

Minute

Education, Leisure and Housing Committee

Wednesday, 29 March 2023, 09:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Councillors Gwenda M Shearer, Jean E Stevenson, Graham A Bevan, Stephen G Clackson, Alexander G Cowie, Steven B Heddle, Rachael A King, James R Moar, John A R Scott, Ivan A Taylor and Heather N Woodbridge.

Religious Representatives:

Reverend Susan Kirkbride and Reverend Fraser Macnaughton.

Teacher Representatives:

Jo Hill and Mary Maley.

Present via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

Councillor James W Stockan.

Religious Representative:

Marie Locke.

Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- James Wylie, Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Peter Diamond, Head of Education.
- Steve Arnold, Service Manager (Support for Learning and Inclusion) (for Items 1 to 5).
- Morag Miller, Service Manager (Primary Education) (for Items 1 to 5).
- Lesley Mulraine, Service Manager (Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation).
- Jane Partridge, Service Manager (Secondary and Tertiary Education) (for Items 1 to 5).
- Pat Robinson, Service Manager (Accounting).
- Ian Rushbrook, Service Manager (Property and Capital Projects) (for Items 4 to 6).
- Sheila Tulloch, Service Manager (Legal Services).

In Attendance via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

- Frances Troup, Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing.
- Catherine Diamond, Service Manager (Early Learning and Childcare) (for Items 1 to 5).
- Paul Barber, Head Teacher, Stromness Academy (for Items 3 to 5).
- Claire Meakin, Head Teacher, Kirkwall Grammar School (for Items 3 to 5).

Observing

- David Brown, Service Manager (Resources) (for Items 1 to 5 and 7 to 9).
- Garry Burton, Service Manager (Leisure and Culture).
- Kerry Spence, Service Manager (Community Learning, Employment and Employability).
- Veer Bansal, Solicitor.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

1. Collaborative Improvement Review of Senior Phase

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Secondary and Tertiary), the Committee:

Noted:

1.1. That, under the leadership of the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland and in partnership with Education Scotland, all local authority areas in Scotland had made a commitment to work together to undertake Collaborative Improvement Reviews.

1.2. That a Collaborative Review Project Team, comprising representatives from the undernoted authorities, was established in early 2022 with a remit to agree the focus of a review of the Senior Phase curriculum and post-school outcomes and design a delivery programme:

- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.
- Shetland Islands Council.
- Orkney Islands Council.
- Association of Directors of Education in Scotland.
- Education Scotland Northern Alliance Regional Team.

The Committee scrutinised:

1.3. The findings of the Three Island Authorities Collaborative Review of the Senior Phase, carried out in conjunction with the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland and Education Scotland, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, and obtained assurance.

2. Guidance for Monitoring and Tracking Attendance in Schools

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Support for Learning and Inclusion), the Committee:

Noted:

2.1. That the draft Guidance for Monitoring and Tracking Attendance in Schools, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, provided support for both schools and parents/carers to ensure each child's attendance at school was as regular as possible.

2.2. That the draft Guidance for Monitoring and Tracking Attendance in Schools and the steps taken to support poor attendance at school did not apply to Early Learning and Childcare settings, as attendance was not statutory.

2.3. That, should the draft Guidance for Monitoring and Tracking Attendance in Schools, be approved, the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing would arrange for communication to be issued regarding the benefits of regular attendance at school for all children and young people.

The Committee resolved to **recommend to the Council:**

2.4. That the Guidance for Monitoring and Tracking Attendance in Schools, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

3. Raising Attainment Strategy

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Primary Education), the Committee:

Noted:

3.1. That the purpose of the Raising Attainment Strategy, which identified the next steps and actions required in order to raise attainment across the authority, was to ensure that robust plans were in place to continue to meet both the Council and the Scottish Government's vision to ensure that every child in Orkney could fulfil their potential.

3.2. That the Raising Attainment Strategy detailed the significant work already undertaken to address previously low attainment returns in the Broad General Education resulting in improved outcomes.

3.3. That the Raising Attainment Strategy pulled together relevant local and national key documents and plans clearly defining what continued actions would be undertaken during the period of the Strategy to meet national and local expectations and commitments in raising attainment and closing the poverty related attainment gap.

The Committee resolved to **recommend to the Council:**

3.4. That the Raising Attainment Strategy 2023-2026, attached as Appendix 2 to this Minute, be approved.

4. Orkney Schools Attainment

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Secondary and Tertiary Education), the Committee:

Scrutinised the Orkney Schools Attainment Report for academic session 2021/22, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, and obtained assurance with regard to the level of success and achievement of children and young people.

5. St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee held on 13 March 2023, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved:

5.1. On the motion of Councillor Gwenda M Shearer, seconded by Councillor Jean E Stevenson, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee held on 13 March 2023, as a true record.

The Committee resolved to **recommend to the Council:**

5.2. That the recommendations at paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 of the Minute of the Meeting of the St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee held on 13 March 2023, attached as Appendix 3 to this Minute, be approved.

6. Housing Revenue Account

Revenue Repairs and Maintenance Programme – Proposed Programme for 2023/24

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing, the Committee:

Noted:

6.1. That the draft revenue budget for the Housing Revenue Account for 2023/24 made provision for repairs and maintenance, amounting to £1,615,500.

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

6.2. That, subject to an adequate budget being established, the undernoted programme of revenue repairs and maintenance in respect of the Council's housing stock for 2023/24, funded from the Housing Revenue Account, be approved:

- Cyclical Maintenance – £91,100.
- Planned Maintenance – £524,900.
- Reactive Repairs – £415,200.
- Voids/Improvements/Adaptations – £368,100.
- In-House Professional Fees – £216,200.

7. Profile of Homelessness

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing, the Committee:

Noted:

7.1. That, on 8 September 2021, when considering a revised Profile of Homelessness, the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee recommended:

- That the Profile of Homelessness 2021 to 2026 be approved for consultation.
- That the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing should submit a report, to the meeting of the Committee to be held in March 2022, regarding the outcome of the consultation exercise, referred to above, together with a revised Profile of Homelessness for adoption.

7.2. That a consultation exercise in respect of the draft Profile of Homelessness was undertaken between August and November 2022, with a summary of consultation responses received outlined in section 6 of the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.

7.3. That the Profile of Homelessness had been revised to respond to the matters raised through the consultation process.

The Committee resolved to **recommend to the Council**:

7.4. That the Profile of Homelessness for 2023 to 2028, attached as Appendix 4 to this Minute, be approved.

8. Homelessness Strategy

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing, the Committee:

Noted:

8.1. That, on 8 September 2021, when considering a revised Homelessness Strategy, the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee recommended:

- That the draft Homelessness Strategy be approved for consultation purposes.
- That the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing should submit a report, to the meeting of the Committee to be held in March 2022, regarding the outcome of the consultation process, referred to above, together with a revised Homelessness Strategy for adoption.

8.2. That a consultation exercise in respect of the draft Homelessness Strategy was undertaken between August and November 2022, with a summary of responses received outlined in section 5 of the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.

8.3. That the draft Homelessness Strategy had been revised to respond to the matters raised through the consultation process and statistical information had been updated to remain reflective of the current position.

The Committee resolved to **recommend to the Council:**

8.4. That the Homelessness Strategy for 2023 to 2028, attached as Appendix 5 to this report, be approved.

Councillor Stephen B Heddle left the meeting during discussion of this item.

9. Conclusion of Meeting

At 12:17 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Gwenda M Shearer.