

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 1 SEPTEMBER 2020

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 1 September 2020 at 2pm

Present: Provost Brennan, Councillors Clocherty, Curley, MacLeod, McCabe, C McEleny, McVey, Murphy, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson, Rev. F Donaldson, 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 Culture, Communities & Educational Resources, Head of Education, Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety Resilience & Sport, Libraries, Museum & Archives Manager, Corporate Policy, Performance & Partnership Manager, Early Years Manager, Mr N Greenshields, Education Officer, Mr I Cameron (for Chief Financial Officer), Finance Exchequer Manager, Ms G Murphy (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Ms S Lang and Ms D Sweeney (Legal & Property Services), Property Services Manager and Service Manager, Communications, Tourism and Health and Safety.

The meeting was held by video-conference.

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

306 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

306

No apologies for absence were intimated.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 3 (Communities Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23 – Progress) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn.

Agenda Item 6 (Waterfront Leisure Training Pool Moveable Floor: Options Appraisal) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn.

Agenda Item 9 (Update on Community Halls and Proposals for Interim Arrangements for Grants to Voluntary Organisations) – Councillor Curley.

Agenda Item 13 (Update Report on Inverclyde Leisure and the Beacon Arts Centre) – Councillors Clocherty, Quinn and Robertson.

307 Communities 2020/21 Revenue Budget - Period 3 to 30 June 2020

307

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the 2019/20 Communities Revenue Budget final outturn and the 2020/21 Communities Revenue Budget position as at Period 3 to 30 June 2020.

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Decided:

- (1) that the final outturn for the 2019/20 Communities Revenue Budget be noted;
- (2) that the current projected overspend of £796,000 for the 2020/21 Communities Revenue Budget as at Period 3 to 30 June 2020 be noted;
- (3) that approval be given to the virement of £66,000 as detailed in paragraph 8.1 and Appendix 5 of the report; and
- (4) that it be noted that the current projected overspend of £796,000 includes costs of £866,000 relating to the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and that net of these costs, there is a projected underspend of £70,000.

308 Communities Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23 - Progress 308

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 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 at the meeting 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 the review of the artificial pitches asset management plan and the review of the indoor tennis sport facility, which are separate items on the agenda, be noted.

309 Active Schools Performance 2019/20 309

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the Active Schools team performance in the school year 2019/20.

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

Decided: that the contents of the report, specifically the Inverclyde Term 1 and Term 2 performance reports in Appendix 1 and the National performance report in Appendix 2, be noted.

310 Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership Update (August 2020) 310

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on activity from the Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Strategy Group following its recent meeting on 22 July 2020 and (2) providing an update with regard to preparatory work for the forthcoming Annual Report (2019-20), Strategic Assessment 2020-22 and partnership activity as part of a wider COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

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

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report particularly in relation to CSP activity in respect of a COVID-19 Recovery Plan be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed that the published documents 'Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2020-2022 – Making Inverclyde Safer' and 'Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2019-20' be submitted to a future meeting of the

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Committee.

311 Waterfront Leisure Centre Training Pool Moveable Floor: Options Appraisal 311

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) outlining the reasons for the Council's necessary investment in lifecycle replacement of the moveable pool floor at the Greenock Waterfront Leisure Centre and (2) detailing the current condition of the existing moveable floor and options for its repair and replacement.

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 at the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process.

Decided:

- (1) that Inverclyde Council's responsibility in respect of the removal of the moveable pool floor at the Waterfront Leisure Centre, Greenock be noted;
- (2) that the options appraisal contained in the report be noted;
- (3) that approval be given to the replacement of the existing moveable floor with another moveable floor; and
- (4) that the financial implications of replacing the floor, as set out in the report, be remitted to the Policy & Resources Committee.

312 Indoor Tennis Centre at Rankin Park, Greenock 312

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the plans for an indoor tennis centre at Rankin Park, Greenock and (2) seeking an increase in the funding allocated by the Council to the project.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress in relation to the proposed indoor tennis facility at Rankin Park, Greenock be noted;
- (2) that the planned revisions to the site and build be noted;
- (3) that agreement be given to additional funding of £335,000 being considered for the revised plans and that thereafter a revised bid of £1m be made to sportscotland;
- (4) that it be noted that a further report will be submitted prior to formal commitment to the project being made which will include confirmation of the revenue implications; and
- (5) that in recognition of the clear co-operation of the Rankin Park Bowling Club, the Committee note the synergy available on the site potentially to integrate the proposed tennis facility with the adjacent bowling club and, without delaying planned works, it be remitted to officers to submit a report exploring the options for the bowling clubhouse relocation on the site.

313 Artificial Sports Pitches Asset Review/Lifecycle Plan 313

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update in respect of the completed review of the existing artificial pitches asset management plan.

Decided:

- (1) that the revised artificial sports pitches asset management plan set out in Appendix 1 to the report be noted and approved; and

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(2) that the recommended scope of works for the Parklea Community Sports Facility 3G lifecycle replacement works detailed in section 6 of the report be noted and approved.

314 Update on Community Halls and Proposals for Interim Arrangements for Grants to Voluntary Organisations 314

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the financial position of self-managed community centres and (2) setting out proposals for interim arrangements for Grants to Voluntary Organisations (GTVOs) for 2020/2021 to assist in community recovery during COVID-19.

Councillor Curley declared a non-financial interest in this item as a member of the Board of Kilmacolm Community Centre Co. Ltd. He also formed the view that the nature of his interest and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence at the meeting or his participation in the decision-making process.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed to continue payments for self-managed community halls at current levels during 2020/21;
- (3) that in light of the ongoing impact of COVID-19, agreement be given to the interim changes to the GTVO application and decision-making processes for 2020/21 detailed in section 5 of the report, subject to full consultation with the Chair of the Grants Sub-Committee with regard to any decisions made; and
- (4) that any applications for GTVO assistance in excess of £10,000 be referred to the Grants Sub-Committee for determination.

315 Examining Inverclyde's Historical Connections to the Slave Trade 315

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development setting out plans to examine Inverclyde's historical connections to the slave trade and the ways in which these connections can be recognised in today's society.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the formation of a working group to examine Inverclyde's historical connections to the slave trade and the ways in which these connections can be recognised in today's society, including recommendations as to how community reparations can be made;
- (2) that it be remitted to the Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources to determine the remit, participation and terms of reference for the working group which should include representatives from various Council services and also community representation, including black and minority ethnic (BAME) members of the community; and
- (3) that it be noted that a final report, including recommendations, will be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

316 Reaffirming Inverclyde's Commitment to Fairtrade 316

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the current position relative to Inverclyde's Fairtrade Zone Status and (2) seeking approval for plans to reaffirm

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Inverclyde's support for Fairtrade.

Decided:

- (1) that the current Fairtrade Zone Status in Inverclyde be noted; and
- (2) that it be agreed that officers make a renewed application for Fairtrade Zone Status for Inverclyde.

317 Anti-Poverty Initiatives: Food Insecurity, Digital Connectivity and Strengthening the Third Sector Base 317

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing further information on the Food Insecurity, Digital Connectivity and Community Grants proposals utilising the £1m Anti-Poverty Fund and (2) outlining the use of funding from the Scottish Government Food Fund.

Decided:

- (1) that the use of the Anti-Poverty Initiative funding be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed that recommendations for community funding awards be reported to the Committee; and
- (3) that it be agreed that a direct award of £60,000 be made to the Inverclyde Community Development Trust to develop a Food Pantry, subject to officers agreeing suitable outcomes with the Trust.

318 Update Report on Inverclyde Leisure and the Beacon Arts Centre 318

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the recovery planning for Inverclyde Leisure and the Beacon Arts Centre and (2) highlighting potential ongoing funding issues which will require to be considered as part of the 2021/22 budget.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared a non-financial interest in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure and Councillors Clocherty and Robertson declared a non-financial interest as members of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild Ltd. All three Members formed the view that the nature of their interests and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence at the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed to note the current financial position of the Beacon Arts Centre and Inverclyde Leisure and that reports will be submitted to the Committee once the revised 2021/22 Business Plans for both organisations are received;
- (2) that the phased recovery plans in place for the Beacon Arts Centre and Inverclyde Leisure be noted;
- (3) that it be remitted to the Policy & Resources Committee to consider the increased funding need of £80,000 and, if approved, to authorise the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with other relevant officers to phase the release of all support funding on terms suitable to him; and
- (4) that it be remitted to the officers to liaise with Inverclyde Leisure regarding the Committee's aspiration for the opening of Port Glasgow Swimming Pool before Easter 2021 and that any funding implications of the earlier opening of the pool, should this be agreed with Inverclyde Leisure, be included in the report to the Policy & Resources Committee.

319 Items for Noting (Communities) 319

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There were submitted reports for noting by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on (1) an update on access to free sanitary products and (2) the findings from the report, 'Planning for Change: A Review of Community Learning and Development Plans in Scotland 2018-2021'.

Decided: that the reports be noted.

The Communities business concluded at 4.23pm.

The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4.30pm with Rev. Donaldson, Rev. Burt, Mrs Gilpin, Ms McMillan and Ms McEwan joining the meeting. All Elected Members present for the Communities items returned to the meeting for the start of the Education business with the exception of Councillor C McEleny.

320 Education Update Report

320

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing updates on a number of issues in relation to education provision in Inverclyde.

Councillor C McEleny rejoined the meeting during consideration of this item and left prior to its conclusion.

Councillor Rebecchi was present for this item as a Ward Councillor and, with the agreement of the Convener, spoke on issues relative to road transport and safe routes to school within his ward.

Decided: that the report be noted.

321 Education 2020/21 Revenue Budget – Period 3 to 30 June 2020

321

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the 2019/20 Education Revenue Budget final outturn and the 2020/21 Revenue Budget position as at Period 3 to 30 June 2020.

Decided:

(1) that approval be given to the virement of £66,000 as detailed in paragraph 8.1 and Appendix 5 to the report;

(2) that the final outturn for the 2019/20 Education Revenue Budget and the current projected overspend of £2,455,000 for the 2020/21 Education Revenue Budget as at Period 3 to 30 June 2020 be noted;

(3) that it be noted that the current projected overspend of £2,455,000 for 2020/21 includes costs of £2,326,000 relating to the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and that net of these costs, there is a projected overspend of £129,000; and

(4) that it be noted that the 2020/21 Specific Grant for Early Years 1140 funding currently has £2.0m unallocated and that this requires to be spent by 31 March 2021 or else potentially handed back to the Scottish Government.

322 Education Capital Programme 2020 - 2023 - Progress

322

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 Education Capital Programme and (2) highlighting the overall financial position.

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(Councillors Curley and McCabe left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

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

323 **Education Services Standards and Quality Report March 2019 – March 2020 and Improvement Plan 2020-21** 323

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development appending for approval the Education Services Standards and Quality Report from March 2019/20, together with draft improvement targets for the Education Services Improvement Plan for session 2020-21.

(Councillors Curley and McCabe returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

During the course of discussion on this item, it was agreed that the presentation made to the Members' Briefing be circulated to the Committee.

Decided: that approval be given to the contents of the Education Standards and Quality Report 2019-20 and draft Improvement Plan targets for 2020-21 and for their publication.

324 **Education, Communities and Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2019/22 – End of Year 1 Progress Report and Annual Refresh 2020** 324

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on (1) the progress of the delivery of the improvement actions within the Education, Communities & Organisational Development (ECOD) Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan (CDIP) as at the end of Year 1 and (2) the refreshed ECOD CDIP Improvement Plan containing new or revised improvement actions which require the approval of the Committee.

Decided:

(1) that the progress made in the delivery of the ECOD Improvement Plan in Year 1 be noted; and

(2) that approval be given to the refreshed ECOD Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan appended to the report.

325 **Outcome of the Statutory Consultation in relation to the Admission Policy for Village Schools** 325

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the outcome of the statutory consultation which took place in February and March 2020 in relation to the admission policy for village schools.

Decided:

(1) that approval be given to alteration to the wording of the current policy for admission and pupil placements in mainstream schools in relation to village schools as outlined in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 of the report and summarised in the outcome paper attached as Appendix 1, subject to any further adjustments to the wording to clarify that the Certificate of Baptism into the Roman Catholic faith requires to be obtained before entry to school; and

(2) that approval be given to the proposed transition arrangements as outlined in Paragraphs 5.3 and 5.4 of the report and summarised in the outcome paper attached as Appendix 1.

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326 Update on Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Programme 326

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) 1140 hours expansion programme and (2) advising of the budget position for session 2020/21.

Decided:

- (1) that the plan for the delivery of 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare for session 2020/21 as set out in the report be noted;
- (2) that the update of the Revenue Budget for 2019/20 and the previously approved allocation of the £2.034m underspend be noted;
- (3) that the projected underspend in the Revenue Budget for 2020/21 be noted and approval be given to the allocation of part of this underspend to the proposals outlined in paragraph 7.3 of the report; and
- (4) that it be noted that a further report on the Early Years Revenue Budget will be submitted to the Committee in January 2021.

327 Items for Noting (Education) 327

There was submitted a report for noting by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the allocation of laptops to pupils from Council and Scottish Government funding and the development of a long-term digital learning strategy.

Decided: that the report be noted.