

## Department of Education, Sport & Culture Education Council Meeting Minutes

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| <b>Date</b> | 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 | <b>Time</b> | 10.00am | <b>Location</b> | Conference Room,<br>Hamilton House |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------|-----------------|------------------------------------|

| <b>Attendees</b>       |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Dr Alex Allinson, MHK  | Minister for Education, Sport and Culture |
| Mrs Ann Corlett, MHK   | Department Member                         |
| Professor Ronald Barr  | Chief Executive Officer                   |
| Mr Robin Turton        | Education Council Member                  |
| Mr Ray Smith           | Education Council Member                  |
| Mr Steven Bevan        | Education Council Member                  |
| Mr Alex Downie         | Education Council Member                  |
| Mrs Margaret Mansfield | Education Council Member                  |
| Mrs Diane Brown        | Education Council Member                  |
| Mrs Malgorzata Simpson | Education Council Member                  |
| Mrs Louise Strickett   | Education Council Member                  |
| Mrs Barbara Brereton   | Education Council Member                  |
| Mr Andrew Shipley      | Legal and Administration Manager          |
| <b>Apologies</b>       |   |
| Mrs Marlene Maska, MLC | Department Member                         |

### AGENDA ITEMS

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| <b>1</b> | <b>Apologies for Absence</b><br>Mrs Marlene Maska, MLC offered her apologies.   |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019</b><br>Minutes of the meeting held on 27/11/19 were agreed after a minor amendment.  |
| <b>3</b> | <p><b>MATTERS ARISING – From minutes dated 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019</b></p> <p><b>Parent Pay</b> – The CEO confirmed all Secondary Schools are using Parent Pay and that some primary schools have implemented it. The NAHT have objections to Parent Pay as they do not want teachers to administer it.</p> <p><b>Pupil Premium-</b> The Minister advised the economic impact of the current situation on families is unclear and this could impact the need for pupil premium.</p> <p><b>Education Bill</b> – The Minister will be taking the Education Bill through the second reading at the end of the summer. If there are significant findings from the independent review of the DESC at the end of July they will be incorporated into the Education Bill.</p> <p><b>Independent review</b> - The CEO advised that Education Council members may be approached as part of the independent review.</p> <p><b>Playing Fields-</b> The Minister confirmed that the funding for the playing fields at</p> |

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|   | <p>Castle Rushen High School was agreed at Tynwald. Ground works are to be completed and seeding of pitches will take place next year. The Minister is keen to progress the plans for QEII &amp; CRHS and has met with the Treasury Minister to discuss. There was some discussion about the capital projects and how minor works may be included in the interim budget. The CEO is waiting to see if budgets will be revised by Treasury.</p> <p><b>Caretakers and Cleaners</b> - The CEO advised that the management of cleaners and caretakers sits with DOI. The Department has 20 new cleaners and 6 caretakers due to the current coronavirus situation. The budgets for cleaners and caretakers have been transferred to DESC and the management remains with DOI.</p>  |  |
| 4 | <p><b>Update from the Minister/Department on the Covid-19 schools 'roadmap' and social distancing guidance</b></p> <p>There was discussion about the impact of Coronavirus on schools. This included the layouts of schools and the difficulty this poses when trying to accommodate social distancing. The Minister confirmed should there be a further outbreak it is possible that schools could revert to social distancing measures, no assemblies and no team sports etc, in the short term.</p> <p>The Minister confirmed that in considering the design of CRHS the consequences of Coronavirus will be taken into account. If there are further outbreaks then schools are in a better position than before as they have access to personal protective equipment (PPE), for example.</p> <p>It could be the case that individual schools may have to close if there are local outbreaks of the virus.</p> <p>The Department is aware some children will need extra support after the lockdown.</p> <p>There was discussion about how the Department will support students in their exam years. Free exam resits will be available and support for pupils will be offered. The Minister noted it is an unsettling period for students, particularly those who are unsure whether to start university in September. Currently it is unclear whether provision will be available from all universities in the new academic year.</p> <p>Education Council members voiced their concerns for children who are leaving school who would usually seek apprenticeships/jobs. The CEO is meeting with representatives from the Department for Enterprise (DfE) to discuss a pan government plan to offer training opportunities for young people. There was discussion about increasing space for 16-18 year olds in schools. UCM is working to support training and re-training opportunities. The DfE is also looking at offering online courses/blended learning opportunities.</p> <p>UCM is looking into support for students that would usually be attending university off Island. Possibilities include use of the UCM library and assigned mentors to encourage social interaction. The cost of support would be absorbed by the DESC.</p> <p>The Minister advised that he is liaising with the Chief Minister about enabling parents to take their children to university off Island for the new academic year.</p> |  |

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|                 | <p>There was discussion about upskilling those who are unemployed. The CEO advised the Department has an agreement with the University of Chester (UoC) and that they are in talks about higher education opportunities on the IOM.</p> <p>Discussion about the logistics of training young people took place; including where they may undertake training and who would teach them. It was suggested by an Education Council member that this could take place in unused government offices.</p> <p>There was discussion about the traditional 3 term university year may be adapted given the current situation.</p> <p>The Minister indicated that it will be important to ensure that schools are able to record lessons for remote and blended learning lessons to take place, if required.</p> <p>Concerns were raised that significant experience would be lost by not having Tynwald members as school governors, such as the Bishop and the Health Minister.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>5</b></p> | <p><b>School Lettings</b></p> <p>It was confirmed that school lettings will continue as they have done previously. The income from lettings and the organisation of lettings for primary schools is arranged by the DESC and Secondary Schools have their own system. The CEO confirmed if a faith school has a letting during the school week that the funds raised would go to DESC.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>6</b></p> | <p><b>Update on the Education Bill and the impact on current members of the Education Council</b></p> <p>The Minister confirmed that the second reading of the Education Bill will take place in the week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> June. Two unions have submitted views.</p> <p>It was confirmed by the Legal and Administration Manager that it is proposed that the Education Council will not be continuing and that the Department will appoint Governors. An Education Council Member raised concerns about the link between parents, Education Council Members and the schools and that by appointing Governors the independent link may be lost.</p> <p>Discussion took place about the length of school governor appointments and some Education Council Members felt this should be shortened.</p> <p>The CEO noted there may be an opportunity for Education Council Members to apply to be Governors. The CEO shared that any significant recommendations from the Beamans review may impact the Education Bill.</p> |  |
| <p><b>7</b></p> | <p><b>Funding for the schools social distancing preparations</b></p> <p>The CEO confirmed the DESC centrally funded the social distancing preparations, including £70,000 on mobile hand washing units, which are now fully operational in schools. The CEO noted there is a need to re-balance stock amongst schools as some were closed and some acted as hub schools. The CEO confirmed that schools do not have their budgets at this time and a revised budget will take place in July.</p>   |  |

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|           | <p>There is a recruitment freeze for staff and the Department will work closely with schools to ascertain the need for individual teachers. The CEO confirmed there may be some short term re-deployment in September.</p> <p>There was some discussion around how social distancing measures are arranged if there is a second wave of Covid-19. The Legal and Administration Manager said that the pandemic has highlighted the importance of risk assessments. Training on risk assessments will be available in future.</p> <p>An Education Council Member asked about the absence of vulnerable staff who were shielding. The Legal and Administration Manager was going to try and find out more information about whether affected staff may have to self-certify if they are required to self-isolate.</p>   |  |
| <b>8</b>  | <p><b>Update on the Teachers Dispute</b></p> <p>The CEO confirmed there is a joint negotiation meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June. The DESC are in talks with Treasury to see what can be done. The CEO is keen to make progress before the end of term. There was discussion around the implications of pay settlements in England. It has been raised that teachers will require time in lieu for two missed bank holidays during the pandemic. There was discussion about teaching days and how it is organised in other jurisdictions.</p> <p>The CEO confirmed there have been various separate offers since Autumn which have been rejected by the unions.</p> <p>Some Education Council members felt that the government position should be in the media as currently it is one sided from the unions.</p> <p>There was some discussion around the teaching unions wish to set up an independent pay review. The CEO confirmed that there is a new teaching union on the Island - The Education Union of Mann.</p> <p>Concern was expressed that some Headteacher reports for governor meetings were not being provided.</p> |  |
| <b>9</b>  | <p><b>Future of Education in the Isle of Man</b></p> <p>The Minister is optimistic, with the Beamans review and the Education Bill that there will be positive change. The pandemic has provided a unique insight into how schools can develop in terms of structure, function and ways in which learning is provided. It was noted if pupils are off ill or suspended then remote learning may become a possibility in future.</p> <p>The CEO said that the DESC has been approached by a charity to support funding laptops and broadband for disadvantaged children, with a focus on children in their exam years.</p>  |  |
| <b>10</b> | <p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>The Minister thanked Education Council Members for a useful meeting and the CEO for showing resilience in the face of the pandemic. The Minister is keen to visit schools in</p>  |  |

future.

**Expense claim forms** - Education Council Members were asked to re-send claim forms to the Legal and Administration Manager if they had not received payment for claims submitted during lockdown.

redacted

**Signature**.....

**Dated**..... 25/11/2020