**Report to Presbytery of the Education and Children’s Services Committee**

**1 February, 20224**

For each item, 1-16 listed below, the committee responded as detailed underneath.

1. Minute of Meeting of the Education and Children's Services Committee of 1 February, 2024.

* The minutes were approved.

1. Statement of Outstanding Business.
   * Progress on twelve items was reported and discussed. Five of these are now fully complete and one partially complete. It was agreed to remove these from the list, the remaining seven and the rest of the ninth are on target and will remain on the list.
2. Financial Performance as at 31 January 2024
   * Considered and commented on the Revenue and Capital forecast position pertaining to this Committee for 2023/24;
   * Considered and commented on the progress of Budget Savings associated with these budgets;
   * Considered and commented on the Earmarked Reserves associated with this Committee and their use;
   * Agreed the revenue budget virements detailed.
   * Noted the drawdown of reserves to be agreed by Full Council.
3. Secondary Catchment Anomaly Rezoning at Lumphanan Final Consultation Report
   * Considered and commented on the consultation report on the rezoning of Aboyne Academy catchment to include the anomaly area of the Lumphanan School catchment currently zoned to Alford Academy;
   * Considered and commented on the recommendations of the Marr Area Committee on 12 March 2024;
   * Agreed to adopt the proposed Aboyne Academy catchment area to include the anomaly area within the Lumphanan School catchment area and rezone the Alford Academy catchment area.
4. Teacher Staffing
   * Acknowledged the position with teacher staffing in Aberdeenshire Council and the actions taken to date;
   * Noted the ongoing actions as detailed within the report.
5. 2023/24 Based School Roll Forecasts
   * Approved for publication the school roll projections for schools across Aberdeenshire as detailed in Appendix 1;
   * Noted that projections are based upon revised pupil yield ratios from new build housing.
6. Education and Children's Heads of Service Business Plans
   * Scrutinised, challenged, commented on and endorsed the Heads of
   * Service Business Plans;
   * Considered, commented and agreed the performance measures detailed in each Business Plan;
   * Instructed the Director of Education and Children’s Services to continue to present performance reports to the Committee on a six-monthly basis, in line with the Performance Management Framework, evidencing progress and performance in support of the Council Plan 2022-2027.
7. Secondary School Admission Limits and Reserved Places 2024/25
   * Agreed the Secondary School S1 admission limits and reserved places for the school session 2024-25;
   * Agreed the Secondary School S2-S4 limits for the school session 2024-25.
8. Carbon Budget - 6 Monthly Update
   * Considered and commented on the Education and Children’s Services Carbon Budget six-monthly update, as attached in Appendix 1;
   * Noted the ongoing responsibility of each Director to secure their reduction targets as set out in the Carbon Budget, and to report progress at six-monthly to the relevant Policy Committees and to the Sustainability Committee.
9. Update on Aberdeenshire Young Carer Strategy 2021 - 2023
   * Considered and commented on the progress made during the period from January 2023 to December 2023.
10. Update on Developing the Young Workforce Foundation Apprenticeships in Aberdeenshire Schools
    * Considered and commented on progress made with the development of Foundation Apprenticeships in Aberdeenshire schools during session 2023-24 including the impact on raising attainment, closing the attainment gap, developing metaskills and improved opportunities for young people;
    * Acknowledged that Aberdeenshire Council is a leading provider of Foundation Apprenticeships both in volume and the quality of delivery leading to positive outcomes for young people;
    * Acknowledged that Aberdeenshire Council will continue as a lead provider for the delivery of Foundation Apprenticeships for session 2024-25;
    * Endorsed the approaches to build capacity and partnership across the region, in particular in relation to employer engagement and pathways into work for young people;
    * Acknowledged the outcomes of the Review of the Work Placement Unit and the agreed priority key focus areas in building capacity while managing workload to achieve the most positive work-based learning outcomes for young people.
11. Aberdeenshire Community Learning and Development (Partnership) Progress Visit Report - January 2024
    * Considered and commented upon the progress visit report.
12. Draft Aberdeenshire British Sign Language (BSL) Plan 2024-30
    * Considered and commented on the draft Aberdeenshire British Sign Language Plan attached to this report;
    * Noted that comments will be collated following consultation with all Area Committees and Education and Children’s Services Committee and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Integration Joint Board before the final plan is presented to Business Services Committee on 18 April 2024 for approval.
13. Scrutiny Referral from Audit Committee Meeting 15 February 2024 (Internal Audit Report 2407)
    * Considered and determined the request from the Audit Committee to conduct the Committee Review Process in respect of the matter of service delivery identified by the Audit Committee for improvement;
    * Agreed that the Head of Education and Children’s Services will report to Committee with the Stage 1 Report on 30 May 2024;
    * Instructed the Head of Education and Children’s Services to report to Audit Committee on 17 April 2024 with the Committee’s decision.
14. Policy Register Annual Review
    * Acknowledged the policies delegated to Education & Children’s Services Committee that have been reviewed during 2023;
    * Agreed the proposed plans for review for those policies that have expired as well as those that are approaching their review date, to be considered at future committees;
    * Identified any gaps or review requirements as part of the agreed annual overview of the Council’s Policy Framework, as per section 3.5 of the Policy Development and Review Framework in Part 4B of the Scheme of Governance.
15. Aberdeenshire Educational Trust Sub-Committee
    * The minutes of the sub-committee meetings held on 19 May 2023 and 26 January 2024 were noted.