

## EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 13 MARCH 2018

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### Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 13 March 2018 at 2pm

**Present:** Provost Brennan, Councillors Clocherty, Curley, MacLeod, McCabe, C McEleny, McVey, Murphy, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson, Rev. F Donaldson and Mrs F Gilpin, Church Representatives, Ms A McMillan, Parent Representative and Ms P McEwan, Teacher Representative.

**Chair:** Councillor Clocherty presided.

**In attendance:** Acting Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Community Safety & Wellbeing Manager, Community Learning & Development Manager, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy, Ms G Murphy (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services), Mr I Cameron (for Chief Financial Officer), Mr C Given (Finance Services), Head of Education, Property Services Manager and Corporate Communications Manager.

**The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Committee.**

#### 180 **Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest** 180

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Rev. D Burt.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 14 (Update on the Use of the Pupil Equity Fund) – Councillor Curley.

Agenda Item 17 (Update on the Beacon Arts Centre: The Greenock Arts Guild Limited – Litigation Matter) – Councillors McCabe and Robertson.

#### 181 **Communities 2017/18 Revenue Budget – Period 9 to 31 December 2017** 181

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the 2017/18 Communities Revenue Budget position as at Period 9 to 31 December 2017.

**Decided:** that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £132,000 for the 2017/18 Revenue Budget as at 31 December 2017.

#### 182 **Communities Capital Programme 2017 - 2020 Progress** 182

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the status of the projects forming the Communities Capital Programme and (2) highlighting the overall financial position.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Committee note the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;

(2) that the Committee note the reduction in the projected cost for the Watt Complex refurbishment project and that the budget reduction will be returned to the overall

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Capital Programme; and

(3) that the Committee note and approve the additional expenditure on the Inverkip Community Hub project and utilisation of budgets as outlined in paragraph 11.1.

### 183 **Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Programme Update** 183

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the progress of the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Programme locally and (2) appending the recently published National Report for 2016-17.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Committee note the contents of the report and the progress which continues to be made locally; and

(2) that the Committee endorse the National Report for 2016-17.

### 184 **Loans of Paintings from the McLean Museum and Art Gallery** 184

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of two requests for loans of paintings from the McLean Museum and Art Gallery (the James Watt Trust).

**Decided:** that approval be given to loans of the works “Still Life with Pomegranate” by Mary Armour to the Kirkcudbright Galleries, Dumfries and Galloway and “Tom Wickham’s Barns” by Victoria Crowe to the City Art Centre, Edinburgh on the dates specified in the report, subject to matters of transport, security and insurance being arranged to the satisfaction of the Libraries, Museums and Archives Manager.

### 185 **Flexible Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Eligibility** 185

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for Inverclyde Council to adopt the Flexible Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Eligibility Policy which allows local authorities to access Flexible ECO Affordable Warmth funding for energy efficiency works to be made available to Inverclyde residents with the highest level of need living in private sector housing.

**Decided:** that the Committee approve the ECO Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent appended to the report, authorised by the Chief Executive or Corporate Director, and that the document be advertised on the Council’s website.

### 186 **Tender for a Delivery Partner for the 2018/19 Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland: Area Based Scheme (HEEPS: ABS)** 186

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting the Committee to grant delegated authority to the Head of Legal & Property Services to accept a tender for a Delivery Partner for the 2018/19 Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland: Area Based Scheme (HEEPS: ABS) in accordance with Contract Standing Order 17.3(ii).

**Decided:** that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Property Services to accept the most economically advantageous tender for a Delivery Partner for the 2018/19 HEEPS: ABS Programme and also, subject to further funding from the Scottish Government, to accept the optional year extension to the 2019/20 contract, in accordance with Contract Standing Order 17.3(ii).

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**187 Tendering of Care and Repair and Small Repairs Service 187**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting the Committee to grant delegated authority to the Head of Legal & Property Services to accept a tender for the provision of the Care and Repair and Small Repairs Service in accordance with Contract Standing Order 17.3(ii).

**Decided:** that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Property Services to accept a tender for the Care and Repair and Small Repairs Service in accordance with Contract Standing Order 17.3(ii).

**188 Public Space CCTV Provision - Update 188**

It was noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda and would be the subject of a report to the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee on 27 March 2018.

**It was agreed in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following 3 items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act as are set out opposite the heading to each item.**

Item	Paragraph(s)
Whinhill Golf Club Proposals	6
Update on the Beacon Arts Centre: The Greenock Arts Guild Limited – Litigation Matter	6
Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report: Update on Current Actions	6, 9, 12 & 13

**189 Whinhill Golf Club Proposals 189**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) on the current position regarding the Whinhill Golf Course savings proposal and (2), following consideration by the Members' Budget Working Group, presenting a one year interim savings proposal for consideration as part of the Council's budget setting process.

There was circulated to the Committee, updated Appendix 1 (Proposed Golf Charges 2018-19).

The Committee agreed that the recommendations contained in the report, incorporating the amended Appendix 1 as circulated, be considered as part of the budget setting process, all as detailed in the appendix.

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- 190 Update on the Beacon Arts Centre: The Greenock Arts Guild Limited – Litigation Matter 190**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing a further update on the Beacon Arts Centre/Greenock Arts Guild Limited (GAG) litigation matter raised by the Greenock Arts Guild in relation to the Beacon development.
- Councillors McCabe and Robertson declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild Limited. They also formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the Chamber or their participation in the decision making process.
- The Committee agreed to note the current position and to take action, all as detailed in the Appendix.
- 191 Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report: Update on Current Actions 191**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) on the current actions to implement the Council's decisions on the Clune Park Estate and (2) providing information on key, current actions to ensure that the Committee is fully advised of progress.
- The Committee noted the current progress in respect of the Clune Park Area Regeneration Plan and the further matters set out in the report, all as detailed in the Appendix.
- The Communities business concluded at 3.50pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Rev. Donaldson, Mrs Gilpin, Ms McMillan and Ms McEwan joining the meeting. Councillor Wilson did not return to the meeting at this juncture.
- 192 Education 2017/18 Revenue Budget – Period 9 to 31 December 2017 192**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the 2017/18 Education Revenue Budget position as at Period 9 to 31 December 2017.
- (Councillor Wilson returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £207,000 in the 2017/18 Education Revenue Budget as at Period 7 to 31 October 2017; and
- (2) that the Committee note that proposals have been developed as part of the 2018/20 budget process to address a number of the projected underspends.
- 193 Education Capital Programme 2017 - 2020 Progress 193**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the status of the projects forming the Education Capital Programme and (2) highlighting the overall financial position.
- (Rev. Donaldson left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

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**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1; and
- (2) that approval be given to the issue of tenders for the St Mary's Primary School refurbishment and extension project and that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Property Services to accept the most economically advantageous tender provided the cost is within the budget allocation for the project.

**194 Update on the Glasgow City Region Improvement Collaborative: Initial Improvement Plan 194**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on progress with the Glasgow City Region Improvement Collaborative (known as the West Partnership) and (2) informing the Committee of the West Partnership's initial improvement plan.

(Rev. Donaldson returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

**Decided:** that the Committee note the progress and initial Improvement Plan of the West Partnership.

**195 Increasing Wi-Fi Provision for Schools in Inverclyde 195**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Education advising the Committee of the outcome of the recent Wi-Fi feasibility study for schools with a view to increasing Wi-Fi capability for schools in Inverclyde.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee approve the use of SEMP funding to support schools to take forward the initiative, as detailed in the report; and
- (2) that the Committee approve the proposal to open up the Wi-Fi networks to unsupported devices in primary schools.

**196 Update on the Use of the Pupil Equity Fund 196**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the use by schools in Inverclyde of the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF).

Councillor Curley declared a non-financial interest in this item due to an element of his spouse's position in St Stephen's High School being directly funded by PEF. He also formed the view that the nature of his interest and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the Chamber or his participation in the decision making process.

(Councillor Wilson left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

**Decided:** that the report be noted.

**197 Inverclyde's Autism Strategy – Progress to Implementation 197**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy informing the Committee of the progress made in the implementation of Inverclyde's Autism Strategy 2014.

(Councillor C McEleny left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

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**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee acknowledge the progress made to date in the implementation of Inverclyde's Autism Strategy;
- (2) that the Committee agree that the funding identified to support the implementation of the Autism Strategy be carried over into financial year 2018-2019;
- (3) that the Committee approve the delegation of the governance systems for Autism Strategy grant allocation payments to the Council's Grants Sub-Committee; and
- (4) that regular update reports be submitted to the Committee.