



## MINUTES

## AB - Public

**Education and Families Committee**  
**Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick**  
**Monday 11 April 2016 at 10.00am**

### **Present:**

#### Councillors:

P Campbell	G Cleaver
B Fox	A Manson
F Robertson	G Robinson
D Sandison	G Smith
M Stout	V Wishart

#### Religious Representatives:

T Macintyre	R MacKay
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### **Apologies:**

M Tregonning

### **In Attendance:**

H Budge, Director – Children's Services  
N Grant, Director – Development Services  
J Belford, Executive Manager – Finance  
K Adam, Solicitor  
C Anderson, Senior Communications Officer  
T Smith, Project Manager – Anderson High School Project  
A Sutherland, Project Manager – STERT Review  
C Symons, Executive Manager – Estate Operations  
L Geddes, Committee Officer

### **Chairperson**

Ms Wishart, Chair of the Committee, presided.

### **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Mr Sandison declared an interest in Agenda Item 1 "College Integration – Progress Update and Next Steps" as a trustee of the Shetland Fisheries Training Centre Trust.

### **Minutes**

The Committee approved the minutes of the meetings held on (a) 19 January 2016, on the motion of Mr G Smith, seconded by Mr Robinson; (b) 11 February 2016, on the motion of Mr G Smith, seconded by Mr Stout; and (c) 29 February 2016, on the motion of Mr Robertson, seconded by Mr Robinson.

Before consideration of the agenda items, the Chair advised that Mr Paul Thomson had recently been appointed as Head Teacher of Baltasound Junior High School and Fetlar Primary School. She also congratulated Elinor Thompson on being awarded a special award for leadership by the Scottish Association of Social Work. She went to say that the Leader, Director of Children's Services and herself had recently attended a summit on early education and childcare. There had been a wide range of speakers speaking about the change in policy in respect of early learning and childcare, and a report would be presented to the next meeting of the Committee regarding the change in entitlement to 600hours of pre-school provision.

She then went on to speak about the construction of the new Anderson High School (AHS), and advised that the concrete frame was nearing completion and the structural work to support the cladding should be complete by the end of the month. In light of the recent situation regarding a number of faulty school buildings in Edinburgh, she had invited a number of people to today's meeting to explain the implications locally.

The Director of Children's Services advised that the Scottish Government had written to all local authorities over the weekend with an instruction for Councils to ensure that they were satisfied that their own school estates were in order. Locally there were two issues – the current school estate and the new AHS building. There were two issues relating to the new AHS building – financial security and quality assurance. Following a conversation with the Operational Director of Hub North Scotland, she could confirm that the contract was financially secure. Hub North Scotland repeatedly said that the AHS project was their most scrutinised project because of the support that had been put in by the Council.

The Project Manager – Anderson High School then spoke about the issues that were being experienced with the schools in Edinburgh, and advised that the situation would be monitored. There were two relevant factors for the AHS project – design quality assurance and construction quality assurance. The AHS design was not copied from the central belt, and was designed to national design standards. The design - including the cladding - took into account the Shetland climate and wind factors. With regard to the construction, the AHS project was supervised to the same high standard as other Council projects and there was a daily site presence and reporting structure in place. Coincidentally, an external cladding expert would be visiting Shetland the following day to host a seminar relating to the external envelope, and that external envelope was key in terms of the integrity of the buildings.

With regard to the current schools estate, the Executive Manager – Estate Operations advised that the schools estate was well scrutinised. Condition surveys were carried out every five years, and there were annual defect surveys. Any issues picked up went into the planned maintenance programme, and he was not aware of any significant structural issues in the schools estate at the moment.

The Director of Children's Services, the Project Manager – Anderson High School and the Executive Manager – Estate Operations then responded to questions, and the Committee noted the following:

- It was suspected that the issues in Edinburgh were related to construction quality and poor supervision rather than design issues, but this had not been confirmed.
- The Council's financial contract was with DBFM Company, not the construction company itself, and it was therefore financially secure.
- It was not anticipated that there would be a need locally for any additional school surveys, therefore there should not be any additional costs.

- There were currently two Council Clerks of Works involved with the AHS project – one for the school building and one for the halls of residence. They were not full-time yet because the current level of work did not warrant this, but the resource was available if required and the level of work would likely increase later in the project.

09/16

### **College Integration – Progress Update and Next Steps**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Development Services (DV-22-16-F) which provided an update on progress, and sought decisions on actions to support moving towards a single governance and delivery model for Tertiary Education, Research and Training in Shetland.

The Director of Development Services summarised the main terms of the report, advising that two further work streams – communications and legacy issues – had been added to the project. The report being presented in this cycle of meetings was seeking authority for the activity of Train Shetland to be governed under Shetland College Board. This was a short-term requirement, and in the medium term there was a need to progress the Shetland College Board having sufficient delegated authority in order to balance itself with the Shetland Fisheries Training Centre Trust (SFTCT). Resources were being put in place regarding the recruitment of the Interim Principal, and this would be advertised shortly. If it was required to advertise the post externally, this would be a more extensive process and external assistance would be sought.

He went on to say that in respect of collaborative working, it was important to note that the first agreement was now in place around FE credits, and there was confidence that the FE targets would be exceeded for this academic year. Carry forward funding of £300,000 had been requested from the directorate budget to assist the project, but it would still be subject to a request for change funding. However the project was making good progress.

The Director of Development Services then responded to queries, and the Committee noted the following:

- The Council had indeed emphasised the need to prioritise progressing the governance issues relating to the College Board, as it would be difficult to move ahead until representatives of the College Board and the SFTCT had the same levels of delegated authority. This was not part of the report being presented today, and was scheduled to take place in stage two of the project. It was complicated by the fact that not all College Board members were councillors. It was likely that there would be a special meeting held in May to address levels of delegated authority, but this would require resources to be set aside to look at the issue which was proving difficult at the current time. He would require to discuss the matter with the corporate management team before he could make any commitment.
- In respect of the legacy issues, it was likely that the property issues were more in the Council's gift to deal with. However this would require integrated management teams to be in place in order to determine the resources and facilities required to deliver the curriculum, so it would not be possible to negotiate leases at this stage. The pensions issue was a more complex issue, and there were currently no answers in respect of this. It was a national issue that would affect any public sector organisation trying to make significant changes of this nature, and would require change at a national level before the issue could be resolved.

- The liaison group would consist of three members from each respective board, but it would not have any formal decision making powers. Members would have to go back to their boards in terms of any decisions that may be required.
- External organisations - such as UHI, the Scottish Funding Council and Anderson and Strathearn – had been approached regarding securing resources to assist with the project, and they were being consulted as part of the process.
- Resources were in place in respect of the appointments panel, and external resources had been procured. The appointments panel would consist of three members from each board, and the Council would require to approve the members of the College Board nominated for the appointments panel.
- The Council's risk management board met quarterly to look at risks that may prevent the Council from reaching its objectives, and the tertiary education project was in the top set of risks.

Concern was expressed that although it had been agreed that sorting out the governance of the College Board was a priority for the Council, the resources did not seem to be available to progress this. The lack of delegated powers to the College Board was likely to cause difficulties in terms of the ability to make swift decisions, whereas the partner organisation had the ability to make decisions instantly. It had been the desire of the Council that this particular area was prioritised, and it was important that progress towards resolving the governance issues was not held up, regardless of other areas of work that may be going on at the moment throughout the Council.

It was also commented that it was important that the timetable set out was adhered to, particularly given the good will from external bodies such as the Scottish Funding Council, HMIE and UHI. There was a balance to be struck between resolving the short-term issues such as governance and the long-term governance of the integrated body.

It was therefore suggested, and the Committee agreed, that the Committee's comment should be that the need to procure the necessary resources to take the governance arrangements forward was recognised, and that verbal updates should be provided to the meetings at which this report was being considered regarding progress on securing the resources required to progress the governance arrangements, in order that there was more clarity available prior to the Council meeting on 20 April.

It was further suggested that consideration could be given to amend the risk management section of the report in future in order to reflect the breadth of risk involved.

#### **Decision:**

The Education and Families Committee noted the information contained in the report concerning the proposed next steps as set out in sections 3 to 9, and commented on those areas within their remit to inform the Council of their views.

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services (CS-06-16-F) which highlighted two recent reports from Education Scotland and seven from the Care Inspectorate, and any actions to be taken as a result of the reports.

The Director of Children's Services summarised the main terms of the report and, in response to a comment, advised that it would be possible to include information in future for annual care inspection reports regarding the scores received on the previous inspection in order that comparisons could be made. She also advised that she was looking to issue the reports in a different format in future, as some people had experienced difficulty in accessing the information.

The Director of Children's Services then responded to questions, and the Committee noted the following:

- The previous Head Teacher for Fetlar Primary School had now been appointed on an established basis and there was also another new established member of staff, so the staffing establishment had now stabilised.
- The curriculum in respect of Aith Junior High School and Nursery Class had been an area of some discussion following the inspection, as the inspection had highlighted that there could be improvement in the progress of the curriculum through the transition stages to the senior stage. This was an area that was also being considered at a national level, and it would continue to be developed and progressed locally. A report on early learning to be presented shortly would look at developing it at this stage, and the Shetland Learning Partnership would continue to develop and progress this at the senior stage.
- Work was being done to develop the quality assurance framework to continue to improve the inspection grades. Many of the reports received to date had illustrated that "excellent" gradings were being achieved by schools locally.

The Committee congratulated staff involved in achieving a good set of reports.

**Decision:**

The Education and Families Committee considered and noted the Education Scotland reports on:

- Aith Junior High School
- Burravoe Primary School

and the Care Inspectorate reports on:

- Urafirth Primary School Nursery
- Sandwick Junior High School Nursery
- Cunningsburgh Primary School Nursery
- Whalsay School Nursery
- Ness Out of School Club
- Fetlar Primary School Nursery
- Fair Isle Primary School Nursery

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services (CS-08-16-F) which sought to establish a process for the naming of the new Halls of Residence.

The Director of Children's Services summarised the main terms of the report, advising that consultation with the public would take place. A report outlining suggestions received would then be presented, and the Committee would make the final decision.

**Decision:**

The Education and Families Committee agreed:

- the process outlined in Section 3 of the report for finding a name for the Halls of Residence
- that the Director of Children's Services would bring back a recommendation following the process, for Education and Families Committee to make a final decision.

The meeting concluded at 11.10am.

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Chair