

## EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2021

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### Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 2 November 2021 at 1pm

**Present:** Provost Brennan, Councillors Clocherty, Curley, MacLeod, McCabe, C McEleny, McVey, Quinn and Robertson, Rev. D Burt, Rev. F Donaldson and Ms 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 and Archive Manager, Mr I Cameron (for Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance), Finance Manager (Education & Communities), Mr N Greenshields (Education Officer), Ms L Wilkie (Education Services), Interim Head of Legal Services, Ms D Sweeney, Ms L Carrick and Mr C MacDonald (Legal Services), Interim Head of Property Services, ICT Services Manager and Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety.

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Provost Brennan, Councillors Curley, MacLeod, McCabe, C McEleny, McVey, Quinn and Robertson attending by video-conference.

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

#### **453 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

453

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Murphy and Wilson.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 3 (Communities Performance Report – Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items) – Councillors Clocherty, Curley, Quinn and MacLeod.

Agenda Item 4 (Communities Recovery Report) – Councillors Clocherty, Curley, Quinn and Robertson.

Agenda Item 6 (Communities Update Report – Overview of National and Local Initiatives) – Councillors Clocherty, Curley, Quinn and Robertson.

Councillors C McEleny and MacLeod joined the meeting at this juncture.

#### **454 Communities Revenue & Capital Budget Report 2021/22 – Projected Out Turn at Period 5 to 31 August 2021**

454

There was submitted a report by the Interim Service Director Corporate Services & Organisational Recovery and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the 2021/22 Revenue and Capital Budgets position at Period 5 to 31 August 2021.

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### Decided:

- (1) that the current projected underspend of £62,000 for the 2021/22 Communities Revenue Budget as at Period 5 to 31 August 2021 be noted;
- (2) that the financial position of the specific capital projects, as detailed in appendix 4 of the report, be noted and that the cost of the current Communities Capital Programme is being contained within existing budgets; and
- (3) that the virement of £54,000, as detailed in paragraph 8.1 and appendix 6 of the report, be approved.

### 455 **Communities Performance Report – Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items** 455

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing performance information for the Communities part of the Education & Communities Committee, and (2) providing an update in respect of the status of the projects which form the Communities Capital Programme.

Councillors Clocherty, Curley and Quinn declared a non-financial interest in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure, and Councillor MacLeod declared a non-financial interest in this item as a Non-Executive Director of Parklea Branching Out. All four Councillors formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process.

### Decided:

- (1) that the current position of the 2021/24 Capital Programme be noted; and
- (2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) Lady Alice Bowling Club, (b) Indoor Sports Facility for Tennis, (c) Leisure Pitches Asset Management Plan/Lifecycle Fund, (d) Grieve Road Community Centre, (e) Wemyss Bay Community Centre, (f) Whinhill Golf Club Lifecycle Works, (g) Waterfront Leisure Centre Training Pool Moveable Floor, (h) Watt Institution Creativity Space, (i) Community Hub King George VI, (j) Craigend Resource Centre, (k) The Inverclyde Shed Meet, Make + Share, and (l) Parklea Branching Out.

### 456 **Communities Recovery Report** 456

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on community activities to date, including those considered as part of the COVID-19 recovery planning.

Councillors Clocherty, Curley and Quinn declared a non-financial interest in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure, Councillors Clocherty and Robertson declared a non-financial interest in this item as members of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild and Councillor Robertson declared a non-financial interest in this item as a member of the Committee of Inverclyde Youth Theatre (Kayos). All four Councillors formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process.

The Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development advised the Committee of a typographical error in the report and, accordingly, at paragraph 5.2 the section referencing the Access to Childcare Fund should conclude 'The Scottish Government is keen to learn from the experience of pilot initiatives such as the affordable holiday hub to inform the next steps.'

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**Decided:**

- (1) that the updates on the following be noted (a) Culture Collective, (b) Summer of Fun, (c) Duke of Edinburgh Programme, (d) Sports and Physical Activity Strategy, and (e) Meliora Festival and Community Events;
- (2) that it be remitted to officers to submit a report to the Members Budget Working Group on the potential for, and financial implications of, providing free access to Inverclyde Leisure gym facilities for young people; and
- (3) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to all staff connected with the Duke of Edinburgh Programme for their excellent work in promoting the Programme within Inverclyde schools.

**457 Watt Institution Collections Policies****457**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for an updated Collections Development Policy for the McLean Museum and Art Gallery and a Collecting Policy for Inverclyde Archives and the Watt Library.

**Decided:**

- (1) that approval be given to the McLean Museum and Art Gallery Collections Development Policy in order to meet the requirements of the Arts Council England Accreditation Scheme;
- (2) that approval be given to the Inverclyde Archives and Watt Library Collecting Policy; and
- (3) that this decision be referred to the next meeting of the Inverclyde Council for noting as Trustees of the Watt Institution.

**458 Communities Update Report – Overview of National and Local Initiatives****458**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the Communities aspects of the service.

Councillors Clocherty, Curley 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 in this item as members of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild. All four Councillors formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process.

**Decided:** that the updates on the following be noted (a) Community Learning and Development 3 Year Plan, (b) Child Poverty Action Report Year 3, (c) Community Grants Fund 2021/2022 Round 1, (d) Communication and Engagement Groups, (e) New Scots Get Connected, (f) Prevention and Education Steering Group, (g) community provision for children and young people with autism, (h) Rankin Park Bowling Club, (i) Inverclyde Leisure Annual Report and governance, (j) Beacon Arts Centre, (k) governance of self-managed community hubs, and (l) subsidised swimming 2021/22.

**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 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**

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**459 Communities Update Report – Overview of National and Local Initiatives – Appendix 459**

There was submitted an appendix relative to Item 6 (Communities Update Report – Overview of National and Local Initiatives) providing additional detailed information. Councillors Clocherty and Robertson declared a non-financial interest in this item as detailed in the Appendix. Both Councillors formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the appendix and verbal update provided by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, all as detailed in the Appendix.

**The Communities business concluded at 2.20pm.**

**The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm, with Reverend Burt attending the Municipal Buildings and Reverend Donaldson, Ms Gilpin, Ms McEwan and Ms McMillan joining the meeting by video-conference.**

**460 Education Revenue & Capital Budget Report – 2021/22 Projected Out Turn at Period 5 to 31 August 2021 460**

There was submitted a report by the Interim Service Director Corporate Services & Organisational Recovery and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the 2021/22 Education Revenue and Capital Budgets positions at Period 5 to 31 August 2021.

Councillor C McEleny joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the projected underspend of £199,000 for the 2021/22 Education Revenue budget as at Period 5 to 31 August be noted;
- (2) that the current financial position of the specific capital projects, as detailed in appendix 4 to the report, be noted, and that the cost of the current Education Capital Programme is being contained within existing budgets; and
- (3) that the virement of £16,000, as detailed in paragraph 8.1 and appendix 6 of the report, be approved.

**461 Education Performance Report – Capital Programme Progress 461**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing performance information for the Education part of the Education & Communities Committee, and (2) providing an update in respect of the status of the projects which form the Education Capital Programme.

Reverend Donaldson joined the meeting and Councillor C McEleny left the meeting during consideration of this item.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the current position of the 2021/24 Capital Programme be noted; and

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(2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) Gourock Primary School extension, (b) Hillend Children's Centre refurbishment, (c) former Kelly Street Children's Centre landscaping works, (d) demolition of former Sacred Heart Primary School, (e) school artificial pitches, (f) general lifecycle works, (g) Public Partnership Schools (PPP) lifecycle works, (h) Rainbow Family Centre extension, (i) Larkfield Children's Centre new build, and (j) Glenpark Early Learning Centre outdoor unit.

### 462 Education Recovery Report

462

There was submitted a report by the Head of Education providing an update on projects and initiatives undertaken by education services and partners to date, including those considered as part of the COVID-19 recovery planning.

**Decided:**

(1) that the updates on the following be noted (a) Attainment Challenge Plan 2020/21, (b) literacy and numeracy, (c) health and well-being, (d) families and community, (e) Scottish Attainment Challenge Plan budget 2020/21, (f) return to school guidance, (g) attendance, (h) vaccinations for 12-15 years old, (i) Scottish Qualification Authority, (j) planning for a full exam diet, (k) West College Scotland, and (l) introduction of universal free school meals for P6 and P7 in Primary Schools; and

(2) that it be agreed that the roll out for universal free school meals for P6 and P7 pupils should (a) follow the national timeline, and (b) await the required adaptations to school kitchens.

### 463 Education Update Report – Overview of National and Local Initiatives

463

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the Education aspects of the service.

**Decided:**

(1) that the updates on the following be noted (a) future of the Scottish Attainment Challenge, (b) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development desk based review of assessment and qualification approaches, (c) Health and Wellbeing Census and Parental Involvement Engagement Census, (d) Regional Improvement Collaborative Evaluation report 2020-21, (e) Regional Improvement Collaborative Improvement Plan 2021-22, (f) Education reform consultation, (g) Children's Services Plan 2020-23, and (h) future of Secondary Gaelic Medium Education in Inverclyde; and

(2) that it be agreed that officers continue to explore options for Gaelic medium secondary education for pupils currently attending Whinhill Primary School.

### 464 Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Update on 1140 Hours Expansion Programme

464

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing (1) details of the underspend in the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) revenue budget as requested by Committee on 31 August 2021, and (2) an evaluation of the implementation of the first year of the ELC expansion programme.

**Decided:**

(1) that the details of the utilisation of the ELC revenue budget Earmarked Reserve of £2,522,000 as approved through Emergency Powers be noted;

(2) that the successful implementation of the expansion programme be noted; and

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(3) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to all staff involved with the successful implementation of the expansion programme.

### 465 School Term Dates – Session 2022/2023

465

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for setting the school term dates for session 2022/23.

**Decided:** that approval be given to the school term dates, as detailed in appendices 1 and 2 to the report, for session 2022/23.

Councillor Curley left the meeting at this juncture.

### 466 Education Services Digital Learning Strategy 2021-2028

466

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the context for and content of the new Digital Learning Strategy, a copy of which was appended to the report.

Provost Brennen left the meeting during consideration of this item.

**Decided**

(1) that the funding required to complete the replacement of life expired interactive whiteboard equipment across the Inverclyde School Estate and the longer term refreshment programme for digital display equipment be approved;

(2) that approval be given to the funding for transitioning towards the provision of laptops for teaching staff being remitted to the 2022/23 Budget process;

(3) that approval be given to undertake further work to review and future proof the core ICT estate in schools, taking into account the current needs for curriculum use and the future provision of laptops for pupils; and

(4) that approval be given to officers continuing with the transition towards operating on a virtual network, supporting the remote management of devices and making greater use of the Microsoft 365 licence.

**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 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**

### 467 Early Learning and Childcare Funded Provider Update

467

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on matters relating to the governance of funded providers.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the content of the report, all as detailed in the Appendix.