

ELECTED MEMBER SOUNDING BOARD

Minute of Meeting of the Elected Member Sounding Board held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Monday 18 May 2020 at 11.00am.

Present: Councillors M Lyle, W Wilson, C Stewart, A Bailey and G Laing; K Reid, Chief Executive; B Renton, Gold Commander; S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); K Donaldson, Interim Chief Operating Officer.

In Attendance: S Hendry, Corporate and Democratic Services.

1. NOTE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The note from the previous meeting of 11 May 2020 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

2. OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- KR advised of the recent announcement by the Scottish Government regarding the role for local authorities / health boards in taking over the running as well as the purchase of private care homes in the event of operational issues. Strategic monitoring and financial issues were currently being examined, and the Chief Officer / Director – Integrated Health and Social Care was providing regular reports to the Scottish Government. A similar report would be provided regularly to the Sounding Board.
- KR advised that recycling centres would be opening from 1 June. BR commented that support from elected members in terms of communications to the public would be helpful to assist with the smooth running of the new arrangements. In response to a question from Councillor Stewart, BR stated that feedback from the re-opening of centres in England was being taken into account as well as input from Police Scotland.
- KR informed members that in terms of business grants, by close of business on the previous Friday 3567 grants had been received, 3332 had been processed, 2693 had been paid put, 639 were under review, and a total of £29,766,250 had been paid.
- KR advised that in relation to trace, test, isolate and support, there was now a whole system approach by the Scottish Government involving local authorities and health boards.
- KR advised that local authorities were receiving additional IT equipment such as laptops to provide to adults in the community who were currently in the shielding category as well as vulnerable children. SD advised that Education and Children's Services had been working with IT to identify children and families who were having technology issues as part of home school arrangements. KR agreed to circulate the generic email address for the Council's welfare support group.
- KR requested that political groups provide their nominations to Christina Flynn for the individual service sounding board meetings.

3. COVID-19 EDUCATION RECOVERY GROUP

There was submitted a noted a briefing note by SD on the work of the Scottish Government led COVID-19 Education Recovery Group. Both SD and KR were members of the group.

SD provided a summary of the report and the current position and advised that a report would be submitted to the June Council meeting providing a further update.

Members noted the report and the update.

4. TEMPORARY MEDIA POLICY

There was submitted and agreed a temporary media policy setting out how media responses and releases will be shared with sounding board members whilst the Council is operating under emergency powers.

5. FINANCE UPDATE

There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Finance updating members on any significant financial issues arising from the Scottish Government's, or Council's, response to COVID 19 since the last meeting of the Board, together with any financial actions taken under delegated authority. The report also provided an update on the financial implications and consequences to date.

In response to a query from Councillor Stewart on the £50 million additional funding to local authorities for social care, and specifically on the PKC funding that had been initially allocated to NHS Tayside to then be passed on to the Council, as well as the reasoning behind the NRAC/GAE formula for funding allocation, KD agreed to clarify this with the Chief Officer.

6. EMERGENCY POWERS – RECORD OF DECISIONS

There was submitted and noted the record of decisions taken under emergency powers as of 18 May 2020.

7. LATEST GUIDANCE / LEGISLATION CONSIDERED BY GOLD COMMAND

There was submitted and noted the latest guidance / legislation considered by Gold Command as of 18 May 2020.

8. LATEST STATISTICS

The latest statistics as of 18 May 2020 were submitted and noted.

9. MEMBERS Q AND A

In response to a query from Councillor Bailey on the timescales of the School Closure Review Panel regarding Abernyte Primary School and any possible delay by the Panel due to the period that any appeal can be submitted, SD confirmed that PKC were in discussion with the Review Panel and a further update would be provided at next week's meeting.