

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

ABERDEEN, 20 September 2012. Minute of Meeting of the EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor Laing, Convener; Councillor Thomson, Vice-Convener; and Councillors Boulton, Cameron, Carle, Cooney, Crockett, Greig, McCaig, Malik, May, Nathan Morrison (as substitute for Councillor Lesley Dunbar), Noble, Samarai, Jennifer Stewart, Stuart, Taylor, Townson and Young. External Members:- Mr Stewart Duncan (Teacher Representative (Primary Schools)), Mr Murdo Maclean (Parent Representative (Secondary Schools)), Mr Alex Nicoll (Parent Representative (Primary Schools and ASN)), Mr Mike Paul (Teacher Representative (Secondary Schools)) and Mrs Irene Wischik (Roman Catholic Religious Representative).

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be located at the following link:

<http://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=2517&Ver=4>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Convener advised that Mrs Anne Tree had been formally appointed as the Third Religious representative for the Committee at the meeting of Council of 22 August, 2012 (article 17 refers), but unfortunately Mrs Tree had been unable to attend this afternoon's meeting. The Convener stated that she looked forward to formally welcoming Mrs Tree at the next meeting.

The Convener also expressed her sadness at being advised that Mr Peter Campbell (Church of Scotland Religious representative) had stood down as a member of this Committee with immediate effect. She thanked Mr Campbell on behalf of the Committee for his valuable contribution since 2009.

REQUESTS FOR DEPUTATION

2. The Convener advised that three requests for deputation had been received in terms of Standing Order 10 in relation to item 3.1 of the agenda (Community Centres), as follows:

- Mr Paul O'Connor
- Wilma Mackland (Development Worker/Volunteer)
- Mr Alex Mess, Reverend Andy Cowie, both of Powis Gateway Community Centre and Mrs Sylvia Davidson, of Woodside Community Centre.

The Committee resolved:

to agree to hear the deputations prior to considering item 3.1 (Community Centres) of the agenda (article 7 of this minute refers).

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MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3. The Committee had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 7 June, 2012.

In relation to page 5 of the minute (article 8 (c)), it was noted that the maps pertaining to the current school zones had not been circulated to members to date. The Acting Director undertook to circulate these maps at an early date.

The Committee resolved:

to approve the minute as a correct record.

BUDGET MONITORING (ECS/12/047)

4. With reference to article 7 of the minute of its meeting of 23 February, 2012, the Committee had before it a report by the Head of Finance which advised members of the current year revenue budget performance to date for the Service, and outlined any areas of risk and management action being taken in this regard.

The Committee resolved:

- (i) to note the forecast outturn on the revenue budget and the information on areas of risk and management action being taken; and
- (ii) to instruct officers to continue to review budget performance, and report on Service strategies.

SERVICE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (ECS/12/043)

5. The Committee had before it a report by the Acting Director of Education, Culture and Sport which sought approval of the Service asset management plans, as detailed within the report.

The report set out the Service wide priorities as follows:

Short Term Projects (with funding in place)
Build a new additional support needs (3 – 18 years) school campus and close Hazlewood and Woodlands Schools.
Close Bucksburn Primary School and Newhills School and amalgamate them to form a new school in a new building on the Newhills School site using funding support from the Scottish Government via the Scottish Futures Trust.
Build additional accommodation at Riverbank Primary School to meet the identified increase in pupil numbers resulting from new housing development.
Complete the construction of the regional 50 metre pool and Aquatics Centre in partnership with the University of Aberdeen, sportscotland and Aberdeen Sports

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Village.
Refurbish Tullos swimming pool with a view to reopening to the public in 2013.
Undertake a review of the primary school estate.
Undertake a review of the level of provision of community centres in the city.
Undertake a review of the library provision across the city.
Continue the transfer of community centres to a leased management arrangement.
Continue to work with Sport Aberdeen, sportscotland, Scottish Swimming and local swimming clubs to review the provision of swimming pools city wide, and develop a Water Management Plan for the city.
Undertake a review of all leisure assets and sports pitches across the city and develop a programme to implement the outcomes.
Develop a programme for the refurbishment or replacement of all weather pitches across the city.
Initiate a rolling programme of energy efficiency works and building improvements to reduce operational costs of running buildings and improve the Council's carbon footprint.
Undertake a detailed review of school security requirements, to ensure that they provide safe and secure environments.
Undertake the minimal essential works required to sustain and safeguard the Art Gallery and Museums' store.
Safeguard the integrity of Provost Skene's House during the demolition of St Nicholas House.
Develop a programme to implement the outcomes of the leisure asset review and pitch strategy which is due to be completed by December, 2012.
Work with Sport Aberdeen and sportscotland to review the requirement for sports facilities across the city, in the light of increasing budget pressures, as well as condition and suitability of buildings.
Medium Term Projects
Create a new museums and galleries collection centre, potentially in conjunction with partners that will provide improved access to collections, enhanced research facilities and improved education and learning opportunities. This is necessary before the commencement of the construction phase of the Art Gallery redevelopment.
Redevelopment of the Art Gallery to improve access, increase opportunities and raise standards, as an integral part of Aberdeen's bid for UK City of Culture 2017. (to be opened by the first quarter of 2017).
Build a new school in Milltimber on the site of the Oldfold Farm development to replace the existing school and accommodate the pupils generated by the new development.
Replace Torry and Kincorth Academies with one single larger school to accommodate all existing secondary pupils and those generated by the proposed development at Loirston.
Redefine the catchment areas of Aberdeen Grammar and Harlaw Academy to enable an equitable and efficient distribution of pupils as part of the primary school estates review.
Implement the recommendations arising from the review of the primary school estate as

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per the instructions of the Education, Culture and Sport Committee.
Implement a programme for the refurbishment or replacement of all weather pitches across the city.
Long Term Priorities
Undertake a review of cultural assets across the city to assist in the implementation of the cultural strategy and prioritise investment in cultural assets.
Develop a new provision for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural needs based on the outcomes of the educational additional support needs service review.
Ongoing Priorities
Continue to prioritise the work that is undertaken through the capital condition and suitability programme across the directorate estate.
Work closely with planners, developers and the planning gain team to ensure that appropriate developer contributions are obtained to address education, culture and sport needs arising from new development across the city and region.
Complete the roll out of wireless technology in schools.

The Committee resolved:

to approve the Service asset management plans for Education, Culture and Sport as detailed within the report and the priorities as detailed above.

**STRATEGIC GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS
(ECS/12/036)**

6. The Committee had before it a report by the Acting Director for Education, Culture and Sport which advised members of the “Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and Development” publication by the Scottish Government, and set out the requirements this placed on community planning partnerships.

The Committee resolved:

- (i) to note the Scottish Government’s publication “Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and Development”;
- (ii) to note the important role that Community Learning and Development has to play in the future delivery of public service, its contribution to early intervention/prevention, and its ability to empower people both individually and collectively to make positive changes to their lives and in their communities through learning;
- (iii) to note the requirement that this guidance places on Community Planning Partnerships, and the decision of the Community Planning Aberdeen Board that the Smarter Forum would take the lead role in ensuring that the duties placed on community planning partnerships by the strategic guidance are discharged; and
- (iv) to note the expectations that this guidance places on local authorities, as detailed within the report.

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COMMUNITY CENTRES (ECS/12/037)

7. With reference to article 10 of the minute of meeting of Council of 13 June, 2012 the Committee had before it a report by the Acting Director of Education, Culture and Sport which updated members on the current position in relation to moving community centres to the leased model, and detailed the outcome of recent consultation with management committees attached to community schools in relation to proposals to retain these community centres within the responsibility of the Council.

With reference to article 2 of this minute, the Committee heard from (1) Mr Paul O'Connor, (2) Wilma Mackland, and (3) Mr Alex Mess, Reverend Andy Cowie, and Mrs Sylvia Davidson on the matter before members. Mr O'Connor stated that he felt sections of the report before members misrepresented Inchgarth Community Centre. Mrs Mackland read a statement from Zuzana Jatelona, who was a volunteer at Sunnybank Community Centre, but had been unable to attend today's meeting. Mrs Mackland also suggested that Sunnybank Community Centre did not require a clerical assistant, but that they would like to continue to employ a Development Officer. Mr Mess took issue with a number of statements in the report, and felt he had been misrepresented.

Members asked a number of questions of the deputations.

The Service Manager for Communities introduced the report and circulated a supplementary paper which updated members on ongoing legal negotiations, and the issue of officers gaining access to a community centre to install solar panels. Mrs Woodcock also advised the Committee that Seaton Community Centre had been the first to sign their management agreement, which had been active from 1 September, 2012.

A number of questions were asked in relation to the proposed virement of funds from the supplies and services budget to the staffing budget, and Mrs Woodcock undertook to circulate a report which she had presented to the Education, Culture and Sport senior management team on this matter.

The report recommended –

that the Committee –

- (a) agrees that the community wings within Dyce, Bridge of Don, Cornhill, Tullos and Sunnybank community schools will not transfer to the leased centre model, but will remain within the responsibility of the Council, with a local management committee inputting into the programming of the building;
- (b) agrees that management committees connected to the above community wings within schools will be provided with a grant of £625 per year, for the purpose of purchasing indemnity insurance, and public liability and employers insurances;
- (c) notes the progress in relation to moving community centres onto the new lease and management agreement;

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- (d) instruct officers that, in the case of any further amendments to the lease and management agreement being agreed, any management committees which have already signed up to the standard lease and management agreement will be offered, on an optional basis, a variation to their lease and management agreement to reflect these amendments; and
- (e) note the intention to vire budgets from the “supplies and services” budget (development grants) to the “staffing” budget in order to facilitate the appointment of Learning Centre Supervisor and Clerical Receptionist posts.

The Convener, seconded by the Vice Convener, moved:
that the report’s recommendations be approved.

Councillor Townson, seconded by Councillor McCaig, moved as an amendment:

- (I) that recommendations (a) and (b) be approved;
- (II) following the successful mediation process, that the Committee notes the progress in relation to moving all leased community centres to the new lease and management agreement, and instructs officers to allow respective solicitors to expedite matters and finalise agreements within an appropriate timescale, and further instructs officers to withdraw any notice to quit whilst said negotiations are ongoing;
- (II) that the Committee notes the intention to vire budgets from the “supplies and services” budget (development grants) to the “staffing” budget, and instructs officers to provide full details of staffing numbers and costs.

Councillor Greig, seconded by Councillor Jennifer Stewart, moved as a second amendment:

that the Committee –

- (A) does not proceed with recommendation (a) and confirms that the leased model remains the most appropriate and most sustainable means for the five named community centres;
- (B) does not proceed with the proposed virement and does not recruit additional staff;
- (C) agrees to maintain the current partnership process that is working towards mutually acceptable leasing and management agreements for centres, and to allow this to continue, withdraws any termination notice; and
- (D) repeats and underlines its appreciation of community centre volunteers and its commitment to a constructive and positive approach in working with leased community centre management committees.

On a division between the amendments by Councillor Townson and Councillor Greig, the votes cast were as follows: for the amendment by Councillor Townson (7) – Councillors Cameron, McCaig, May, Noble, Samarai, Stuart and Townson; for the amendment by Councillor Greig (2) – Councillors Greig and Stewart; declined to vote (15) – the Convener, the Vice Convener, and Councillors Boulton, Carle, Cooney, Crockett, Malik, Nathan Morrison, Taylor and Young, and Mr Duncan, Mr Maclean, Mr Nicoll, Mr Paul and Mrs Wischik.

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On a division between the motion and the amendment by Councillor Townson, the votes cast were as follows: for the motion (15) – the Convener, the Vice Convener, and Councillors Boulton, Carle, Cooney, Crockett, Malik, Nathan Morrison, Taylor and Young, and Mr Duncan, Mr Maclean, Mr Nicoll, Mr Paul and Mrs Wischik; for the amendment (9) – Councillors Cameron, Greig, McCaig, May, Noble, Samarai, Stewart, Stuart and Townson.

The Committee resolved:

to adopt the successful motion.

**LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES - NEW WAYS OF WORKING
(ECS/12//044)**

8. With reference to article 16 of the minute of its meeting of 15 September, 2011, the Committee had before it a report by the Acting Director of Education, Culture and Sport which advised on progress to date on the work ongoing in relation to new ways of working for the provision of library services within the city.

The report recommended –

that the Committee –

- (a) notes and endorses the content of the report;
- (b) instructs officers to consult on the proposed two community library models, reduction of opening hours and options for closure of smaller least used libraries and report back to this Committee;
- (c) agrees the proposed structure for the service as set out in appendix 1 to the report;
- (d) agrees the revised audio visual charges and fines to be charged under the residents discount and visitors card scheme as follows:

Charges				Fines/wk
Item type	Loan period	Full Charge	Residents /Visitors Pass/Concession	
DVD and Blu Ray	1 week	£2.00	£1.00	£2.00
DVD and Blu Ray box sets	4 weeks	£3.00	£2.00	£3.00
CDs	4 weeks	£0.90	£0.45	£0.45
Language courses	4 weeks	£1.00	£0.50	£1.00

- (e) instructs officers to conduct competitive tendering exercises in line with Council Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and European Union legislation for the provision of a library café service as outlined in section 5.6 of the report;
- (f) delegates authority for the Head of Procurement, in conjunction with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, and the Library and Information Services

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Manager to award contracts / places on framework to the highest scoring compliant bidder, on the basis of the most economically advantageous offer, as set out under Standing Order 7 (6) of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Procurement.

Further to a number of questions, the Head of Communities, Culture and Sport advised that the "models" referred to in recommendation (b) above referred to section 5.1 of the report where Bucksburn and Kaimhill community libraries were used as benchmark models.

The Convener, seconded by the Vice Convener, moved:
that the report's recommendations be approved.

Councillor McCaig, seconded by Councillor Greig, moved as an amendment:
that the Committee –

- (1) note the content of the report;
- (2) recognise that a full consultation was undertaken on the library service by the previous administration, and notes that the unanimous decision taken forward following that consultation was that libraries were an important community asset and an agreement that no further consultation on closure or reduction in opening hours is necessary; and
- (3) approves recommendations (c) – (f).

On a division, the votes cast were as follows: for the motion (15) – the Convener, the Vice Convener, and Councillors Boulton, Carle, Cooney, Crockett, Malik, Nathan Morrison, Taylor and Young, and Mr Duncan, Mr Maclean, Mr Nicoll, Mr Paul and Mrs Wischik; for the amendment (9) – Councillors Cameron, Greig, McCaig, May, Noble, Samarai, Stewart, Stuart and Townson.

The Committee resolved:
to adopt the successful motion.

ESTABLISHMENT OF CULTURE AND SPORT SUB COMMITTEE (ECS/12/038)

9. With reference to article 5 of the minute of its previous meeting of 7 June, 2012, the Committee had before it a report by the Acting Director of Education, Culture and Sport which proposed the disestablishment of the Culture and Leisure Trust Monitoring Board, and the establishment of a Culture and Sport Sub Committee.

The Committee resolved:

- (i) to approve the disestablishment of the Culture and Leisure Trust Monitoring Board;
- (ii) to approve the establishment of a Culture and Sport Sub Committee, further to the recommendations of Audit Scotland;
- (iii) to approve the remit as appended to the report;

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- (iv) that the membership of the Sub Committee be sourced from this Committee on the following basis – 2 Labour, 2 SNP, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative, 1 Independent Alliance;
- (v) to appoint Councillor Laing as Convener of the new Sub Committee; and
- (vi) that the Sub Committee will meet once per committee cycle, with the first meeting to be held on Wednesday 7 November.

CULTURAL GRANTS (ECS/12/039)

10. With reference to article 11 of the minute of its previous meeting of 7 June, 2012, the Committee had before it a report by the Acting Director of Education, Culture and Sport which presented recommendations for the second round of cultural grants for the 2012/13 financial year.

The Committee resolved:

- (i) to allocate the cultural grants to the total value of £148, 405 as follows:

Applicant	Grant awarded
Scottish Chamber Orchestra	£3,370.09
Aberdeen Youth Choir	£1,000 seedfund
Scottish Ballet	£5,000
Shazam Theatre Group	£1,000 seedfund
Aberdeen Arts Centre	£3,220
Aberdeen Performing Arts	£9,656
Scottish Cultures and Traditions	£3,295
North East Writers Steering Group	£1,000 seedfund
Hi Arts	£5,000
Aberdeen Performing Arts	£3,000

- (ii) to allocate the remaining amount through the Public Art Fund and the new commissions programme to support the UK City of Culture 2017 bid as follows:

Project	Grant awarded
Public Art Fund: Gothenburg Arts Programme	£50,000
UK City of Culture – New Commissions	£62, 863. 91

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EXCHANGE WITH ARGENTINA (ECS/12/027)

11. The Committee had before it a report by the Acting Director of Education, Culture and Sport which advised members on the developing culture and education partnership between Aberdeen and Argentina.

The Committee resolved:

- (i) to approve the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (substantially as set out in appendix 1 to the report) with the city of Buenos Aires; and
- (ii) to approve the progression and signing of a similar Memorandum with the province of Santa Fe, and the municipality of San Isidro, Argentina.

SPORTS GRANTS (ECS/12/041)

12. With reference to article 14 of the minute of its previous meeting of 7 June, 2012, the Committee had before it a report by the Acting Director of Education, Culture and Sport which presented applications for financial assistance from sports organisations.

The Committee resolved:

to grant the following applications –

- Active Aberdeen – Festival of Sport, physical Activity and Dance £5,000
- City of Aberdeen Gymnastics £2,260.

RENAMING OF AULTON FOOTBALL PAVILION (ECS/12/040)

13. The Committee had before it a report by the Acting Director of Education, Culture and Sport which advised that a request had been received from Aberdeen and District Juvenile Football Association to rename the Aulton Pavilion as “The Raymond Kelly Pavilion” in remembrance of Raymond Kelly who had sadly died earlier this year, but had been twenty six years in charge of Aberdeen and District Juvenile Football Association.

The Committee agreed that this would be a fitting tribute to a dedicated member of the community.

The Committee resolved:

to change the name of the Aulton Pavilion, School Road to “The Raymond Kelly Pavilion”.

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COMMITTEE BUSINESS STATEMENT

14. The Committee had before it a statement of pending and outstanding committee business, prepared by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

The Committee resolved:

- (i) to agree to remove items 1 (Learning Estate Strategy (Schools) – Rezoning Exercise (Secondary), 4 (Reduced Communities Team/ Leased Community Centres) – parts (2) and (3) only; and
- (ii) to agree in terms of paragraph 9 of the in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that an update be provided on item 5 of the business statement (Provision for Children with additional support needs – Raeden)) as the last item of business on this day, with the press and public excluded; and
- (iii) to note the update in relation to item 9 (Newhills Primary School) provided by the Acting Director.

PERFORMANCE REPORT (ECS/12/042)

15. With reference to article 17 of the minute of its previous meeting of 7 June, 2012, the Committee had before it a report by the Acting Director of Education, Culture and Sport which provided members with a summary of performance of the Service up to 30 June, 2012.

The Committee resolved:

- (i) to approve the content of the report for the period up to 30 June, 2012, and note the progress made towards achieving service plan actions;
- (ii) to approve the Education, Culture and Sport statutory performance indicator submission for 2011/12 for –
 - attendances at indoor pool and at sports facilities
 - visits to museums
 - visits to libraries, library borrowers and use of PC terminals
 - Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate inspections for pre school, primary and secondary schools and for learning communities ; and
- (iii) to note the briefing notes for childcare services and the communities team self evaluation calendar 2012/13, as detailed in the report.

In terms of the decision taken at article 14 (resolution (ii) of this minute), the following item was considered with the press and public excluded.

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UPDATE ON ITEM 5 OF THE BUSINESS STATEMENT (PROVISION FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS - RAEDEN)

16. The Committee heard from the Acting Director who provided an update on the potential site for the new school with provision for children with additional support needs.

The Committee resolved:

to note the update provided by the Acting Director, and that a report back would be presented at the next meeting.

JENNIFER LAING, Convener.