

Education and Families Committee – 7 February 2023

[Shetland Islands Council Committee Information - Meetings](#)

Item	Subject	Decision
1	External Audit Report - Education Scotland Follow Up Report on Sandness Primary School	The Committee NOTED the Education Scotland follow up report regarding Sandness Primary School.
2	Re-opening and Mothballing Schools	<p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APPROVED the principle that a potential school roll of a mothballed school should reach the figure of 20% of the potential total capacity before the school would be re-opened. • APPROVED the principle that should a school roll fall below 20% of the school's capacity, as a trigger for consideration to be given to entering into consultation with the school community around mothballing, in line with delegated authority previously granted to the Director of Children's Services. • AGREED that the currently mothballed schools, namely Papa Stour Primary School, Fetlar Primary School and Skerries Primary School, should remain mothballed but that that status of all mothballed schools be reviewed annually, in accordance with the Statutory Guidance issued under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. • NOTED that should any school community consultation result in the majority remaining opposed to mothballing, there would be no automatic move to commence to a school closure consultation, as per the reference in paragraph 6.5, to the statutory guidance under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, which deals with the issues of mothballing. Rather further exploration of the case for mothballing should be carried out and represented to the school community.
3	Free School Meals and School Clothing Grant Criteria	<p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RECOMMENDED to the Policy and Resources Committee and Shetland Islands Council that they AGREE:

		<p>a) to align the criteria for Free School Meals and School Clothing Grants;</p> <p>b) to increase School Clothing Grant payments by 50% in 2023/24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOTED that altering the threshold for Free School Meals and School Clothing Grant to a higher rate would incur additional funding which is not available and needs further investigation, and clarification from national bodies, and will be presented in a report to a future meeting.
4	Education and Families Committee Business Programme – 2022/23	The Committee CONSIDERED the business planned for Education and Families Committee for the remainder of the financial year 2022/23, and ADVISED the Director of Children’s Services of any changes required or new items to be included on the Business Programme.

END