

## Minute

### Education, Leisure and Housing Committee

Wednesday, 19 October 2022, 09:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



### Present

Councillors Gwenda M Shearer, Alexander G Cowie, Steven B Heddle, James R Moar, James W Stockan, Ivan A Taylor and Heather N Woodbridge.

Councillors W Leslie Manson and Raymond S Peace (who had been invited for Item 1).

### Present via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

Councillors Graham A Bevan, Stephen G Clackson and Rachael A King.

### Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

### In Attendance

- John W Mundell, Interim Chief Executive.
- James Wylie, Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Claire Meakin, Interim Head of Education.
- Frances Troup, Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing.
- David Brown, Service Manager (Resources).
- Hazel Flett, Service Manager (Governance).
- Shonagh Merriman, Service Manager (Corporate Finance).
- Ian Rushbrook, Service Manager (Capital Programme and Property).
- Peter Trodden, Solicitor.

### Observing

- Stephen Brown, Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Peter Diamond, Head of Education.
- Kenny MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities.
- Kirsty Groundwater, Communications Team Leader.

### Apologies

- Councillor John A R Scott.
- Councillor Jean E Stevenson.
- Reverend Susan Kirkbride, Religious Representative.
- Marie Locke, Religious Representative.
- Reverend Fraser Macnaughton, Religious Representative.

- Mary Maley, Teacher Representative.
- Councillors David Dawson, P Lindsay Hall, Gillian Skuse and Mellissa-Louise Thomson (who had been invited for Item 1).

### **Not Present**

- Jo Hill, Teacher Representative.
- Councillors Kristopher D Leask, Owen Tierney and Duncan A Tullock (who had been invited for Item 1).

### **Declarations of Interest**

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

### **Chair**

- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

## **1. Learning Estate Strategy – Strategic Outline Case**

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, the Committee:

Noted:

**1.1.** That the national Learning Estate Strategy, Connecting People, Places and Learning, was produced in 2019 and set out 10 guiding principles.

**1.2.** That the draft Learning Estates Strategy Phase One, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, had been developed in line with the national strategy and was the first phase of a four-phase strategy focusing on the learning estate.

**1.3.** That, should any bid for Learning Estates Improvement Programme funding be accepted by the Scottish Government, following both partner and public consultation, detailed plans and costs would be subject to the Council's capital project appraisal process, including consideration by members at the relevant committee(s).

**1.4.** The five proposed investment options, as outlined in the Strategic Outline Case, attached as Appendix 2 to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.

**1.5.** The indicative revenue costs, detailed in section 12.12 of the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, in respect of the five proposed investment options.

**1.6.** That the cost of delivering additional support for learning was predicted to increase due to the increase in demand for the service and was not currently quantifiable.

**1.7.** The preferred investment option, Option 6, namely investment in an Integrated Assisted Support for Learning Centre, which would directly reduce the pupil roll (number and characteristic) pressures on Glaitness School and allow it to expand to meet the need of new housing development, thereby offsetting some of the costs of the proposed assisted support for learning facility.

On the motion of Councillor Gwenda M Shearer, seconded by Councillor Steven B Heddle, the Committee resolved to **recommend to the Council**:

**1.8.** That the draft Learning Estates Strategy Phase One, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

**1.9.** That the preferred option, Option 6, namely development of an Integrated Additional Support Needs Centre of Excellence, be approved.

**1.10.** That the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing should submit a funding bid to the Scottish Government's Learning Estates Improvement Programme to support development of an Integrated Additional Support Needs Centre of Excellence, at an estimated cost of £40 million, including construction and fit out costs.

**1.11.** That the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing should investigate enhanced Additional Support Needs provision utilising the existing school estate or suitable modifications to it, for example at Papdale Primary School, as a means of both improving the existing provision and reducing pressure on Glaitness School, and thereafter presented as an option during the consultation described at paragraph 1.3 above, and incorporated into the refined Learning Estates Strategy.

**1.12.** That the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing should submit a report, to an early meeting of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee prior to the consultation described at paragraph 1.3 above, on the impacts of centralising Additional Support Needs provision upon Additional Support Needs and support for learning in mainstream schools, with the outcome incorporated into the refined Learning Estates Strategy.

## **2. Conclusion of Meeting**

At 10:36 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Gwenda M Shearer.