

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 3 SEPTEMBER 2019

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 3 September 2019 at 2pm

Present: Provost Brennan, Councillors Clocherty, Curley, Crowther (for MacLeod), McCabe, C McEleny, McVey, Murphy, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson, Mrs F Gilpin, Church Representative, 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 Culture, Communities & Educational Resources, Head of Education, Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport, Libraries, Education Development & Arts Manager, Service Manager, Educational Resources & Facilities Management, 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), Corporate Communications Manager, Corporate Policy, Performance & Partnership Manager, Early Years Manager and Property Services Manager.

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

519 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

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Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor MacLeod, with Councillor Crowther substituting, and Rev. F Donaldson.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 3 (Communities Capital Programme 2019-2022 Progress Report) – Councillors Clocherty, Curley and Quinn.

Agenda Item 4 (Community Safety and Resilience Update Report) – Councillor Curley.

Agenda Item 7 (Sportscotland – Sport for Life) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn.

Agenda Item 8 (Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2019/20) – Councillors Murphy, Quinn and Robertson.

Agenda Item 9 (Under 19s Sports Grants 2019/20) – Councillor Robertson.

Agenda Item 14 (Education Capital Programme 2019-2023 Progress Report) – Councillor Wilson.

Agenda Item 17 (Update on Review of School Transport in Inverclyde) – Councillors Quinn and Wilson.

Agenda Item 18 (Local Child Poverty Action Report) – Councillor Robertson.

520 Communities 2019/20 Revenue Budget - Period 3 to 30 June 2019

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the 2018/19 Communities Revenue Budget final outturn and the 2019/20 Revenue Budget position as at Period 3 to 30 June 2019.

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Decided:

- (1) that the final outturn for the 2018/19 Communities Revenue Budget be noted; and
- (2) that the current projected overspend of £36,000 in the 2019/20 Communities Revenue Budget as at Period 3 to 30 June 2019 be noted.

521 Communities Capital Programme 2019-2022 Progress 521

There was submitted a report by the Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources and the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the status of the projects forming the Communities Capital Programme and (2) highlighting the overall financial position.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared a non-financial interest in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure and Councillor Curley declared a non-financial interest as a member of Boglestone Community Association. All three 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: that the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 be noted.

522 Community Safety and Resilience Update Report 522

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the work and outcomes of the Community Safety and Resilience Team.

Councillor Curley declared a non-financial interest in this item as the Chair of Road Safety West of Scotland. 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:

- (1) that the content of the update report be noted;
- (2) that the work of the Community Safety and Resilience Team and its early intervention and focus on prevention be noted; and
- (3) that an annual report on the work of the Community Safety and Resilience Team be submitted to the Committee.

523 Cultural Services Annual Report 2018-19 523

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on progress within Cultural Services in 2018-19.

Decided: that the Cultural Services Annual Report 2018-19 be noted.

524 Progress on Year of Young People Legacy Plan 524

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the progress made in delivering the legacy plan for the Year of Young People.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the progress made in delivering the Year of Young People legacy plan for 2019 be noted.

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525 SportsScotland – Sport for Life 525

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of the launch of **sportscotland's** new corporate strategy, Sport for Life.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared a non-financial interest in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. 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.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the summary of **sportscotland's** strategy, 'Sport for Life', be noted.

526 Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2019/20 526

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing details of the grants awarded to voluntary organisations at the Grants Sub-Committee on 19 June 2019.

Councillor Murphy declared non-financial interests in this item (a) having been approached by Greenock Burns Club, (b) as a Committee member of Friends of Coves Community Nature Reserve, (c) as an Independent Youth Worker, (Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade applications), (d) having been approached by the Gourrock Garden Party organisers and (e) as Chair of Inverclyde Youth for Christ. Councillor Quinn declared a non-financial interest as Chair of Gourrock Heritage and Arts and Councillor Robertson declared non-financial interests as a Committee member of Inverclyde Youth Theatre, Thistle Theatre Company and I FiT. All three Members formed the view that the nature of their interests 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 grants awarded to voluntary organisations at the meeting of the Grants Sub-Committee on 19 June 2019 be noted; and
- (2) that it be agreed that guidance and procedures for grants to voluntary organisations be fully reviewed for 2020 and that a report thereon be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

527 Under 19s Sports Grants 2019/20 527

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing details of grants awarded to under 19s sports at the Grants Sub-Committee on 26 June 2019.

Councillor Robertson declared a non-financial interest in this item due to an association with Greenock Glenpark Harriers. She also formed the view that the nature of her interest and of the item of business did not preclude her continued presence in the Chamber or her participation in the decision-making process.

Decided:

- (1) that the grants awarded to under 19s sports be noted; and
- (2) that it be agreed that guidance and procedures for grants to under 19s sports be fully reviewed for 2020 and that a report thereon be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

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528 Young Scot 528

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the Young Scot offer to local authorities and (2) appending the most recent report on usage and card uptake in Inverclyde.

Decided:

- (1) that the offer from National Young Scot be noted;
- (2) that the current usage of the Young Scot National Entitlement Card (NEC) and its benefits be noted; and
- (3) that the remaining content of the report be noted.

529 The Scottish Community Safety Network 529

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the Council's continued membership of the Scottish Community Safety Network and (2) advising of a proposal for an appropriate Officer of the Council to seek nomination to stand as Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

Decided:

- (1) that Inverclyde Council's continuing role in the Scottish Community Safety Network be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that an appropriate Officer from Inverclyde Council would seek nomination for the position of Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Scottish Community Safety Network to be confirmed at its Annual General Meeting in September 2019.

The Communities business ended at 3.15pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Mrs Gilpin, Ms McMillan and Ms McEwan joining the meeting.

Prior to commencement of business, the Convener welcomed to the meeting Michael Roach, the newly appointed Head of Education.

530 West College Scotland – Request by Councillor Rebecchi 530

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a request received from Councillor Rebecchi (1) that the Committee requests the Board of West College Scotland to reconsider its decision to remove the James Watt name from the college; and (2) that a report be submitted to the Committee on courses currently available and courses that were previously available at the James Watt College with a view to determining the impact this has had on jobs and economic benefit to the local community.

Councillor Rebecchi was present and spoke in relation to his request.

Decided:

- (1) that a request be made to the Board of West College Scotland to incorporate the James Watt name in one or both of its Greenock campuses; and
- (2) that a report be submitted to the Committee on courses currently available and courses previously available at the James Watt College with a view to determining the impact on jobs and economic benefit to the local community, the report also to include

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(a) information on the numbers of Inverclyde-based students and lecturers required to travel to Paisley to undertake or provide courses previously available at the James Watt College and (b) information in relation to courses currently and previously provided to facilitate women returning to the workplace.

531 Education 2019/20 Revenue Budget – Period 3 to 30 June 2019 531

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the position of the 2019/20 Education Revenue Budget as at Period 3 to 30 June 2019.

Councillor Wilson declared a non-financial interest in this item as the Chair of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Operations Committee. 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:

- (1) that the final outturn for the 2018/19 Education Revenue Budget be noted;
- (2) that the current projected overspend of £163,000 in the 2019/20 Education Revenue Budget as at Period 3 to 30 June 2019 be noted; and
- (3) that approval be given to the virement of £26,000 as set out in paragraph 8.1 and Appendix 5 to the report.

532 Education Capital Programme 2019-2023 Progress 532

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.

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

533 Education, Communities and Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2019/22 Progress Report 533

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the delivery of improvement actions in the Education, Communities & Organisational Development (ECOD) Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan (CDIP) focusing on the improvement actions within the remit of the Education Service and the Culture, Communities & Educational Resource Service.

Decided: that the progress made in delivering the Year 1 improvement actions contained within the Education, Communities & Organisational CDIP 2019/22 be noted.

534 Progress with Actions from the Children's Services Inspection and the Year 2 Delivery Plan for the Strategic Children's Service Plan 2018 534

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on progress with the Children's Services Plan 2018.

Decided:

- (1) that the second delivery plan for the Children's Services three year plan be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that the plan had been linked to the relevant UN Convention on

the Rights of the Child articles.

535 Update on Review of School Transport in Inverclyde

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the review of school transport in Inverclyde following the decision of the Committee at its meeting on 7 May 2019, together with a summary of consultation events held with parents in June 2019 and (2) seeking approval for further work to be undertaken to move towards equity in the school transport policy in Inverclyde.

Councillor Quinn declared a non-financial interest in this item as the parent of two St Columba's High School pupils not affected by the proposals set out in the report and Councillor Wilson declared a non-financial interest as Chair of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Operations Committee. Both Members formed the view that the nature of their interests and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the Chamber or their participation in the decision-making process.

Following discussion, Councillor Clocherty moved:

- (1) that approval be given to the phased introduction of bus passes from January 2020 for secondary school pupils who qualify for free school transport where routes are currently provided by service buses and where it is more cost effective than providing a dedicated school bus;
- (2) that approval be given to the revised arrangements for school transport from session 2020/21 as set out in paragraph 6.1 of the report;
- (3) that agreement be given to the use of global information measuring systems (GIS) to measure accurately qualifying distances and acceptable walking routes from home to school;
- (4) that approval be given to the annual review of the school transport policy, taking into account any revisions to acceptable walking routes and the uptake of subsidised transport;
- (5) that it be agreed to refer the increased revenue costs for providing subsidised transport for St Columba's High School where no alternative public service route is available from August 2020 to the Policy & Resources Committee for inclusion in the 2020/23 Revenue Budget process;
- (6) that approval be given to the option for secondary schools to fund any additional provision above policy through alternative funding sources for their pupils in receipt of free school meals who live between 1 and 2 miles of their school; and
- (7) that it be noted that proposals for the devolution of financial decision-making concerning equitable school transport as part of Phase 2 of the Participatory Budgeting process were not being taken forward at this time.

As an amendment, Councillor McVey moved that decisions (1) to (5) and (7) above be agreed but that decision (6) be not implemented and that:

- (6) approval be given to the provision of a transport grant of £7.25 per week based on the current weekly bus pass costs to all high school pupils who live 1-2 miles from their school and are in receipt of free school meals or upon identification of individual circumstances by Education Services staff, and that it be recommended to the Policy & Resources Committee that funding for the policy be provided from one or a combination of (a) the Anti-Poverty Fund Earmarked Reserve, (b) the Budget Smoothing Earmarked Reserve or (c) Free Reserves.

As a further amendment, Councillor Robertson moved that decisions (1), (3), (4), (6) and (7) above be approved but that the proposals set out in decisions (2) and (5) be not implemented and the existing arrangements retained and that the funding implications be remitted to the Policy & Resources Committee for consideration.

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On a vote between the two amendments, 6 Members, Councillors Crowther, Curley, C McEleny, Robertson, Mrs Gilpin and Ms McEwan voted in favour of the amendment by Councillor Robertson and 8 Members, Provost Brennan, Councillors Clocherty, McCabe, Murphy, McVey, Quinn, Wilson and Ms McMillan voted in favour of the amendment by Councillor McVey. Councillor Robertson's amendment, having received fewer votes, then fell. On a vote between the amendment by Councillor McVey and the motion by Councillor Clocherty, 5 Members, Provost Brennan, Councillors Clocherty, McCabe, Murphy and Wilson voted in favour of the motion and 9 Members, Councillors McVey, Quinn, Crowther, Curley, C McEleny, Robertson, Mrs Gilpin, Ms McEwan and Ms McMillan voted in favour of the amendment which was declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the phased introduction of bus passes from January 2020 for secondary school pupils who qualify for free school transport where routes are currently provided by service buses and where it is more cost effective than providing a dedicated school bus;
- (2) that approval be given to the revised arrangements for school transport from session 2020/21 as set out in paragraph 6.1 of the report;
- (3) that agreement be given to the use of global information measuring systems (GIS) to measure accurately qualifying distances and acceptable walking routes from home to school;
- (4) that approval be given to the annual review of the school transport policy, taking into account any revisions to acceptable walking routes and the uptake of subsidised transport;
- (5) that it be agreed to refer the increased revenue costs for providing subsidised transport for St Columba's High School where no alternative public service route is available from August 2020 to the Policy & Resources Committee for inclusion in the 2020/23 Revenue Budget process;
- (6) that approval be given to the provision of a transport grant of £7.25 per week based on the current weekly bus pass costs to all high school pupils who live 1-2 miles from their school and are in receipt of free school meals or upon identification of individual circumstances by Education Services staff and that it be recommended to the Policy & Resources Committee that funding for the policy be provided from one or a combination of (a) the Anti-Poverty Fund Earmarked Reserve, (b) the Budget Smoothing Earmarked Reserve or (c) Free Reserves; and
- (7) that it be noted that proposals for the devolution of financial decision-making concerning equitable school transport as part of Phase 2 of the Participatory Budgeting process were not being taken forward at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.25pm and re-convened at 6.30pm. Councillors McCabe, C McEleny and Wilson did not return to the meeting following the adjournment.

536 Local Child Poverty Action Report

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development appending the Inverclyde Local Child Poverty Action Report (LAR) 2018.

Councillor Robertson declared a financial interest in this item as a result of a remuneration contract with Stepwell Consultancy Ltd which had been engaged to undertake work in connection with the Child Poverty Action Report. She also formed the view that the nature of her interest and of the item of business did not preclude her

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continued presence in the Chamber or her participation in the decision-making process. During the course of discussion on this item, reference was made to the benefits of including representation from the Economic Development Service on the Child Poverty Action Group. It was noted that Officers were aware of the position and were attempting to address the gap in representation.

Decided: that the themes and detail contained within the Inverclyde Child Poverty Action Report 2018/19 be noted

537 Early Learning and Childcare - 1140 Hours Expansion Programme 537

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the implementation of the 1140 hours expansion programme.

Decided: that approval be given to the additional early phase projects for 2019/20 as detailed in the report.

538 Access to Free Sanitary Products Update 538

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of the implementation of the Scottish Government commitment to provide free access to sanitary products in schools and places where they can be accessed by those who need them.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that Inverclyde Council would continue to support the commitment to roll out access to free sanitary products across schools;
- (2) that it be noted that the provision would increase in 2019/20 to include a range of places in the wider community where sanitary products were available for those who need them; and
- (3) that it be noted that community access locations would have a range of products available during term time, weekends and school holidays.

539 School Term Dates – Session 2020/21 539

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for the setting of school terms dates for session 2020/21.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the term dates for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (2) that a report be submitted to the Committee on the implications of moving the September holiday, which currently aligned with the local holiday, to a date later in the month.

540 Additional In-Service Days for Schools 540

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting the Committee to note two additional in-service days during session 2019/20 which were approved by the Policy & Resources Committee on 21 May 2019.

Decided: that the two additional in-service days of Tuesday 22 October 2019 and Friday 7 February 2020 for all schools be noted.

- 541 Additional Closure Day for Educational Establishments 541**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting the Committee to note an additional closure day on Friday 8 May 2020 for all educational establishments to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day which was approved by the Policy & Resources Committee on 6 August 2019 and by the Scottish Government on 14 August 2019.
- Decided:** that the additional closure date on 8 May 2020 for all educational establishments to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day be noted.
- 542 National Updates and Guidance 542**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development appending national updates on the Attainment Challenge and Scottish National Standardised Assessments.
- Decided:** that the national updates as set out in the appendix to the report be noted.
- The Convener, being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Committee to be advised, at the earliest opportunity, of the outcome of the recent appeals to the Sheriff Court against Inverclyde Council's refusal of placing requests to St Columba's High School. This was agreed unanimously.**
- 543 Further Update on Admissions and Placing Requests for Academic Year 2019/20 543**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the admissions and placing requests for the academic year 2019/20, in particular the recent appeals to the Sheriff Court by three families against Inverclyde Council's refusal of placing requests to St Columba's High School.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the outcome of the recent appeal process, which was to uphold the position of the Council to refuse the placing requests, be noted;
 - (2) that it be agreed that a further report be submitted to the Committee on any future pressures on the Inverclyde Learning Estate;
 - (3) that a letter be issued to all parents of pupils at the beginning of their Primary 7 year to remind them of the Council's policy and arrangements for transition into secondary school; and
 - (4) that a further report be submitted to the Committee once the Sheriff's written decision was received.