

Item 4.1 - Minutes

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 9 December 2014

Present

Councillors Godzik (Convener), Fullerton (Vice-Convener), Aitken, Aldridge, Austin Hart, Brock, Child, Nick Cook, Corbett, Day, Dixon Jackson, Lewis, Main, McVey (substituting for Councillor Howat), Milligan, Redpath, Robson and Rust.

Also present:

Councillors Booth and Munro (for item 4.3 below)

Added members for Education items

Marie Allan, Craig Duncan, Lindsay Law and John Swinburne.

1. Order of business

The Convener agreed that the items of business be dealt with in the following order.

2. Primary School Capacity Pressure in South Edinburgh

2.1 Deputation – James Gillespie’s Primary School Parent Council

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Carol Cerdan on behalf of the James Gillespie’s Primary School Parent Council.

The deputation welcomed many of the proposals set out in the Director of Children and Families’ report and outlined the particular characteristics and constraints of the James Gillespie’s Primary School Site. It was stressed that the whole school was affected by rising rolls, not just the P1 intake, and the impact of teaching and learning across the whole school had to be taken into account.

The provision of a new permanent two storey classroom building was welcomed as an interim solution to pressing accommodation pressures. The school was looking to raise £50,000 for landscaping works and sought a commitment from the Council to contribute towards this. It was hoped that match funding would be provided from Sports Scotland.

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation and invited them to remain for the Committee’s consideration of the related report by the Director of Children and Families at item 2.2 below.

2.2 Report by the Director of Children and Families

The south side of the city had historically experienced pressure for primary school places with South Morningside, James Gillespie's and Bruntsfield primary schools particularly affected. The Committee had previously noted that a report would be prepared identifying a proposed long-term solution to the accommodation pressures in South Edinburgh.

An update was provided on a range of potential options which had been identified to address the long-term issues and the proposed next steps.

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of the Director's report and the intention to take a report to Committee on 19 May 2015 to provide a further update and seek approval for a statutory consultation process to be undertaken regarding options to address the long term accommodation issues in the area.
- 2) To note the intention to undertake discussions with Health and Social Care regarding arrangements for the transfer of the Deanbank Resource Centre and Oaklands residential care home sites so that site options are available to deliver whatever solution is the approved outcome of the statutory consultation process.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 4 March 2014 (item 7); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

3. Liberton High School

3.1 Deputation – Liberton High School Parent Council

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Derek McNeil on behalf of the Liberton High School Parent Council.

The deputation sought reassurance that the recent tragedy involving Keane Wallis Bennett in April 2014 would be taken into consideration in the decision whether to include Liberton High School in the Wave 4 Renewal Scheme currently being scoped by the City of Edinburgh Council. The Parent Council was concerned that a standard scoping process might not take into account the tragic circumstances of Keane's death or the impact this had had on the local community.

The deputation wished to place on record their thanks to the Head Teacher, Council officials and the Scottish Government for the way they responded to the accident.

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation and invited them to remain for the Committee's consideration of the related report by the Director of Children and Families at item 3.2 below.

3.2 Report by the Director of Children and Families

An update was provided on the steps taken following the tragic event which led to the death of Keane Wallis Bennett on 1 April 2014 at Liberton High School. This included:

- How immediate concerns regarding the facilities and support for pupils were met.
- How intermediate issues were currently being addressed.
- Longer term plans for considering the inclusion of the school in possible future new build programmes.

Decision

To note the progress made.

(Reference - report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

4. Closure of Duncan Place including implications for Leith Primary School

4.1 Deputation – Duncan Place Resource Centre Management Committee

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Carol Lesley and Jane McMahon on behalf of the Duncan Place Resource Centre Management Committee.

The deputation asked the Committee to give consideration to the following points:

- To defer the decision to demolish the Duncan Place building until the Committee's meeting in March 2015.
- That an options appraisal group be set up in the interim period to look at possible alternatives, including demolition.
- A number of community activities and human interactions took place at Duncan Place and demolition would leave a large gap in people's lives.
- Two groups had ceased to function due to difficulties in finding alternative venues, or lack of adequate storage space for materials and equipment.

- There were particular difficulties for vulnerable groups finding suitable alternative accommodation.
- A lot of relocated groups reported a reduction in the number of their members attending.
- 90% of the previous users indicated they would like to return to Duncan Place in the future.

4.2 Deputation – Leith Primary Parent Council

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Kirsty Chatwood on behalf of Leith Primary Parent Council.

The deputation agreed with many of the points made by the Duncan Place Resource Centre Management Committee (see item 4.1 above), and also asked that the decision to demolish the building be delayed until March 2015 to allow further discussions.

The Parent Council were concerned that the information presented in the joint report was not sufficiently detailed to allow the Committee to make a decision today. There was potential to provide a state-of-the-art facility at Duncan Place but consultation should take place with the local community and cluster schools first.

The deputation was also concerned about the long-term solutions for nursery and P.E provision.

The Convener thanked both deputations for their presentations and invited them to remain for the Committee's consideration of the related report by the Director of Children and Families and the Acting Director of Services for Communities at item 4.3 below.

4.3 Joint Report by the Director of Children and Families and the Acting Director of Services for Communities

The Duncan Place building was closed in September 2014 to allow intrusive surveys to be conducted into the condition of the building. Surveys had now identified significant issues with the fabric of the building and approval was sought for the immediate demolition of the Duncan Place building. The alternative arrangements being put in place for nursery, primary and community use were outlined.

The Committee heard from Councillors Booth and Munro as local ward members.

Motion

- 1) To note the proposal to install a temporary unit to deliver nursery facilities at Leith Primary School, increasing capacity from 40 to 60 places.
- 2) To note the temporary arrangements put in place for the delivery of PE for Leith Primary School.
- 3) To approve the immediate demolition of the existing Duncan Place building.
- 4) To approve that further work is undertaken on the scoping of options to provide long term nursery, gym and community accommodation.
- 5) To request a further report in spring 2015 on the long term options.
- 6) To note that discussions were ongoing with regards to “blocking off” St Andrew Place and transferring part of the street to school use and to request that this be raised with Services for Communities and also reported back to the Education, Children and Families Committee.
- 7) To refer the joint report by the Director of Children and Families and the Acting Director of Services for Communities to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.

- Moved by Councillor Godzik, seconded by Councillor Fullerton.

Amendment

- 1) To note the proposal to install a temporary unit to deliver nursery facilities at Leith Primary School, increasing capacity from 40 to 60 places.
- 2) To note the temporary arrangements put in place for the delivery of PE for Leith Primary School.
- 3) To approve the immediate demolition of the existing Duncan Place building.
- 4) To approve that further work be undertaken on the scoping of options to provide long term accommodation, while agreeing that any future option should be provided on the basis of need, and ensure there is no overall reduction in community facilities in Leith compared to when Duncan Place Resource Centre was operational.
- 5) To request a further report in spring 2015 on the long term options.

- 6) To agree that the Convener would write to the Acting Director of Services for Communities requesting the pedestrianisation of the section of St Andrew Place immediately in front of Leith Primary School as soon as possible in order to secure the safe use of Leith Links for the delivery of PE and for play space in fair weather.

- Moved by Councillor Main, seconded by Councillor Corbett.

Voting

For the motion	18 votes
For the amendment	5 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Godzik.

(Reference - joint report by the Director of Children and Families and the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

5. Minutes

Decision

- 1) To approve the minute of the Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 16 June 2014 as a correct record.
- 2) To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 11 September 2014 as a correct record.

6. Education, Children and Families Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan – March to May 2015

The Education, Children and Families Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for the period March to May 2015 was presented.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for March to May 2015.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

7. Education, Children and Families Rolling Actions Log

The Education, Children and Families Committee Rolling Actions Log for 9 December 2014 was presented.

Decision

To note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Rolling Actions Log – 9 December 2014, submitted.)

8. Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin

The Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin for 9 December 2014 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(References – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

9. Free School Meals

The Scottish Government had provided capital funding to allow all children in primary 1 to 3 the option of a free school meal from January 2015.

As previously requested by the Committee; a detailed assessment was provided of the costs and sources of funding required for the substantive works required to address capacity issues at Cramond, East Craig's, Sciennes and Towerbank Primary Schools. Details were also provided of the interim arrangements that would be put in place at these schools.

Decision

- 1) To note the further progress made towards the implementation of the extended entitlement to free school meals which would apply from January 2015.
- 2) To welcome the £4.5m of capital funding which the Scottish Government had confirmed would be provided to allow the implementation of the extended entitlement.
- 3) To approve the remaining capital expenditure of £3,085,056 towards the implementation of the extended entitlement to free school meals, primarily to address issues of capacity at Cramond, East Craig's, Sciennes and Towerbank Primary Schools.
- 4) To request a progress report to the Education, Children and Families Committee in two cycles on the impact of the delivery of the free schools meals policy on primary schools across the City of Edinburgh Council Estate.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 11 September 2014 (item 10); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

10. Rising School Rolls

Details were provided of the potential impact of rising rolls in primary and secondary schools, including an update on a range of solutions identified for 10 primary schools expected to experience accommodation pressures in August 2015. Approval was also sought for a proposed interim solution for South Morningside Primary School.

Decision

- 1) To note content of the Director's report and the intention to bring a further report to Committee on 3 March 2015 to identify the primary schools which had been identified as potentially facing future accommodation pressures.
- 2) To note the solutions which had been developed for potential delivery by August 2015 for 10 schools to address potential accommodation pressures at these schools should they be expected to arise.
- 3) To approve the proposed solution for South Morningside Primary School which was to create a temporary P1 to P2 annexe at Deanbank Resource Centre as set out in the Director's report.
- 4) To note that detailed analysis of the potential impact of rising rolls on the secondary sector would be undertaken with the results being reported to the Committee towards the end of 2015.
- 5) To refer the Director's report to the Finance and Resources Committee for information.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 20 May 2014 (item 7); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

11. Children and Families Asset Management Plan 2014

Approval was sought for an updated Children and Families Asset Management Plan 2014.

Motion

- 1) To approve the Children and Families Asset Management Plan 2014.
- 2) To note the intention to provide an update to Committee on progress in delivering the action plan every six months.

- Moved by Councillor Godzik, seconded by Councillor Fullerton.

Amendment

In similar terms to the motion, subject to the addition of the following:

- 1) To welcome the comprehensive Asset Management Plan which provides a clear profile of the Education, Children and Families estate in relation to current condition and sufficiency.
- 2) To note that the next stage for the key operational issues outlined in the report is to revisit methodology, measurements, policy and strategy in the light of new Scottish Government guidelines and out of date methodology e.g, Secondary School class size, and that operational decisions are currently driven in the main by Government guidelines.
- 3) To note the Vision for Schools which was agreed by Committee in 2013, and that the Vision has as yet no strategy and policy to guide operational implementation.
- 4) To call for a report on the future of the Education, Children and Families estate to be brought to the Committee in March 2015 which will inform future operational decisions, taking into account:
 - The future long-term implementation of the Vision for Schools and other strategies.
 - The need for development of policy where there are identified gaps, and policy that requires updating.
 - The New Scottish Government Guidelines and recommendations.

- Moved by Councillor Main, seconded by Councillor Corbett.

Voting

For the motion 12 votes

For the amendment 8 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Godzik.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

12. Children and Families Capital Asset Management Programme 2014-2019 progress update

An update was provided on the delivery of the Children and Families Asset Management Programme covering the period to September 2014, including details of budget and programme pressures.

Decision

- 1) To note the significant progress made with the asset management programme and the end of quarter two.
- 2) To note the budget and programme pressures being experienced, which may require works planned for later years to be reprioritised to ensure the programme was delivered within the five year budget allocation.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 10 December 2013 (item 13); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

13. City of Edinburgh Play Strategy

A summary of progress made in outdoor play and active learning from October 2013 to October 2014 was provided as previously requested by the Committee. Revised policy principles to use primary school grounds for play outside of teaching hours were also detailed.

Decision

- 1) To accept the revision of Play in Partnership: a Play Strategy for the City of Edinburgh.
- 2) That Play in Partnership: a Play Strategy for the City of Edinburgh be circulated to the Culture and Sport and Transport and Environment Committees to raise awareness, and increase consideration of the impact Committee decisions have on children's play.
- 3) To accept the policy principles to use primary school grounds for community use for play outside of teaching hours.
- 4) To note the significant commitment of time and fundraising from parents in helping transform school playgrounds.
- 5) That the play strategy be amended to detail the financial commitments made under the rising rolls report to improve playgrounds adversely affected by new accommodation.
- 6) To thank the officers for their work on the play strategy.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 8 October 2013 (item 8); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

14. Progress Report on the Implementation of Revised Secondary School Management Structures

As previously requested by the Committee, an update was provided on the long term impact of revised secondary management structures on attainment and staff morale.

Decision

- 1) To note the information in the Director's report
- 2) To note the summary of actions outlined in Appendix 2 to the Director's report which provides details of continuing support.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 21 May 2013 (item 8); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

15. Castlebrae Community High School Progress Report

The Committee had previously considered a progress report on improving outcomes for pupils attending Castlebrae Community High. A further update on progress within the school and the Castlebrae Learning Community was provided.

Motion

- 1) To note the contents of the Director's report.
- 2) To note the progress of strategies within the school which aim to deliver a high quality educational experience for learners.
- 3) To note the progress in management arrangements within the Castlebrae Learning Community which were implemented in August 2014.
- 4) To agree to receive a further progress report in October 2015.

- Moved by Councillor Godzik, seconded by Councillor Fullerton

Amendment

In similar terms to the motion, subject to the deletion of paragraph 4 and its replacement with the following:

To note attainment still remains below the virtual comparator and national average at all levels and other challenges highlighted in the report and therefore seeks an update report in June 2015 including projected numbers in the new school year and update on the new school building proposal.

- Moved by Councillor Rust, seconded by Councillor Aitken

Voting

For the motion 17 votes

For the amendment 4 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Godzik.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 4 March 2014 (item 12); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

16. Fox Covert Primary Schools – New Nursery

The Council had previously approved that a new 40/40 nursery class be established at Fox Covert Primary Schools. An opportunity had now been identified to deliver a 70/70 nursery building at a cost of £1,499m which would allow for a fully integrated early years service to be provided on the school site in a single building. Approval was sought for the revised proposal.

Decision

To approve the revised cost of £1,499,000 and the associated sources of funding set out in the Director's report to deliver a new 70/70 nursery with provision also being made for under 3's.

(References – Act of Council No 5 of 1 May 2014; report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

17. Proposed Closure of Pentland View Close Support Unit and improvement proposals for children and young people who are Looked After and Accommodated by the City of Edinburgh Council in residential and secure care services

As previously requested by the Committee, an update was provided on the current position with the Children and Families residential estate, including the use of secure accommodation. Future ambitions for the residential estate were outlined, and approval was sought for a proposal to close Pentland View Close Support Unit.

Motion

- 1) To note the current position within the Children and Families residential estate including Edinburgh Secure Services.
- 2) To approve the proposal to close Pentland View Close Support Unit, a five bedded close support unit, by the end of January 2015.

- 3) To note the proposal that a business case would be taken to the Finance and Resources Committee in due course which sets out the rationale for, and strategic importance of, the capital receipt arising from the sale of Pentland View site being ring-fenced towards the replacement of either Oxfords or Moredun Young People's Centre (YPC).

- Moved by Councillor Godzik, seconded by Councillor Fullerton.

Amendment

- 1) To note the current position within the Children and Families residential estate including Edinburgh Secure Services.
- 2) That no decision should be taken to reduce the number of closed support and secure beds until there was irrefutable evidence that new intensive, early intervention strategies were working.

- Moved by Councillor Aitken, seconded by Councillor Nick Cook.

Voting

For the motion 15 votes

For the amendment 5 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Godzik.

(References - minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 20 May 2014 (item 21); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

18. Children and Families Revenue Budget Monitoring 2014-15 – Half Yearly Position

The half year revenue budget monitoring position for the Children and Families Directorate was outlined. A balanced outturn position was projected, however, this remained a challenging objective and was subject to continued ongoing management of budget pressures.

Decision

- 1) To note that at the half year the projected residual budget pressures to be managed for Children and Families totalled £1.5m.
- 2) To note that further management action was being taken to address the residual pressures and enable the delivery of a balanced budget.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

19. Cameron House Community Centre: Review of Project Delivery

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had previously instructed that a report be submitted to the Education, Children and Families Committee on the project governance and building issues associated with the delivery of a new building for Cameron House Community Centre, prior to being submitted to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny.

Details were presented of the outcome of a review of the project carried out by external consultants, Turner and Townsend.

Decision

- 1) To note the issues associated with the delivery of the project and the adoption of the Prince 2 project management methodology to mitigate potential failures for current and future projects.
- 2) To recognise the frustrating experience and service disruption for the community centre users during the process of defect resolution.
- 3) To note the commissioning of works to remedy the final outstanding defect identified in the review – i.e. the low height of the entrance doors.
- 4) To refer the report to Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny.

(Reference – minute of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 3 April 2014 (item 4); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

20. Review of 2014 Admissions and Appeal Process

Following on from a self evaluation process between September 2013 and March 2014, significant process changes were implemented for the admissions and appeals process for the session beginning August 2014.

A review of the 2014 process was detailed together with proposed changes to the process for 2015.

Decision

- 1) To note the changes to processes in admissions and appeals for 2014 and further changes for 2015.
- 2) To request a report on the 2015 Admission and Appeal Process in December 2015.

(Reference – reports by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

21. Piping and Drumming Tuition Update

As previously requested by the Committee, an update was provided on a range of options to provide chanter, piping and drumming opportunities for young people in Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of the Director's report.
- 2) To note the progress of options to provide chanter, piping and drumming opportunities for pupils, funded by Youth Music Initiative (YMI)/Creative Scotland, through links with the independent sector and with existing and emerging parent-led school and community pipe bands and tuition programmes.
- 3) To note the progress of developments of a city-wide piping and drumming performance band that rehearses and performs on a similar basis as to other centrally organised orchestras and ensembles.
- 4) To note the progress to ensure that pupils studying piping and drumming as part of an SQA exam are offered free tuition via the City of Edinburgh Music School.
- 5) To agree to receive a further report in December 2015, on Instrumental Music, which will include the uptake and cost of drumming and piping.

(Reference – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 3 March 2014 (item 3); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted)

22. Corporate Performance Framework: Performance from April to September 2014

An update was provided on Council performance against Children and Families strategic outcomes, covering the period from April to September 2014.

Decision

To note the performance for the period from April to September 2014 and to agree the actions for improvement.

(Reference –report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

23. Riddle's Court and 4-6 Victoria Terrace – Internal Audit Update – referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had considered a report which presented a summary of work undertaken by Internal Audit to assess the process issues that arose from the lease of Riddle's Court to the Scottish Historic Buildings Trust. The report was referred to the Education, Children and Families Committee for information.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – minute of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 13 November 2014 (item 4); report by the Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance, submitted)

Declaration of Interest

Councillor McVey declared a non-financial interest in the foregoing item as a board member of 6VT.

24. Social Work Complaints Review Committee – 24 September 2014

The recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee (SWCRC) held on 24 September to consider a complaint against the Children and Families Directorate were detailed. The SWCRC had upheld the complaint for the following reasons:

- 1) The SWCRC felt that the length of time the complainant had to wait was unacceptable as the Council target of three months had been exceeded substantially.
- 2) The SWCRC had been informed that more staff were being recruited but felt that this should have been addressed several months ago.
- 3) The SWCRC had noted that the Council had offered an interim assessment, to be undertaken within 2 weeks of the date of the SWCRC meeting. The SWCRC recommend that after the full assessment is undertaken, self directed payments should be backdated to within three months of the first visit (in line with the Council target of three months) unless a legal impediment to this exists.

The Children and Families response to the decision taken by the SWCRC was outlined. The Education, Children and Families Committee was asked not to approve the proposal to backdate payments, as recommended by the SWCRC, as services must be provided on the basis of an assessment, which determines whether the need was consistent with the allocation of public funds. A Self-Directed Support Assessment was

close to completion and alternative services had been offered to the complainant in the interim.

Decision

To agree not to backdate payments for the reason that services must be provided on the basis of an assessment, which determines whether the need was consistent with the allocation of public funds.

(References – reports by the Chair of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee and the Head of Support to Children and Young People, submitted.)