

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 8 MARCH 2022

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 8 March 2022 at 1pm

Present: Provost Brennan, Councillors Clocherty, Curley, MacLeod, McCabe, C McEleny (for Education business only), McGuire, McVey, Quinn, Robertson (for Communities business only), Crowther (for Robertson for Education business only) and Wilson (for Education business only), 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 and Development, Community Safety and Resilience & Sport, Mr I Cameron (for Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance), Finance Manager (Education & Communities), Ms A Sinclair (for Head of Legal & Democratic Services), Interim Head of Property Services, Ms D Sweeney, Ms L Carrick and Ms S McMaster (Legal & Democratic Services), Libraries, Educational Development & Arts Manager, Ms A McLellan, Ms L Wilkie and Mr M Coyle (Education Services), Ms G Connick (Head Teacher, Lady Alice Primary School), ICT Services Manager, Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety and Mr PJ Coulter (Corporate Communications).

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

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

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

161

Apologies for absence were intimated as follows:

Councillors Wilson and C McEleny for Communities business only.

Councillor Robertson for Education business only, with Councillor Crowther substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated, but certain connections were intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:

Agenda Item 2 (Communities Revenue & Capital Budget Report 2021/22 – Projected Out Turn at Period 9 to 31 December 2021) – Councillors Clocherty, Curley and Quinn.

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

Agenda Item 4 (Communities Update Report – Overview of National and Local Initiatives) – Councillors Clocherty, Curley, Quinn and Robertson.

Agenda Item 7 (Education Scotland Follow Through Report on Lady Alice Primary School and Nursery Class) – Councillor McVey

Agenda Item 8 (Education Revenue & Capital Budget Report – 2021/22 Projected Out Turn at Period 9 to 31 December 2021) – Councillor Clocherty and Robertson.

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162 Communities Revenue & Capital Budget Report 2021/22 – Projected Out Turn at Period 9 to 31 December 2021 162

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of the 2021/22 Communities Revenue & Capital Budget position as at Period 9 to 31 December 2021.

Councillors Clocherty, Curley and Quinn declared connections in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected underspend of £92,000 for the 2021/22 Communities Revenue Budget as at Period 9 to 31 December 2021 be noted; and
- (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.

163 Communities Performance Report – Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items 163

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 connections in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process and were declaring for transparency.

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 Works, (d) Grieve Road Community Centre, (e) Wemyss Bay Community Centre, (f) Whinhill Golf Club Lifecycle Works, (g) Waterfront Leisure Centre Training Pool Movable Floor, (h) Watt Institution Creativity Space, (i) Community Hub King George VI, (j) Craigend Resource Centre, (k) Inverclyde Shed Meet, Make + Share, and (l) Parklea Branching Out.

164 Communities Update Report – Overview of National and Local Initiatives 164

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

Councillors Clocherty, Curley and Quinn declared connections in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure, Councillors Clocherty and Robertson declared connections as members of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild and Councillor Robertson also declared a connection as a member of the committee of Inverclyde Youth Theatre

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(Kayos). They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided: that the updates on the following be noted (a) implementation of Free Travel Passes for under 22s, (b) Partnership Recovery Plan progress, and (c) governance of External Organisations including Inverclyde Leisure, the Beacon and self-managed community centres.

165 Public Space, Activity and Women’s Safety Survey – Updated Headline Report 165

Prior to the commencement of discussion of this item the Chair acknowledged International Women’s Day.

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing Committee with (1) the headline outturns from the Public Space, Activity and Women’s Safety Survey and (2) setting out the next steps in respect of progressing outcomes from the survey.

Decided:

- (1) that the updated headline results of the public survey, as detailed at paragraph 6 and appendix 2 of the report, be noted;
- (2) that the strategic approach to developing outcomes from the public survey, as detailed in paragraph 7 of the report, be endorsed;
- (3) that the continued oversight of delivery of the survey outcomes be remitted to the Women’s Forum; and
- (4) that a further report will be submitted to Committee upon completion of the analysis results and with the responses from male responders separated.

166 McLean Museum and Art Gallery Management Policies and Service Improvement Plan 2022-25 166

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for (1) updated management policies on collections care and conservation, documentation, and access, and (2) the Service Improvement Plan for 2022-25 for the McLean Museum and Art Gallery.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to (a) the McLean Museum and Art Gallery Collections Care and Conservation Policy, Documentation Policy and Access Policy, and (b) the Service Improvement Plan 2022-25, in order to meet the requirements of the Arts Council England Accreditation Scheme; and
- (2) that this decision be referred to the next meeting of the Inverclyde Council for noting as Trustees of the Watt Institution.

The Communities business concluded at 2pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Councillors Crowther, C McEleny and Wilson, Reverend Burt, Reverend Donaldson, Ms Gilpin, Ms McMillan and Ms McEwan joining the meeting by video conference.

167 Education Scotland Follow Through Report on Lady Alice Primary School and Nursery Class 167

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of the recent Education Scotland

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follow through visit of Lady Alice Primary School and Nursery Class.

Councillor McVey declared a connection in this item as a close family member works at Lady Alice Primary School. He also formed the view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting or his participation in the decision making process and was declaring for transparency.

The report advised that very good progress had been made towards areas identified for improvement in an earlier report published in January 2020. Particular praise was made of the school's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, its support for families and its ongoing focus, despite the pandemic, on continuing to improve and address the areas for improvement.

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

Decided:

- (1) that the Education Scotland follow through report on Lady Alice Primary School and Nursery Class be noted; and
- (2) that the appreciation of the Committee be extended to school staff and all those involved in the inspection process.

168

Health and Wellbeing in Schools – Guidance on Supporting Transgender Pupils in Schools and the National Health and Wellbeing Survey

168

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update to Committee on the adoption of national guidance on supporting transgender pupils in schools, and (2) seeking approval to undertake an adapted version of the National Health and Wellbeing Survey in Inverclyde schools.

It was unanimously agreed that the matters contained within this report should be subject of separate votes which would take place at the end of the discussion.

Following discussion on the adoption of national guidance on supporting transgender pupils in schools, Councillor Clocherty moved the recommendation detailed in the report; that the national guidance in place for best practice in supporting transgender pupils in schools be noted.

As an amendment, Councillor C McEleny moved that Committee request a further report be brought to a future meeting setting out what other potential transgender guidance is in place and that a fuller briefing be carried out.

Following a roll call vote, 2 Members, Councillors C McEleny and Wilson, voted in favour of the amendment, and 11 Members, Provost Brennan, Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, MacLeod, McCabe, McGuire, McVey, Quinn, Reverend Burt, Ms McMillan and Ms McEwan, voted in favour of the motion, which was declared carried. Ms Gilpin abstained from voting.

Following discussion on the approval to undertake an adapted version of the National Health and Wellbeing Survey in Inverclyde schools, Councillor Clocherty moved the recommendation detailed in the report; that agreement be given to the adapted Health and Wellbeing Survey being implemented in Inverclyde Schools.

As an amendment, Councillor C McEleny moved that implementation of the survey be rejected.

Following a roll call vote, 2 Members, Councillors C McEleny and Wilson, voted in favour of the amendment, and 12 Members, Provost Brennan, Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, MacLeod, McCabe, McGuire, McVey, Quinn, Ms Gilpin, Reverend Burt, Ms McMillan and Ms McEwan, voted in favour of the motion, which was declared carried.

Reverend Donaldson and Councillor Curley left the meeting during consideration of this

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item prior to the commencement of the voting process.

Decided:

- (1) that the national guidance in place for best practice in supporting transgender pupils in schools be noted; and
- (2) that agreement be given to the adapted Health and Wellbeing Survey being implemented in Inverclyde Schools.

Reverend Burt left the meeting at this juncture.

169 **Education Revenue & Capital Budget Report – 2021-22 Projected Out Turn at Period 9 to 31 December 2021** 169

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of the 2021/22 Education Revenue & Capital Budget positions as at Period 9 to 31 December 2021.

Councillors Clocherty and Robertson declared connections in this item as members of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild. Both Councillors formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the projected underspend of £257,000 for the 2021/22 Education Revenue Budget as at Period 9 to 31 December 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 Education Capital Programme is being contained within existing budgets; and
- (3) that it be remitted to officers to engage in dialogue with Scottish Passenger Transport and submit a report to a future Committee on the impact of inflation and rising fuel costs on the provision of school transport.

170 **Education Performance Report – Capital Programme Progress** 170

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 Project.

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) Gourock Primary School extension, (b) demolition of former Sacred Heart Primary School, (c) general lifecycle works, (d) Public Partnership Schools (PPP) lifecycle works, (e) various Early Years establishment's direct access/canopies/environmental, and (f) interactive whiteboards/active panel refresh.

Prior to her leaving the meeting at this juncture, the Convener acknowledged that this was the last meeting for Ms McMillan as Parent Representative, and thanked her for her contributions to the Committee.

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171 Education Update Report – Overview of National and Local Initiatives

171

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

Decided: that the updates on the following be noted (a) return to school guidance, (b) Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA), (c) digital strategy update, (d) Happy Tots Greenock and Inverkip, (e) West College Scotland Nursery, (f) governance of Funded Providers, and (g) election of Parental and Teacher Representatives as members of the Committee.

172 Scottish Attainment Challenge Refresh Year 1 Plan 2022/23

172

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the Scottish Attainment Challenge Year 1 Plan for the session 2022/23, (2) advising of a Direct Award to extend the current contract for the Family Support Worker Service currently provided by Barnardo's, (3) seeking approval to proceed with the tender process for the Family Support Worker Service, and (4) seeking approval for the use of a 60% quality and 40% cost of service weighting in the aforementioned tender, therefore suspending Contract Standing Order 13.2.

Decided:

(1) that (a) the content of the report be noted, and (b) the Scottish Attainment Challenge Year 1 Plan for the session 2022/23 be approved;

(2) that the Direct Award for the extension of the Family Support Service from 1 April to 30 June 2022 be noted;

(3) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to accept tenders for the Provision of a Family Support Worker Service for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024 with an option to extend for a further 12 months thereafter; and

(4) that approval be given to the use of a 60% Quality and 40% Cost of Service weighting in the forthcoming tender for the Provision of a Family Support Worker Service and that therefore Contract Standing Order 13.2 be suspended.

173 Early Learning and Childcare Budget 2022/23

173

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Budget for 2022/23.

Decided:

(1) that the reduction in the ELC Budget for 2022/23 be noted; and

(2) that (a) approval be given to the proposals for the 2022/23 Budget, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, and (b) it be noted that this provides a solution for 2022/23 only and that unless funding is increased in future years inflationary pressures will add to the overall budget gap.

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174 Revised Devolved School Management (DSM) Scheme of Delegation 174

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) seeking Committee approval to implement a revised Devolved School Management (DSM) Scheme, and (2) advising of a review of the existing Scheme of Delegation (SOD).

Decided:

- (1) that the implementation of the revised DSM Scheme be approved; and
- (2) that it be agreed there will be a further review of the SOD in April 2023 to reflect any changes that may need to be taken into consideration in line with future developments around school staffing, including the reduction of class contact time of teachers to 21 hours.

175 Ms Anna McMillan (Parent Representative) and Ms Paula McEwan (Teacher Representative) 175

At the conclusion of business the Convener acknowledged that this was the last meeting for Ms McMillan as Parent Representative and Ms McEwan as Teacher Representative, as both were standing down from the Committee in terms of the Schemes of Arrangements for Parent and Teacher Representatives. The Convener conveyed appreciation and thanks, both personally and on behalf of the Committee, for their valuable contributions to the meetings.