

Education and Communities Committee**Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 2pm**

Present: Provost Brennan, Councillors Clocherty, J McEleny (for Curley), Crowther (for MacLeod), Moran (for McCabe), C McEleny, McVey, Murphy, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson and Rev. F Donaldson, Rev. D Burt and Mrs F Gilpin, Church Representatives.

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, Mr I Cameron (for Chief Financial Officer), Head of Legal & Property Services (for part of item 5 only), Ms G Murphy (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services), Head of Education, Early Years Manager, Property Services Manager, Mr N Greenshields, Education Officer and Mr P J Coulter (Corporate Communications).

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

165 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**165**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Curley, with Councillor J McEleny substituting, Councillor MacLeod, with Councillor Crowther substituting, Councillor McCabe, with Councillor Moran substituting, Ms P McEwan and Ms A McMillan.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 3 (Communities Capital Programme 2019 – 2023 Progress) – Councillors Clocherty, J McEleny and Quinn.

Agenda Item 5 (Pilot on the Provision of Crawl Spaces on Secondary School 3G Pitches) – Councillors Clocherty, J McEleny and Quinn.

Agenda Item 11 (Education Capital Programme 2019 – 2023 Progress) – Councillor Quinn.

Agenda Item 18 (Ongoing Governance of External Organisations) – Councillor Robertson.

166 Communities 2019/20 Revenue Budget - Period 9 to 31 December 2019**166**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the position of the 2019/20 Communities Revenue Budget as at Period 9 to 31 December 2019.

Decided: that the current projected underspend of £24,000 in the 2019/20 Communities Revenue Budget as at Period 9 to 31 December 2019 be noted.

167 Communities Capital Programme 2019-2023 Progress 167

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

Councillors Clocherty, J McEleny 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 progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 be noted; and
- (2) that an update report in respect of the proposed Indoor Tennis Facility be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

168 Inverclyde Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2020-2025 168

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval of the Inverclyde Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2020 – 2025 following the expiry of the previous strategy.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the Inverclyde Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2020 – 2025 appended to the report; and
- (2) that it be noted that an Inverclyde Anti-Social Behaviour Policy document would be created following approval of the strategy and it be agreed that, on completion, the draft be submitted to the Committee for approval.

169 Pilot on the Provision of Crawl Spaces on Secondary School 3G Pitches 169

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the pilot project in relation to the installation of crawl spaces at the 3G pitches at Inverclyde Academy, St Columba's High School and Port Glasgow Community Campus.

Councillors Clocherty, J McEleny 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.

Following discussion, Councillor Wilson moved that, as there continued to be issues around vandalism, the crawl spaces installed at Inverclyde Academy, St Columba's High School and Port Glasgow Community Campus be closed.

As an amendment, Councillor Clocherty moved (1) that the progress in relation to the provision of crawl spaces at Inverclyde Academy, St Columba's High School and Port Glasgow Community Campus be noted; (2) that agreement be given to an extension of the pilot project for one more year at the current sites, with monitoring procedures remaining in place; (3) that a final evaluation report be submitted to the Committee in a year's time; and (4) that a report be submitted to the Committee on the issues involved in any possible opening up of crawl spaces at pitches managed by Inverclyde Leisure, including any legal and financial implications.

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On a vote, 1 Member, Councillor Wilson, voted for the amendment and 4 Members, Provost Brennan, Councillors Clocherty, Moran and Murphy, voted for the motion which was declared carried. Councillors McVey, Quinn, Crowther, C McEleny, J McEleny and Robertson abstained from voting.

The Committee adjourned at 3.40pm to seek further legal advice and reconvened at 3.55pm.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress in relation to the provision of crawl spaces at Inverclyde Academy, St Columba's High School and Port Glasgow Community Campus be noted;
- (2) that agreement be given to an extension of the pilot project for one more year at the current sites with monitoring procedures remaining in place;
- (3) that a final evaluation report be submitted to the Committee in a year's time; and
- (4) that a report be submitted to the Committee on the issues involved in any possible opening up of crawl spaces at pitches managed by Inverclyde Leisure, including any legal and financial implications.

170 Items for Noting (Communities)

170

There were submitted reports for noting by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on (1) extension to the opening of Gourrock Outdoor Pool; (2) the Inverclyde Heritage Strategy; (3) Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2019/20 – Round 2; and (4) Under 19s Sports Grants 2019/20 – Round 2.

Decided: that the reports be noted.

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 item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

171 Ongoing Governance of External Organisations

171

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an oversight of governance arrangements in place for externally funded organisations and (2) highlighting any issues arising from ongoing governance arrangements.

Councillor Robertson declared a non-financial interest in this item as a member of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild. 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 it be agreed to note the revised style Funding and Service Level Agreement for externally funded community facilities and that future funding arrangements with community facilities would be materially on the same terms; and
- (2) that the current status of ongoing governance arrangements be noted.

The Communities business concluded at 4.15pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4.20pm with Rev. Burt, Mrs Gilpin and Rev. Donaldson joining the meeting. All Elected Members present for the Communities items returned to the meeting with the exception of Councillor C McEleny.

172 Education Scotland Report on Lady Alice Primary School

172

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of the recent Education Scotland full inspection of Lady Alice Primary School, focusing on progress being made within the school, nursery class and centre to improve learning and teaching, to raise attainment, to secure progress and to close the poverty-related attainment gap.

The report advised that for the primary school, Leadership of Change had been assessed as satisfactory, Learning, Teaching and Assessment as good, Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion as good and Raising Attainment and Achievement as satisfactory. For the nursery class, Leadership of Change had been assessed as weak, Learning, Teaching and Assessment as weak, Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion as satisfactory and Raising Attainment and Achievement as satisfactory.

Ms Gail Connick, Head Teacher, was present and addressed the Committee in relation to the findings of the inspection report.

Decided:

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

173 Education Scotland Report on St. Michael's Primary School

173

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of the recent Education Scotland short model inspection of St Michael's Primary School, focusing on the progress being made in improving learning and teaching and raising attainment/securing children's progress. The report advised that both Learning, Teaching and Assessment and Raising Attainment and Achievement had been assessed as good.

Ms Colette Wallace, Head Teacher, was present and addressed the Committee in relation to the findings of the inspection report.

Decided:

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

174 Education Scotland Report on Lomond View Academy

174

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of the recent local authority follow-up visit to Lomond View Academy, focusing on progress being made within the school in improving learning and teaching and raising attainment as identified in the Education Scotland inspection in January 2019.

Mr David Peden, Head Teacher, was present and addressed the Committee in relation to the matters raised in the follow-up visit.

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Decided:

- (1) that the Education Scotland report on Lomond View Academy be noted; and
- (2) that the Committee's appreciation be extended to all those involved in the service provision.

175 Education 2019/20 Revenue Budget – Period 9 to 31 December 2019**175**

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 9 to 31 December 2019.

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected overspend of £49,000 in the 2019/20 Education Revenue Budget as at Period 9 to 31 December 2019 be noted;
- (2) that the ongoing actions to bring the budget back to a break-even position be noted; and
- (3) that support be given to the creation of Earmarked Reserves for (a) Early Learning and Child Care Expansion and (b) Support for Additional Support for Learning Implementation and that the proposed Earmarked Reserves be remitted to the Policy & Resources Committee for approval.

176 Education Capital Programme 2019-2023 Progress**176**

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.

Councillor Quinn declared a non-financial interest in this item as the parent of a child attending St. Ninian's Primary School. 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 progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 be noted;
- (2) that the use of powers delegated to the Chief Executive to authorise acceptance of a tender for the Hillend Children's Centre refurbishment project as detailed in a separate report on the agenda be noted;
- (3) that the separate report on the agenda on the phased replacement of interactive whiteboards and the proposed allocation of £490,000 lifecycle funding be noted; and
- (4) that information on future lifecycle works for PPP schools be included in the Capital Programme progress reports.

177 Craigmarloch School Numbers 2020/21**177**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the pupil number pressures at Craigmarloch School for the year 2020/21 and outlining officers' current efforts to alleviate this.

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

Decided:

- (1) that the increased demand for places at Craigmarloch School in 2020/21 be noted; and

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(2) that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on the solution found to accommodate this increase.

178 Updated Anti-Bullying Policy 178

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking endorsement of the updated Anti-Bullying Policy.

Decided: that the updated version of the Anti-Bullying Policy as set out in the Appendix to the report be endorsed.

179 2019 Clyde Conversations 179

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of the outcome of the most recent Clyde Conversations event held in September 2019.

Decided:

- (1) that the success of the 2019 Clyde Conversations event be noted and that the participation of the young people in the service planning process be acknowledged;
- (2) that the key issues highlighted by young people attending the event be noted; and
- (3) that it be agreed that actions to address the issues be included in the Children's Services planning process.

180 Early Learning and Childcare 1140 Hours Expansion Programme 180

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the implementation of the Early Learning and Childcare 1140 Hours Expansion Programme.

(Rev. Burt left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that the progress in the implementation of the 1140 Hours Expansion Programme be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed that a further report be submitted in May 2020 with an update on the Council's readiness for full implementation, together with contingency plans; and
- (3) that it be agreed that an update on the Scottish Government's statutory guidance be submitted in May 2020.

181 Replacement of Technical Department Computers and Interactive Whiteboards in Education Establishments 181

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of the need to replace the computers within secondary school technical departments and the interactive whiteboards in some schools and early years establishments.

Decided:

- (1) that the requirement to purchase replacement technical department computers to ensure that National Qualifications in Graphic Communication could continue to be delivered in Inverclyde secondary schools be noted and it be agreed that this be funded in part by the Corporate ICT Computer Refreshment Budget (£90,000), with the expected remaining £90,000 being funded from the Education Capital Cyclical Upgrades Budget;

(2) that it be noted that the proposed School Estate Team programme for the replacement of ageing interactive whiteboards would be released and it be agreed that the funding for phases 1 and 2 of this programme comprise £400,000 from the Education Capital Cyclical Upgrades Budget and, subject to confirmation as part of the budget process, £300,000 from the SEMP Earmarked Reserve; and

(3) that a report be submitted to the Committee on the condition of IT equipment within schools and the position in respect of access to technology.

182 Use of Emergency Powers Procedure – Hillend Children’s Centre Refurbishment

182

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to accept the most economically advantageous tender for the refurbishment of Hillend Children’s Centre.

Decided: that the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive be noted.