

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2022

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 30 August 2022 at 2.05pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Clocherty, Daisley, Law, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson (for Education business only), Mr J Docherty and Rev F Donaldson, Church Representatives 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 and Ms L Carrick (Legal & Democratic Services), Ms E McLoughlin and Ms Y Gallacher (Education Services) and Mr PJ Coulter (Corporate Communications).

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Brennan, Daisley, McGuire, McVey, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson attending by video-conference and Councillor Moran attending the Communities business at the Municipal Buildings and the Education business by video-conference.

The Committee commenced at 2.05pm as Councillor McVey had experienced connectivity issues.

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

389 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

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An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Wilson for Communities business only, and Rev D Burt.

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

Agenda Item 2 (Communities Revenue Budget Report – Final Outturn 2021/22 and 2022/23 Projected Outturn at 30 June 2022) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn

Agenda Item 3 (Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items) – Councillors Clocherty, Law and Quinn

Agenda Item 4 (Communities Update Report) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn

Agenda Item 6 (Statement on Exercise of Functions for the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021) - Councillors Clocherty and Quinn

390 Communities Revenue Budget Report – Final Outturn 2021/22 and 2022/23 Projected Outturn at 30 June 2022

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There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development

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advising Committee of the 2021/22 Communities Revenue Budget final outturn and the 2022/23 Revenue Budget position at 30 June 2022.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. Both Councillors 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 final outturn for the 2021/22 Communities Revenue Budget and the current projected overspend for 2022/23 of £83,000 as at 30 June 2022 be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development and Heads of Service will review areas where non-essential spend can be reduced in order to reduce the projected overspend, with progress against this and other proposals to bring the budget back on track being reported to the next meeting of the Committee if required.

391 Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items

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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 and Asset related items.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure and Councillor Law declared a connection as a family member is involved with Caddlehill Gardens. 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 2022/25 Capital Programme be noted;
- (2) that the work of the Asset Transfer Working Group on the following projects be noted; (a) Caddlehill Community Green Space, and (b) Drumshantie Road Scout Hall; and
- (3) 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) Waterfront Leisure Centre Training Pool Moveable Floor, (e) Community Hub King George VI, (f) Craighend Resource Centre, (g) Inverclyde Shed Meet, Make + Share, and (h) Parklea Branching Out.

392 Communities Update Report

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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 and Quinn declared connections in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. Both Councillors 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 updates on the following be noted (a) Cultural Services Annual Report, (b)

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Culture Collective, (c) Inverclyde Pipes and Drums, (d) Outstanding Remit – Grass Playing Pitches, (e) Free Swimming for Under 16s - budget pressure, and (f) projected deficit due to utility costs – Inverclyde Leisure;

(2) that it be agreed that a report will be brought to the next meeting of the Committee on under 16s swimming;

(3) that it be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee to consider funding the net increase in Inverclyde Leisure utility costs in 2022/23 totalling £278,000; and

(4) that it be remitted to officers to provide information on 'warm spaces', the cost of living implications and the use of Inverclyde Leisure facilities by the community in a future report.

393 Public Space, Activity & Women's Safety Survey Action Plan

393

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the Public Space, Activity & Women's Safety Survey, and (2) seeking approval for the resulting action plan appended to the report.

Decided:

(1) that the updated headline results of the public survey be noted; and

(2) that the Public Space, Activity & Women's Safety Survey action plan be approved.

394 Statement on Exercise of Functions for the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking the agreement of the Committee for the appended Inverclyde Council Statement of Intent setting out how the Council will meet the requirements of the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. Both Councillors 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 Inverclyde Council Statement of Intent be approved; and

(2) that it be noted that the Statement of Intent will be submitted to the Scottish Government and published on the Council's website.

The Communities business concluded at 2.55pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Councillor Moran, Mr Docherty, Rev Donaldson and Ms McEwan joining the meeting by video conference.

Prior to commencement of the Education business the Convenor welcomed Ms McEwan to the meeting as the re-appointed Education Representative.

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395 Election of Teacher Representative to the Education Part of the Education & Communities Committee 395

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of the results of nominations for a Teacher Representative to the Education & Communities Committee.

Decided: that the appointment of Paula McEwan as Teacher Representative on the Education part of the Committee be noted.

396 Education Revenue Budget Report – Final Outturn 2021/22 and 2022/23 Projected Outturn at 30 June 2022 396

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the 2021/22 Education Revenue Budget final outturn and the 2022/23 Revenue Budget position at 30 June 2022.

Decided:

(1) that the final outturn for the 2021/22 Education Revenue Budget and the current projected overspend for 2022/23 of £126,000 as at 30 June 2022 be noted; and

(2) that it be noted that the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development and Heads of Service will review areas where non-essential spend can be reduced in order to reduce the projected overspend with progress against this and other proposals to bring the budget back on track being reported to the next meeting of the Committee if required.

397 Education Capital Programme 2022/25 - Progress 397

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance and 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.

Decided:

(1) that the current position of the 2022/25 Capital Programme be noted; and

(2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) Gourock Primary School extension, (b) general lifecycle works, and (c) 1140 Hours Expansion – various establishments minor works.

398 Education Update 398

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on national and local projects and initiatives linked to education.

Prior to discussion of this item the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development provided the Committee with a verbal update on the impact of proposed Trade Union strike action on Inverclyde Council education establishments including the use of Emergency Powers to pay a daily amount of £3 to pupils entitled to free school meals. The Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development then answered a number of questions from Members.

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Decided:

- (1) that the verbal update on impact of the proposed Trade Union strike action be noted; and
- (2) that the updates on the following be noted (a) placing requests for August 2022, (b) Gaelic secondary education, (c) report from the Education and Young People Committee on the Scottish Attainment Challenge, (d) Covid-19 Education Recovery Group, (e) Education and Qualifications reform, (f) Learning for Sustainability, (g) Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Strategy, and (h) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022.

399 Pre-Consultation Process – Future Model for Blairmore Nursery 399

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking agreement for the pre-consultation process regarding the operating model of Blairmore Nursery School.

Decided:

- (1) that the commencement of a pre-consultation process about the future operating model of Blairmore Nursery School be approved; and
- (2) that it be noted that a further report will be brought to the January 2023 Education and Communities Committee detailing the next steps.

400 Inverclyde Education Services: Parental Engagement Strategy 2022-2025 400

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for the reviewed Parental Engagement Strategy 2022-25, as appended to the report, to be used across all areas of Education.

Decided: that the reviewed Parental Engagement Strategy 2022-25 be approved.