at the earliest opportunity, including looking at the possibility of a nursery.

Thereafter, Councillor McDade asked Councillors Shiers and Duff to consider some minor changes to the wording of the additional recommendation (iv) namely to add in at the earliest possible opportunity in relation to catchment review and looking at exploring nursery provision from August 2021.

THE COMMITTEE ADJOURNED FOR 40 MINUTES
THE COMMITTEE RECONVENED

Resolved:

- (i) Notes the content of Report 20/142.
- (ii) Approves the next steps in relation to the Review of Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Securing the Future of the School Estate Review.

- (iii) Notes that the matter will be considered by the Scrutiny Committee.
- (iv) Requests the Executive Director to bring back a scoping report for approval to the November Lifelong Learning Committee which will outline all possible options for a catchment review to build a sustainable roll at the earliest opportunity, including looking at the possibility of a nursery.