

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 3 NOVEMBER 2020

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 3 November 2020 at 2pm

Present: Provost Brennan, Councillors Clocherty, J McEleny (for Curley), MacLeod, McCabe, 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 Culture, Communities & Educational Resources, Head of Education, Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport, Libraries, Museum & Archives Manager, 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, Service Manager, Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety and Ms S McCready, Education Officer (Observer).

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.

469 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

469

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Curley, with Councillor J McEleny substituting.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 2 (Communities 2020/21 Revenue Budget – Period 5 to 31 August 2020) – Councillors Clocherty, J McEleny and Quinn.

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

Agenda Item 5 (School Crossing Patrol (SXP) Review) – Councillors Murphy and Quinn.

Agenda Item 6 (Regeneration Capital Grant Fund) – Councillors Clocherty, J McEleny, MacLeod and Quinn.

Agenda Item 8 (Grants to Voluntary Organisations) – Councillors J McEleny, MacLeod, Murphy and Robertson.

Agenda Item 17 (Ongoing Governance of External Organisations) – Councillors Clocherty, J McEleny and Quinn.

470 Communities 2020/21 Revenue Budget – Period 5 to 31 August 2020

470

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the 2020/21 Revenue Budget as at Period 5 to 31 August 2020.

Councillors Clocherty, J McEleny and Quinn declared a non-financial interest in this

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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: that the current projected underspend of £129,000 in the 2020/21 Communities Revenue Budget as at Period 5 to 31 August 2020, net of costs of £997,000 funded by the approved COVID-19 budget, be noted.

471 **Communities Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23 – Progress** 471

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

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

Decided:

- (1) that the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 be noted; and
- (2) that the use of the emergency powers procedure to authorise a tender acceptance relative to the Parklea Community Facility 3G Pitch Lifecycle Works, as set out in a separate report, be noted.

472 **Cultural Services Annual Report 2019-20** 472

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on progress within Cultural Services as set out in the Cultural Services Annual Report 2019/20.

Decided:

- (1) that the Cultural Services Annual Report 2019/20 be noted;
- (2) that the Committee's congratulations be conveyed to Myra Mains, Senior Library Assistant for Young People's Services, Inverclyde Libraries, winner of the Inaugural Book Bug Hero Award from the Scottish Book Trust; and
- (3) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the impact of COVID-19 and the lockdown on Cultural Services within Inverclyde.

473 **School Crossing Patrol (SXP) Review** 473

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development proposing a review of the current policy and guidance following significant change to the provision of, and demand for, School Crossing Patrols (SXPs) for Primary Schools in Inverclyde.

Councillors Murphy and Quinn declared non-financial interests in this item as relatives of school crossing patrol personnel. They also 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.

Following discussion, Councillor Clocherty moved:

- (1) that agreement be given to remove the local policy condition that "established sites will remain in place except where there is a significant change in circumstances";

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- (2) that an appropriately experienced consultant be appointed to undertake a review of all extant SXP sites to ensure compliance with national guidance;
- (3) that it be agreed that changes to the school estate, housing supply changes or the vacating of an SXP post by the post-holder will become the trigger for a review of that SXP site;
- (4) that it be agreed that where the removal of a SXP site is required, road safety education will be undertaken within the affected schools and that the schools will be supported in identifying and promoting acceptable walking routes to school and active travel; and
- (5) that in relation to the review of all existing SXP sites as set out in (2) above, consultation be undertaken with all stakeholders across the whole school community and that the results of the review and consultation exercise be submitted to the Committee for consideration.

As an amendment, Councillor McVey moved:

- (1) that agreement be given to remove the local policy condition that “established sites will remain in place except where there is a significant change in circumstances”;
- (2) that an appropriately experienced consultant be appointed to undertake a review of all existing SXP sites to ensure compliance with national guidance;
- (3) that it be agreed that changes to the school estate, housing supply changes or the vacating of an SXP post by the post-holder will become the trigger for a review of that SXP site;
- (4) that it be agreed that where the removal of a SXP site is required, road safety education will be undertaken within the affected schools and that the schools will be supported in identifying and promoting acceptable walking routes to school and active travel;
- (5) that it be agreed that relevant Parent Councils and Community Councils must be consulted prior to any school crossing patroller site being removed and that the result of the consultation be reported to the Committee for the final determination on whether or not the crossing site is to be removed; and
- (6) that a review of the existing policy in relation to school crossing patrols be undertaken.

On a roll-call vote, 5 Members, Provost Brennan and Councillors Clocherty, McCabe, Murphy and Wilson, voted in favour of the motion and 6 Members, Councillors MacLeod, C McEleny, J McEleny, McVey, Quinn and Robertson, voted in favour of the amendment which was declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that agreement be given to remove the local policy condition that “established sites will remain in place except where there is a significant change in circumstances”;
- (2) that an appropriately experienced consultant be appointed to undertake a review of all existing SXP sites to ensure compliance with national guidance;
- (3) that it be agreed that changes to the school estate, housing supply changes or the vacating of an SXP post by the post-holder will become the trigger for a review of that SXP site;
- (4) that it be agreed that where the removal of a SXP site is required, road safety education will be undertaken within the affected schools and that the schools will be supported in identifying and promoting acceptable walking routes to school and active travel;
- (5) that it be agreed that relevant Parent Councils and Community Councils must be consulted prior to any school crossing patroller site being removed and that the result of the consultation be reported to the Committee for the final determination on whether or not the crossing site is to be removed; and

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(6) that a review of the existing policy in relation to school crossing patrols be undertaken.

474 Regeneration Capital Grant Fund – Round 8 Projects 2021/22

474

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update in relation to the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund following several applications made in the Inverclyde area.

Councillor MacLeod declared a non-financial interest in this item as a Non-Executive Director of Parklea Branching Out and left the meeting prior to its consideration.

Councillors Clocherty, J McEleny and Quinn declared a non-financial interest as Members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their interest and the item of business did not preclude their continued presence at the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process.

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

Decided:

(1) that approval be given to the application by Inverclyde Council to the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund in respect of the proposed King George VI Community Hub;

(2) that approval be given to the relocation/closure of the existing Clune Park Resource Centre to the proposed King George VI Community Hub, pending a successful grant award;

(3) that the continuing progress of the Inverclyde Shed/Meet, Make + Share to Round 8, Stage 2 of the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund be noted;

(4) that a meeting of the King George VI Building Steering Group be convened as soon as possible to discuss the overall project position;

(5) that officers meet as soon as possible with Rig Arts Ltd to discuss future partnership opportunities; and

(6) that support be provided to Parklea Garden Hub Project in the submission of any future funding bid, including assistance with accessing other funding sources.

Councillor MacLeod returned to the meeting at this juncture.

475 Year of Young People Legacy 2019/20

475

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the Year of Young People Legacy Plan 2019/20 and proposals for use of the fund in 2020/21.

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

Decided:

(1) that the contents of the report and the opportunities developed and delivered as part of the Year of Young People Legacy Plan for 2019/20 be noted; and

(2) that agreement be given to the approach set out in the report for use of the Year of Young People Legacy monies in 2020/21, with young people co-producing the plan as part of Community Learning and Development's commitment to youth participation.

476 Items for Noting (Communities)

476

There were submitted reports for noting by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on (1) the Scottish Community Safety

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Network Annual Report 2019/20, (2) the successful funding bid for the Watt Institution, (3) use of the emergency powers procedure relative to a tender acceptance for the replacement of the 3G Synthetic Pitches at Parklea, Port Glasgow, and (4) use of the emergency powers procedure relative to the commissioning of a festive film.

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 2 items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 4 and 6 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

477 Grants to Voluntary Organisations and Under 19s Sports Grants 2020/21 477

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) advising the Committee of approved grants to voluntary organisations, including Under 19s sports grants, and (2) seeking approval of a number of grants in excess of the £10,000 delegated authority limit set by the Committee.

Councillor Robertson declared a non-financial interest in this item due to a close personal relationship with a likely supplier of services listed in the report and left the meeting prior to its consideration.

Councillor J McEleny declared a non-financial interest as a shareholder of Greenock Morton FC Limited and as Co-Chair of Home Start, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde, Councillor MacLeod declared a non-financial interest having acted as a referee relative to one of the applications and Councillor Murphy declared a non-financial interest as Chairperson of Inverclyde Youth for Christ. 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 the grants set out in appendices A and C approved as part of the 2020/21 allocation under the delegated authority granted by the Committee on 1 September 2020 be noted;

(2) that approval be given to the following grant awards as detailed in appendices B and D of the report:

(a) £25,000 to Inverclyde Voluntary Council of Social Services from the Grants to Voluntary Organisations Funding;

(b) £10,000 to Greenock Morton Community Trust from the Under 19s Sports Grants Funding; and

(c) £12,000 to Inverclyde Amateur Swimming Club from the Under 19s Sports Grants Funding.

Councillor Robertson returned to the meeting at this juncture.

478 Ongoing Governance of External Organisations 478

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.

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

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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 current status of external organisations in relation to ongoing governance arrangements be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given to the grant of £40,000 to Broomhill/In-Works subject to the submission and approval of a revised Business Plan by Council officers.

The Communities business concluded at 4.45pm.

The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4.50pm with Rev. Burt, Mrs Gilpin, Ms McMillan and Ms McEwan joining the meeting.

479 Education 2020/21 Revenue Budget – Period 5 to 31 August 2020 479

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development on the 2020/21 Education Revenue Budget position as at Period 5 to 31 August 2020.

Decided: that the current projected overspend of £38,000 in the 2020/21 Education Revenue Budget, net of £2.847m of COVID-19 related costs which will be funded by the agreed COVID-19 budget, be noted.

480 Education Capital Programme 2020 - 2023 - Progress 480

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.

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

481 Education Services Improvement Plan 2020 - 21 481

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development appending the Education Services Improvement Plan for session 2020 – 21.

Decided: that approval be given to the Education Services Improvement Plan 2020 – 21 and for its publication.

482 Report on the Work of the West Partnership and the West Partnership 2020 – 23 Improvement Plan 482

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) advising of the evaluation of work undertaken by the West Partnership (Glasgow Region Education Improvement Collaborative) in 2019 – 20 and (2) seeking approval of the West Partnership Improvement Collaborative Improvement Plan.

Decided:

- (1) that the report on progress of the Glasgow Region Education Improvement Collaborative be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given to the West Partnership Improvement Collaborative

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Improvement Plan 2020 – 23 set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

483 Education Update Report

483

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

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that agreement given to the distribution of a number of laptops to pupils who have been identified by schools as possibly struggling to access blended learning; and
- (3) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the mental health implications of COVID-19 for pupils and teachers.

484 Items for Noting (Education)

484

There were submitted reports for noting by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on (1) Inverclyde Council's Schools Health and Wellbeing Survey 2019, (2) the Scottish Government Access to Childcare Fund, and (3) the Inverclyde Child Poverty Local Action report.

In relation to the Inverclyde Council's Schools Health and Wellbeing Survey, the Corporate Director confirmed that she would raise through the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland, the view expressed that the national survey should not use identifiers and should be in an anonymous format.

(Councillor C McEleny left the meeting following the discussion on the Inverclyde Council's Schools Health and Wellbeing Survey and Ms McMillan left during the discussion on the Inverclyde Child Poverty Local Action report).

Decided: that the reports be noted.

485 School Term Dates – Session 2021/22

485

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for the setting of the school term dates for session 2021/22.

Decided: that approval be given to the school term dates for session 2021/22 as set out in appendices 1 and 2 of the report.