

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOLS COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2017 AT 11.00 AM IN ANTRIM BOARD CENTRE**1. PRESENT** Mrs M Culbert (Chair)

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| Dr M Dynan | Sir Gerry Loughran |
| Mrs B Hale | Mr O McMullan |
| Sr C Hegarty | Ms S O'Connor |

Mr J Craig was in attendance.

The Chair welcomed new Members to the Committee.

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Mr G Boyd, Mrs K Scott and Ms L McCall.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Mrs P Carville and Mr E Jardine.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the requirement to declare interests where appropriate during the course of the meeting.

5. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2016

The minutes* (CUOS/10/17/3) of the meeting held on 10 October 2016 were agreed on the proposal of Dr Dynan and seconded by Ms O'Connor.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**6.1 FINAGHY PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY CAMPUS (3)**

Mrs Scott outlined the background to the school's request for an additional community building including the establishment of a company limited by guarantee to oversee the community facility. She referred to the consideration given to this request by EA officers, including Legal Services, DE officials, and the former Belfast Education and Library Board. Mr Boyd drew attention to challenges in relation to the school's request, particularly in the areas of management of control of public money and equality of opportunity for all schools. He said a company limited by guarantee would not dissolve the EA of its responsibilities with regard to a community facility. He said that the EA had entered into a number of partnerships, for example with local District Councils and Sport NI.

Sir Gerry Loughran entered the meeting at 11.06 pm.

At the last meeting of the Committee, Members had met the Principal and Chair of the Board of Governors to discuss the process of the school's transformation from a traditional primary school to a community centred facility.

Members said that they had been impressed with the school's community model, the skillset of the Board of Governors, their approach to responding to community needs and their ability to generate revenue for the benefit of the school community.

Members were mindful that Finaghy Primary School Community Campus was not the only school that managed commercial facilities that generated revenue for the school. They wished to encourage Boards of Governors, where possible, to take forward innovative approaches. They were mindful of the risks involved and the need to allow equal opportunities for all schools. They requested officers to draw up a framework as a support model for schools seeking to broaden the scope of their responsibilities within the remit of community use of schools. The framework would set out arrangements for managing risk, the respective responsibilities of all partners, and potential linkages with other organisations and government departments.

A Member queried the EA's position on the treatment of accumulated revenue by schools outside the terms of LMS. Mr Boyd undertook to explore this matter further and report back to the Committee.

Members discussed replacement costs for MUGA pitches. It was considered that a strategy needed to be developed with regard to these future pressures.

A Member commented on the value of the Committee seeing good practice with regard to community use of school premises and on being made aware of areas which were problematic.

Actions: *Officers to draw up a framework as a support model for schools seeking to broaden the scope of their responsibilities within the remit of community use of schools; report back to the Committee on the treatment of accumulated revenue by schools outside the terms of LMS.*

6.2 REPORT ON LOSSES (6)

Mrs Scott provided a report on pending legal cases. It was noted that claims were pursued either through an alleged injury based on lack of adequate supervision or an alleged injury due to a defect in equipment or premises.

A Member queried the training given to staff to assist with medical supports for children with special educational needs. Mrs Scott undertook to present to the Committee the training schedule for teaching and non-teaching staff who worked with children with special educational needs. This fell within the remit of the CYPS Directorate.

Action: *Training schedule for teaching and non-teaching staff working with children with special educational needs to be presented to the Committee.*

Mr Craig left the meeting at 11.46 am.

6.3 COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES : GUIDANCE (7)

The Committee had previously agreed that a user friendly document should be developed for schools that would sit alongside the DE booklet 'Community Use of School Premises : A Guidance Toolkit for Schools'.

Mrs Scott said that a user friendly document should take account of any new support model for schools. The Committee agreed to await consideration of the user friendly document until an appropriate framework document was agreed for schools.

7. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

7.1 STAFFING STRUCTURE

Mrs Scott said that as Assistant Director for Regional Development, she was responsible for Area Planning, Community Use of Schools and school development within the Education Directorate. It was intended that an Education Officer would be recruited to

undertake specific responsibilities with regard to Community Use of Schools and Community Planning.

7.2 TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME BOARD MEMBER SUB-GROUP

The Board, at its meeting on 28 September 2017, had agreed that the Transformation Programme Board Member Sub-Group would comprise one representative from each of the EA Committees plus any other interested Members.

On the proposal of Ms O'Connor, seconded by Dr Dynan, the Committee appointed Mrs M Culbert to serve on the Transformation Programme Board Member Sub-Group.

Action: *Mrs M Culbert to serve on the Transformation Programme Board Member Sub-Group.*

8. PARTNERSHIP PILOT PROJECT WITH DEPARTMENT FOR THE COMMUNITIES AND SPORT NI

Mrs Scott said that the EA and the Department for the Communities (DfC) had been working together to adopt a more collaborative approach to the funding of sports facilities throughout the region which could utilise the schools' estate. She reported that DfC, in collaboration with Sport NI, had agreed to establish a pilot scheme. DfC had secured £240k to enhance existing school facilities that would allow for an improved community resource and which would be consistent and complementary to community use of schools. This work was required to be completed by 31 March 2018.

It was noted that the four schemes set out in the paper* (CUOS/10/17/6) provided for enhancement at one controlled primary school, one maintained primary school, one special school and one integrated college. Members discussed issues around the cost of upkeep of the facilities. Mrs Scott said that these issues would be negotiated and set out within the terms of the respective agreements.

On the proposal of Sr Hegarty, seconded by Dr Dynan, the Committee agreed to recommend that the EA should proceed with the pilot scheme to provide for enhancement at the four school facilities by 31 March 2018 and that officers would continue to engage with DfC and Sport NI with a view to developing targeted schemes during 2018/19.

9. COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOLS CASE STUDIES - EA tv

A number of case studies filmed by EA tv were made available to Members. These highlighted how community use of school facilities could be managed, administered and funded. The schools taking part in the filming were Nettlefield Primary School, Holy Evangelist Primary School, and St Patrick's High School, Keady.

The Committee commended the work and noted that these programmes, as well as other examples of partnership working with external bodies, would be broadcast on EA tv to showcase good practice.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for 12 February 2018.

The meeting ended at 12.10 pm.

Chair

Date

*Paper circulated with the agenda