

THE FIFE COUNCIL - EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Committee Room 2, 5th Floor, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

9 January 2024

10.00 am – 11.05 am

PRESENT: Councillors Kathleen Leslie (Convener), Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Altany Craik (substituting for Councillor Davidson), Patrick Browne, John Caffrey, Ian Cameron, Linda Erskine, Alycia Hayes, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, James Leslie (substituting for Councillor Dempsey), Alistair Suttie and Daniel Wilson;
Alastair Crockett and Ian Macaulay, Religious Representative/Adviser.

ATTENDING: Shelagh McLean, Head of Education & Children's Services (Early Years & Directorate Support), Angela Logue, Head of Education & Children's Services (Early Years & Primary Schools), Jackie Funnell, Education Manager; Alison Binnie, Finance Business Partner; and Diane Barnet, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey and Sarah Neal.

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 22.

72. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of meeting of the Education Scrutiny Committee of 14 November 2023.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

73. INSPECTION OUTCOMES AUGUST 2022 – JUNE 2023

The committee considered a report by the Head of Service, Education and Children's Services providing an overview of the quality improvement activity across our schools and early learning centres, Education Scotland inspection activity in Schools and Care Inspectorate Inspections within Early Learning Centres and Out of School/Creche Provision, during the academic Session 2022/2023.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) scrutinised and noted the outcomes of the inspection activity; and
- (2) noted areas of success and progress, as well as the actions being taken to ensure continued improvement.

74. EDUCATION SERVICE REVENUE BUDGET 2023-24 PROJECTED OUTTURN

The committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Head of Education (Early Years and Directorate Support) providing an update on the forecast financial position for the 2023-24 financial year, for the areas in scope of the Education Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

The committee noted:-

- (1) the current financial performance and activity as detailed in the report; and
- (2) the projected outturn position and the relevant areas of projected over and under spend within the service.

75. EDUCATION SERVICE CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN 2023-24 : PROGRESS REPORT

The committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Head of Education (Early Years and Directorate Support), providing information on the overall progress of the Education Service capital programme, for the current financial year, 2023-24, as well as informing on progress on major projects.

Decision

The committee noted:-

- (1) the financial position as detailed in the report; and
- (2) that the budget had been revised to reflect the outcome of the Capital Plan review and the annual re-phasing exercise undertaken in June 2023.

76. EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services supporting the committee's consideration of the workplan for future meetings of the committee.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) reviewed the workplan and suggestions were invited from members of the committee for future areas of scrutiny;
- (2) requested a report be submitted for its consideration providing an overview of leadership in schools, specifically Headteacher appointments and turnover – future date to be confirmed; and
- (3) requested a report be submitted for its consideration relating to local authority out of school childcare provision inspection and outcomes.

77. SERVICE PUPIL PREMIUM - CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT (FOR INFORMATION)

Decision

The committee noted copy correspondence with the Scottish Government regarding the introduction of a service pupil premium in Fife, as agreed at its meeting on 22 August 2023 – Minute Reference Paragraph 51 (5) of 2023.ES.26 refers.