

Education and Families Committee – 2 September 2024

[Shetland Islands Council Committee Information - Meetings](#)

Item	Subject	Decision
1	Mothballing a School and Reopening a Mothballed School Procedures	<p>The Education and Families Committee:</p> <p>NOTED and COMMENTED on the Lessons Learned Report on the use of the Mothballing Toolkit for Skeld Primary School and Cullivoe Primary School.</p> <p>NOTED and COMMENTED on the following operational procedures which will incorporate the decisions taken by the Council at 1.3 below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mothballing a School Procedure; and• Reopening a Mothballed School Procedure. <p>RECOMMENDED that the Policy and Resources Committee RECOMMEND that the Council APPROVE the following principles that will apply to mothballing a school and reopening a mothballed school:</p> <p>Schools on the Mainland of Shetland, Yell, Unst and Whalsay will be considered for mothballing if the school roll falls below 20% capacity.</p> <p>Schools on the Islands with Small Populations (Fair Isle, Foula, Papa Stour, Skerries and Fetlar) with an open primary school will be considered for mothballing when the school roll falls, or is due to fall, to zero.</p> <p>That the Director of Children’s Services has the delegated authority to mothball a school where the minority of parents are opposed, or majority of parents are not opposed, to the proposal; or where the school roll has fallen to zero.</p> <p>Reopening a mothballed school on the mainland of Shetland, Yell, Unst and Whalsay will be considered when the potential primary school roll in the catchment area reaches 20% of the school’s capacity.</p> <p>Reopening a mothballed school on Islands with Small Populations (Fair Isle, Foula, Papa Stour, Skerries and Fetlar) will be considered when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Families move into the island - the decision-making process will be completed within four months of this trigger event.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An existing child in the area comes of age to attend school, and parents/carers are in favour of this option. <p>That the Director of Children’s Services has delegated authority to reopen a mothballed school when the conditions agreed at 1.3.4 and 1.3.5 in the report are met and the costs can be met from within existing resources. Otherwise it is conditional on a report being presented to Education and Families Committee providing funding to reopen the mothballed school.</p> <p>There will be a two-year exemption period from further consideration of mothballing if “Stage 3 - Decision” of the Mothballing a School Procedure has been completed but the school is not mothballed – unless the school roll falls to zero.</p> <p>That should the majority of parents with pupils in attendance at the school remain opposed to mothballing once all the relevant information and parental views have been gathered, the school should remain open and the Director of Children’s Services will report back to the Education and Families Committee to decide next steps.</p>
2	Review of the School Transport Policy 2024	<p>The Education and Families Committee RECOMMENDED that the Policy and Resources Committee RECOMMENDS that the Council APPROVE the proposed updated Shetland Islands Council School Transport Policy.</p> <p>The Education and Families Committee RECOMMENDED that the Policy and Resources Committee RECOMMENDS that the Council APPROVE the request to changing that where a pupil is redirected from their catchment school due to mothballing, transport will be provided directly to the new school for the period of one year. After one year school transport will be reviewed in line with the School Transport Policy.</p>
3	National Improvement Framework Annual Report and Plan: The Ambition - Excellence and Equity for Shetland’s Learners.	<p>The Education and Families Committee APPROVED the Shetland Islands Council’s National Improvement Framework annual report and plan.</p>

4	Self-Directed Support Policy 2024 – 2027	The Education & Families Committee RECOMMENDED that Shetland Islands Council APPROVES the Self Directed Support Policy 2024 – 2027.
5	Annual Local Child Poverty Action Report	The Education and Families Committee RECOMMENDED that Policy and Resources Committee APPROVES Shetland’s sixth Annual Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) for publication.
6	Shetland Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan 2024 - 2027	The Education and Families Committee: APPROVED the Shetland Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan 2024–2027 for publication. NOTED that an updated Plan will be presented in September 2025, following the Scottish Government response to the findings / recommendations in the Independent Review of CLD.
7	Children’s Services Directorate Performance Report – Quarter 1, 01 April to 30 June 2024	The Education and Families Committee considered the contents of the report and made relevant comments on progress against priorities to inform further activity.
8	Care Inspectorate Report: Whalsay Nursery	The Education and Families Committee NOTED the content of the follow up unannounced Care Inspectorate Report on Whalsay Nursery.
9	Care Inspectorate Report on Residential Childcare: Windybrae	The Education and Families Committee NOTED the content of the Care Inspectorate Report for Windybrae.
10	Education and Families Committee Business Programme – 2024/25	The Education and Families Committee CONSIDERED the business planned for Education and Families Committee for the remainder of the financial year 2024/25, and ADVISED the Director of Children’s Services of any changes required or new items to be included on the Business Programme.

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