

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 7 MAY 2019

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 7 May 2019 at 2pm

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

Chair: Councillor Clocherty presided.

In attendance: Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Communities, Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport, Libraries, Education Development & Arts Manager, Mr I Cameron (for Chief Financial Officer), Education & Exchequer Finance Manager, Ms G Murphy (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services), Mr D McLavin (Corporate Communications), Head of Education, Property Services Manager, Corporate Policy, Performance & Partnership Manager and Ms T Bunton (Finance Services).

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

346 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

346

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor C McEleny, with Councillor Nelson substituting, and Rev. F Donaldson.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 3 (Communities Capital Programme 2018-2021 Progress) – Councillors Clocherty and Curley.

Agenda Item 21 (Review of School Transport Provision within Inverclyde) – Councillors Quinn and Wilson.

Agenda Item 24 (Beacon Arts Centre Update Report) – Councillors Clocherty and Robertson.

Agenda Item 26 (Admissions and Placing Requests for Academic Year 2019/20) – Rev. Burt.

347 Communities 2018/19 Revenue Budget - Period 11 to 28 February 2019

347

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the position of the 2018/19 Revenue Budget as at Period 11 to 28 February 2019.

Decided:

(1) that the current projected overspend of £4,000 in the 2018/19 Communities Revenue Budget as at Period 11 to 28 February 2019 be noted; and

(2) that it be noted that the current projected overspend will be contained within the overall Education & Communities 2018/19 Revenue Budget.

348 Communities Capital Programme 2018-2021 Progress 348

There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Communities and Chief Financial Officer (1) on the status of the projects forming the Communities Capital Programme and (2) highlighting the overall financial position. Councillor Clocherty declared a non-financial interest in this item as a member of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure and Councillor Curley declared a non-financial interest as a member of Boglestone Community Association. Both Members 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.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 be noted; and
- (2) that a report be submitted to the Committee on (a) the overall impact on users of the Inverclyde Leisure Spend to Save project at Boglestone Community Centre and (b) usage (including education usage) of the mountain bike track at Rankin Park.

349 How Good is our Public Library Service? - Review of Inverclyde Libraries 349

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of the recent validated self-evaluation of Inverclyde Libraries by the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC). The report advised that the assessment panel had endorsed Inverclyde Libraries' self-evaluation grades of 5 (very good) for Vision, Innovation and Management of Change for Engagement with Community Development Processes and for Planning, Developing and Enhancing the Library Service.

Decided:

- (1) that the positive SLIC report on Inverclyde Libraries be noted;
- (2) that the upward trajectory in respect of Inverclyde Libraries' continuous improvement journey as evidenced by the self-evaluation undertaken by the service since 2007 be noted; and
- (3) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to all those involved in the service provision.

350 Inspection of Local Authorities – Community Learning and Development in Inverclyde 350

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of the recent Education Scotland Inspection of Community Learning and Development, focusing on a two-phased approach of Strategic and Place-Based inspections. The report advised that in assessing the quality indicators, Education Scotland had graded the key indicators, Improvement in Performance and Impact on the Local Community as good and Delivering the Learning Offer with Learners and Leadership and Direction as very good.

Decided:

- (1) that the positive inspection outcome of the Strategic Inspection of Community Learning and Development, including the Place-Based part of the inspection, within the East and Central communities of Greenock be acknowledged;
- (2) that the improvement actions recommended by Education Scotland be noted;
- (3) that it be noted that Inverclyde was performing well nationally when compared with other local authorities inspected to date; and

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(4) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to all those involved in the service provision.

351 Community Learning and Development Literacies Report

351

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of progress made by Community Learning and Development against the Adult Literacies in Scotland 2020: Strategic Guidance (ALIS 2020), with all delivery linking to the three year plan 'Co-ordinating Community Learning and Development in Inverclyde'. The report advised that progress made against ALIS was very good and that all recommendations in ALIS 2020 had been delivered to a high standard and recently endorsed in the inspection of Community Learning and Development.

Decided:

- (1) that the positive progress made against ALIS 2020 be noted; and
- (2) that the Committee's appreciation be extended to all those involved in the service provision.

352 Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018

352

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of the introduction of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 and resulting changes to criminal law for perpetrators of domestic abuse in Scotland from 1 April 2019.

Decided: that the introduction of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 which came into force on 1 April 2019 be noted.

353 Crawl Hole Access to Pitches

353

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the provision of crawl holes across Inverclyde, (2) highlighting the additional six months review of the pilot at Inverclyde Academy's 3G pitch and (3) seeking approval to increase the number of crawl holes across the school estate.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed that the provision of the crawl hole at the Inverclyde Academy 3G pitch remain in place following the successful pilot, with monitoring procedures put in place to ensure that it remained fit for purpose;
- (2) that it be agreed to commence the roll-out of other crawl holes within the wider school estate on a phased basis, commencing with the secondary school pitches on a trial basis over the next six months;
- (3) that it be agreed to consider the further roll-out of crawl holes within the primary estate provision if further trials in secondary schools are successful; and
- (4) that any damage to pitches with crawl holes be monitored and that authority be granted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development to close any crawl holes if significant damage occurred.

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354 Road Safety West of Scotland

354

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the Council's continued participation with Road Safety West of Scotland (RSWoS) and (2) advising that the Council would be chairing the Road Safety West of Scotland Forum for the period 2019 – 2021.

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

Decided:

- (1) that Inverclyde Council's continuing role in Road Safety West of Scotland be noted;
- (2) that Councillor Curley's role as Chair of Road Safety West of Scotland be noted; and
- (3) that an annual report be submitted to the Committee on the work undertaken by Road Safety West of Scotland.

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 two 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 opposite the heading to each item.

Item	Paragraph(s)
Update on Funding – Inverclyde Association for Mental Health (IAMH)/In-Work Enterprises	6, 8 and 9
Beacon Arts Centre Update Report	6

355 Update on Funding – Inverclyde Association for Mental Health (IAMH)/In-Work Enterprises

355

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval to increase the level of revenue funding for the Inverclyde Association for Mental Health (IAMH) facility at Broomhill, Greenock.

(Councillor Murphy returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the transfer of the existing funding allocation of £16,000 per year from In-Work Enterprises to the parent organisation, Inverclyde Association for Mental Health (IAMH);
- (2) that approval be given to the increase in funding from £16,000 to £23,000 per financial year; and
- (3) that it be noted that the increase in funding was being contained within the existing Community Facilities Funding Revenue Budget.

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356 Beacon Arts Centre Update Report**356**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update in respect of the action plan being taken forward by the Greenock Arts Guild Ltd (GAG) Board in relation to the Beacon Arts Centre.

Councillors Clocherty and Robertson declared a non-financial interest in this item as members of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild Ltd. 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 (1) to note the progress to date and that a draft budget had been agreed for finalisation by the GAG Board at its next meeting and (2) to grant delegated powers to release funding subject to conditions, all as detailed in the appendix.

The Communities business concluded at 3.25pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Councillors Nelson and Wilson, Rev. Burt, Mrs Gilpin, Ms McMillan and Ms McEwan joining the meeting.

357 Mr Grant McGovern**357**

The Convener referred to the forthcoming retiral of Grant McGovern, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Communities. On behalf of the Committee, he thanked Mr McGovern for his years of service to education within Inverclyde and extended his best wishes to him for the future.

358 Education Scotland Report on Lomond View Academy**358**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of the recent Education Scotland inspection of Lomond View Academy, focusing on progress being made within the school in improving learning and teaching and raising attainment. The report advised that the two key indicators, Learning Teaching and Assessment and Raising Attainment and Achievement, had both been assessed as satisfactory.

Mr David Peden, Head Teacher, was present and addressed the Committee in relation to the inspection report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Education Scotland report on Lomond View Academy be noted;
- (2) that a progress report be submitted to the Committee in six months' time; and
- (3) that the Committee's appreciation be extended to all those involved in the inspection process.

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359 Education Scotland Report on All Saints Primary School 359

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of the recent Education Scotland inspection of All Saints Primary School, focusing on progress being made within the school in improving learning and teaching and raising attainment. The report advised that in respect of the four key indicators, Leadership of Change, Raising Attainment and Achievement and Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion had been assessed as satisfactory and Learning, Teaching and Assessment had been assessed as good.

Ms Lorraine Fisher, Head Teacher, was present and addressed the Committee in relation to the inspection report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Education Scotland report on All Saints Primary School be noted; and
- (2) that the Committee's appreciation be extended to all those involved in the inspection process.

360 Education Scotland Report on Moorfoot Primary School, Nursery Class and Garvel Deaf Centre 360

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of the recent Education Scotland inspection of Moorfoot Primary School, Nursery Class and Garvel Deaf Centre, focusing on progress being made in improving learning and teaching and raising attainment/securing children's progress. The report advised that the two key indicators for the Primary School, Learning, Teaching and Assessment and Raising Attainment and Achievement had been assessed as good and that the two key indicators for the Nursery Class, Learning, Teaching and Assessment and Securing Children's Progress had also been assessed as good.

Ms Alison Irvine, Head Teacher, was present and addressed the Committee in relation to the inspection report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Education Scotland report on Moorfoot Primary School, Nursery Class and Garvel Deaf Centre be noted; and
- (2) that the Committee's appreciation be extended to all those involved in the inspection process.

361 Education 2018/19 Revenue Budget – Period 11 to 28 February 2019 361

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the position of the 2018/19 Education Revenue Budget as at Period 11 to 28 February 2019.

Decided: that the current projected underspend of £60,000 in the 2018/19 Education Revenue Budget as at Period 11 to 28 February 2019 be noted.

362 Education Capital Programme 2018-2021 Progress 362

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

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Decided: that the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 be noted.

363 Education & Communities Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2016/19 – Final Progress Report 363

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the achievement of key objectives in the Education, Communities & Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan (CDIP) 2016/19.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in delivering the year 3 improvement actions outlined in the Education, Communities & Organisational Development CDIP 2016/19 be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that this was the last progress report on the Education, Communities and Organisational Development CDIP 2016/19; and
- (3) that an report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee providing an update on the position in respect of Early Learning and Childcare.

364 Education, Communities & Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2019/2022 364

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval of the new Education, Communities & Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan (CDIP) for 2019/22.

During the course of discussion on this item, it was agreed to include reference within the Plan to the Young Persons' Health and Wellbeing Survey to be carried out in 2019.

Decided: that approval be given to the Education, Communities & Organisational Development CDIP 2019/22, subject to the inclusion of reference to the Young Persons' Health and Wellbeing Survey.

365 Education Services Standards and Quality Report March 2018 – March 2019 and Improvement Plan 2019-20 365

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development appending the Education Services Standards and Quality Report for March 2019 and the Education Services Improvement Plan for session 2019-20.

Decided: that approval be given to the content and publication of the Education Standards and Quality Report 2018-19 and the Improvement Plan 2019-20.

The Committee adjourned at 5.35pm and re-convened at 5.40pm.

366 Scottish Youth Parliament Elections 2019 366

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of the success of the recent Scottish Youth Parliament elections and the two newly elected Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament for the constituency of Inverclyde.

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Decided:

- (1) that the process of identifying and electing candidates to the Scottish Youth Parliament be noted and that the Committee's congratulations be extended to the two newly elected Members for the Inverclyde constituency, Megan Alford and Cameron Noble;
- (2) that it be noted that the two new Members will serve for a period of two years and will represent young people locally through the Inverclyde Youth Council and nationally through Scottish Youth Parliament sittings and committees; and
- (3) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

367 Expansion of Free School Meals and Clothing Grant Policy 367

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for changes to the Free School Meals and Clothing Grant Policy agreed as part of the 2019/20 Budget.

Decided: that approval be given to the amended policy for access to free school meals and school clothing grants for implementation from the 2019/20 academic school year.

368 National Updates and Guidance 368

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an overview of current and emerging national updates related to education.

Decided: that the current and emerging updates on the curriculum and inclusion be noted.

369 Review of School Transport Provision within Inverclyde 369

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) advising the Committee of the review of school transport provision within Inverclyde and (2) seeking approval to communicate with parents and carers on a range of proposals for future implementation.

Councillor Quinn declared a non-financial interest in this item as a member of St Columba's High School Parent Council and Councillor Wilson declared a non-financial interest as the Vice-Chair of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport. Both Members 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.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given for Officers to hold a series of events to seek views on the introduction of passes for relevant pupils who qualify for free school transport; and
- (2) that consideration of the item be continued for a further report to include the feasibility and implications of (a) proposals for the devolution of financial decision-making concerning equitable school transport, based on the individual needs of all school communities across the area, as part of Phase 2 of the Council's Participatory Budgeting development and (b) the provision of a transport grant of £6.90 per week, based on the current weekly bus pass costs, to all high school pupils who live 1-2 miles of their school, entitlement to the grant being automatic for pupils in receipt of free school meals but also provided on identification of individual circumstances by Education staff.

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Councillor Wilson left the meeting at this juncture.

370 Inverclyde’s Autism Strategy – Progress to Implementation Update

370

There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Communities (1) advising of the progress made in the implementation of Inverclyde’s Autism Strategy 2014 following the Committee’s agreement in January 2019 to implement a process of direct contract award in order to deliver the strategy outcomes and (2) informing the Committee of the change of Chair of the Autism Strategy Implementation Group from Education to the Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) as of May 2019.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made to date in the implementation of the outcomes contained in Inverclyde’s Autism Strategy through the direct grant award process previously agreed by the Committee in January 2019 be noted;
- (2) that the anticipated project costs for each outcome prior to completion of procurement and legal procedures required in the allocation of grant funding be noted;
- (3) that authority be delegated to Officers to make a direct award for the delivery of the Transition to Adult Services, details of which were set out in the private appendix to the report, in anticipation of the successful completion of appropriate financial scrutiny procedures required by Procurement and Legal Services; and
- (4) that it be noted that the Chair of the Autism Strategy Implementation Group would transfer from Education to a senior HSCP Officer from May 2019.

Councillor Nelson left the meeting at this juncture.

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 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 opposite the heading to each item.

Item	Paragraph(s)
Inverclyde’s Autism Strategy – Appendix	6 and 8
Local Authority Provision of Cleaning and Janitorial Services to Police Scotland	1 and 6
Admissions and Placing Requests for Academic Year 2019/20	3

371 Inverclyde’s Autism Strategy – Appendix

371

There was submitted appendix to the Autism Strategy report providing details of the proposed direct award for the Transition to Adult Services project for those with autism.

Decided: that the appendix be noted.

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372 Local Authority Provision of Cleaning and Janitorial Services to Police Scotland**372**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications advising the Committee of the proposed changes to the provision of cleaning and janitorial services by Police Scotland and the potential employee and financial implications for the Council.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposed changes to the provision of cleaning and janitorial services by Police Scotland and any potential employee and financial implications for the Council be noted;
- (2) that the contents of the letter to Susan Deacon, Chair of the Scottish Police Authority, expressing concern about Police Scotland's national approach be noted; and
- (3) that an update report be submitted to the Committee once there was greater clarity around the service provision and financial impact on the Council.

373 Admissions and Placing Requests for Academic Year 2019/20**373**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the progress of school placing requests for the academic year 2019/20.

Rev. Burt declared a non-financial interest in this item as the family of a pupil referred to in the report was known to him. 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.

Decided: that the current position in relation to placing requests for schools in Inverclyde be noted.